

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 85 (VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH)**

**May 11, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Leighton Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the North Island Secondary School, Port McNeill, B.C. at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Eric Hunter, Trustee  
Jeff Field, Trustee  
Carol Prescott, Trustee  
Danita Schmidt, Trustee

Absent: Werner Manke, Trustee  
Lyn Skrlac, Trustee

---

**RECOGNITION OF  
TRADITIONAL  
TERRITORIES**

Chairperson Wishart opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakiutl First Nation and the Kwak'wala speaking peoples.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES  
47/15**

Hunter/Prescott:  
That the minutes of the April 13, 2015 meeting be adopted.  
**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO THE  
AGENDA**

Hakai Institute Field Trip  
Policy Amendment  
Letter Writing  
Sex Ed. (Ontario)  
Coal Harbour Letter

**ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA  
48/15**

Schmidt/Prescott:  
That the agenda be adopted as amended.  
**CARRIED**

**SEA VIEW STEM  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
PRESENTATION –  
D'ARCY DEACON**

Sea View Principal D'Arcy Deacon announced that the Canadian Plastics Industry is excited to be partnering with many other local businesses and organizations in support of this year's Sea View STEM challenge. Mr. Deacon invited all trustees to attend the event on May 27<sup>th</sup> in Port Alice.

**NISS LEARNING  
COMMONS  
PRESENTATION –  
SHELLEY SVATOS  
AND JAY DIXON**

NISS teacher librarian Shelley Svatos and Principal Jay Dixon were pleased to share with the Board the many changes in the school's Learning Commons and the goals for the area based on input received from staff and students. Mr. Dixon was also pleased to announce that the Vancouver Island Regional Library will be working with the school in further developing the Learning Commons and has offered to facilitate workshops for staff and students.

**THOUGHTEXCHAN  
GE PRESENTATION  
– JAY DIXON**

Mr. Dixon presented the results of a recent Thoughtexchange that was undertaken with staff, students, family and community in order to align

concerns, priorities, and vision for the school with the development of the school plan.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairperson Wishart shared a letter sent from the Board to the Minister regarding the compensation freeze for excluded staff as well as the response received from the Minister. He also shared a letter sent from the Board to the Minister regarding co-governance

**COAL HARBOUR LETTER**

Secretary Treasurer John Martin shared a letter from the Coal Harbour Community Club requesting an adjustment to the current cost sharing agreement with the Board in order to reduce the amount the Club pays in rental and utilities per year.

Trustee Prescott moved to reduce rent by \$25 per month. There was no seconder to the motion.

**2015-2016 BOARD SCHEDULE**

Trustee Schmidt requested the 2015-2016 Board meeting schedule be amended so that the PHSS school visit begin at 1:00 pm.

49/15

Hunter/Schmidt:

That the 2015-2016 Board meeting schedule be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

Superintendent Scott Benwell reported that administrative staffing is in place for the 2015-2016 school year. He was pleased to share that Patti Burk will be the next Principal of Port Hardy Secondary School. Ms. Burk is currently a Vice-Principal and District Principal in Fort Nelson School District.

**L.I.F. STAFFING PROCESS**

Dr. Benwell explained that the staffing funded by the Teacher Education Fund portion of the Learning Improvement Fund was included in the regular Spring staffing process and will be revisited in the Fall. It has been proposed that the CUPE portion of the L.I.F. be used to provide each SEA / CYCW with an additional hour of work per week.

**STEM**

Dr. Benwell encouraged trustees to attend the STEM day at Sea View on the 27<sup>th</sup> and promised a wonderful day with students from across the District.

**HAKAI FIELD TRIP**

Dr. Benwell shared a letter of thanks from the Education Coordinator of Hakai Institute commending the NISS students and staff who recently visited the Institute on Calvert Island as part of a four day field trip.

**DISBURSEMENTS:  
APRIL 2015  
50/15**

Schmidt/Hunter:

That the April 2015 disbursement statements be approved.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – May 11, 2015- page 3**

---

**2015-2016 BUDGET BYLAW** Secretary Treasurer John Martin presented the Board with the 2015-2016 Budget Bylaw. It was unanimously agreed to by all trustees that the bylaw receive all 3 readings at this time.

**51/15** Field/Prescott:  
That the 2015-2016 Budget Bylaw receive 1<sup>st</sup> reading.  
**CARRIED**

**52/15** Field/Prescott:  
That the 2015-2016 Budget Bylaw receive 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.  
**CARRIED**

**53/15** Field/Prescott:  
That the 2015-2016 Budget Bylaw receive 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.  
**CARRIED**

**PHSS SCHOOL FEES 54/15** Hunter/Schmidt:  
That the Port Hardy Secondary School guitar rental fee of \$60 for the 2015-2016 school year be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**SPED UPDATE** Assistant Superintendent Carol Robertson updated the Board on the many professional learning opportunities taking place in the District including a workshop on brain trauma put on by North Island Youth Mental Health and the POPARD course being offered to all SEAs and LARTs in the District. She reported that “Tiny Eye” speech and language pathology is up and running in all of our schools and that she has been busy visiting all schools, shadowing LARTs and reviewing student services files and designations.

Ms. Robertson requested that section 4.3.2 of PM 2-160 Students’ Personal Records be amended to read that red files be transferred directly from the school to the out-of-district receiving school.

**55/15** Prescott/Hunter:  
That changes to PM 2-16 Students’ Personal Records be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**CANOE FIELD TRIPS** Ms. Robertson supported the request from the District Principal of First Nations Programs Kaleb Child for four separate cultural events that would allow District students to participate in canoe activities.

**56/15** Field/Schmidt:  
That the events and associated canoe activities planned in May and June 2015 for District students be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**LETTER WRITING** Trustee Schmidt suggested that the Board utilize the BCSTA to advocate on the Board's behalf. Trustees discussed the value of being considerate in the letters they choose to write as well as who to include in the copies of those letters.

**SEX ED.** Trustee Hunter shared an article about sex education in Ontario. The topic will be brought to the September Committee of the Whole meeting.

**57/15** Hunter/Prescott:  
That the 2015-2016 Board meeting schedule be amended to allow for a two hour Committee of the Whole meeting in September.

**CARRIED**

**TRUSTEE SHARING** Trustee Schmidt appreciated the individual student voice as well as the cultural dancing and singing at the school visit to Alert Bay Elem.

Trustee Hunter appreciated how articulate one of the Alert Bay students was during a presentation about learning to read.

Trustee Prescott was also impressed by the school visit and found hearing from individual students to be a very powerful experience. She appreciated the inclusion of all students.

Trustee Field would like to see more of a student voice during every school visit. He appreciated the inclusive cultural program and how every student was given a Kwak'wala name. He stated that parents at both the Eagle View and Fort Rupert PAC meetings have expressed concerns regarding service to students at the classroom level.

**BCSTA** Trustee Hunter reported that concerns were addressed at the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting about the effects that the withdrawal of individual Boards of Education from the BCSTA may have on advocacy.

**FNEC** There was a FNEC Budget meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**DPAC REPRESENTATIVE** There was no DPAC representative.

**VINTA REPRESENTATIVE** VINTA President Shawn Gough reported that, in light of the court ruling in support of Bill 22, the BCTF will be taking its case to the Supreme Court of Canada in hopes that the Bill be deemed unconstitutional. He shared an overview of Bill 11 and invited trustees to attend VINTA's anti-Bill 11 barbeque in June.

Mr. Gough is looking forward to the joint ProD meeting on Wednesday. He stated that partner groups appreciate the show of support when the Board writes its letters to the Provincial Government. He expressed his

appreciation for a longer Committee of the Whole meeting in September. He also stated that a better job can be done with sex education curriculum in BC and that the challenge will be in building capacity in staff in order to deliver that curriculum.

**CUPE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no CUPE representative.

**ADJOURNMENT  
58/15**

Schmidt:  
That the regular meeting of May 11, 2015 be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**CARRIED**

---

Chairperson of the Board

---

Secretary-Treasurer