

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

May 7, 2012

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leighton Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at North Island Secondary School, Port McNeill, B.C. at 6:02 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Jeff Field, Trustee
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Werner Manke, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Danita Schmidt, Trustee

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
43/12**

Hunter/Prescott:
That the minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Emergency Response Drill
PHSS School Fees
FRES Principalship
Board Policy Updates

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
44/12**

Manke/Garrett:
That the agenda be adopted with additions.
CARRIED

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTATION
SUNSET
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Ms. Rena Sweeney, Principal of Sunset Elementary School, shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the many ongoing activities in her school and how those activities relate to the school goals of improvement in the areas of non-fiction writing and personal writing, and feeling safe at school. Ms. Sweeney described her students as “a school of superheroes”.

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTATION
CHESLAKEES
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Ms. Rena Sweeney, Principal of Cheslakees Elementary School, shared a PowerPoint presentation showcasing her school as the District’s first Early Learning Centre. Ms. Sweeney stated the school goal to improve social responsibility and shared many school-wide and inter-school activities designed to build relationships, increase positive behaviours, and ease the eventual transition to Sunset Elementary School.

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTATION
SEA VIEW ELEM./JR.
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Gail Henderson, Principal of Sea View Elem./Jr. Secondary School, shared a presentation demonstrating many activities designed to focus learning on the local environment and to improve the critical and creative thinking skills of her students. Some of her students were present to share, discuss, and answer questions about their personal projects.

- CUPE REPORT** Secretary Treasurer John Martin shared a letter from CUPE regarding funding allocations for the 2012-2013. Mr. Martin explained how inflation and the loss of funding protection will affect the district over the next few years.
- BILL 33 REPORT** Superintendent Scott Benwell informed the Board of changes to class size and composition for the month of April as they pertain to Bill 33 considerations. Dr. Benwell stated that a consultation meeting was held and that the organization of divisions was, in his opinion, appropriate for student learning.
- THOUGHTSTREAM** Dr. Benwell stated that schools have been included in the input process for the Strategic Plan through ThoughtStream and that the response from Administrators is positive. Dr. Benwell described ThoughtStream as another tool the district can use to consult with the community.
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL** Dr. Benwell explained that as part of Emergency Preparedness Week, scenarios were enacted to test the District's communications ability in the event that cell phone and landlines are knocked out during a catastrophic emergency. The mock earthquake drill took about a half an hour to play out the scenarios created, and used the VHF repeater system for schools and worksites to report on their situations.
- PHSS SCHOOL FEES 45/12** Hunter/Schmidt:
That the Board approve the Port Hardy Secondary School guitar rental fee of \$60.00 for the 2012-2013 school year.
CARRIED
- FRES PRINCIPALSHIP** Superintendent Scott Benwell announced that after interviewing several candidates for the position of Principal of Fort Rupert Elementary School, the position was offered to and accepted by Mr. Kevin Brand. Mr. Brand is currently a head teacher in the Quesnel School District and looks forward to moving to the North Island with his family.
- CANADA-WIDE SCIENCE FAIR FIELD TRIP 46/12** Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh shared a request for the Board to approve a field trip to send a student to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Prince Edward Island May 11-20, 2012.
Field/Manke:
That the Board approve the field trip to the Canada-Wide Science Fair May 11-20, 2012.
CARRIED
- INQUIRY MODEL** Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh was pleased to report that on April 30th, Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser worked again with teachers, administrators and partner groups to help develop the inquiry model of learning. Dr. Harbert and Dr. Kaser spent the next day visiting local schools.

**PRELIMINARY
ANNUAL BUDGET
2012-2013**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin presented the preliminary annual budget for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Martin explained that the format for presenting the budget is different from previous years and explained how some of the changes, new rules, and loss of funding protection affect the district. Mr. Martin also presented the District's preliminary operating budget for the 2012-2013 school year.

**BOARD MEETING
SCHEDULE 2012-2013**

Mr. Martin presented the Board with a draft board meeting schedule for 2012-2013. Mr. Martin explained that an alternate venue will be considered for meetings in Port McNeill and stated that the schedule will be brought back to the June meeting for the Board's approval.

BCSTA AGM

Superintendent Scott Benwell expressed how thrilling it was to have Jill Cook present at this year's BCSTA AGM and what an incredible job she did. Dr. Benwell stated that it was a proud moment for the District and that Ms. Cook deserves appreciation. Trustee Wishart will bring a "Thank You" card to the next meeting for trustees to sign.

**BOARD POLICY
UPDATES**

Trustee Manke stated that policy updates would be best done in electronic form. Mr. Martin explained that an updated policy manual is kept on the School District website for those who no longer care to maintain a paper manual.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Schmidt attended the last DPAC meeting and appreciated the presentation by Sandra Gunson. Trustee Schmidt shared that she will be attending the rural schools presentation in Alert Bay on Friday and that she has been officially accepted into the North Island Masters Cohort.

Trustee Hunter had lunch with Maggie Yuen, Manager of Administration and Executive Services for the BCSTA.

Trustee Manke enjoyed the trustee school visit to NISS and stated that it is was obvious how well respected Vice-Principal Jay Dixon is by the students and staff. Trustee Manke stated that schools focus on environmental awareness was evident in the minimal amount of litter left on the soccer fields at the end of the Mud Bowl Tournament.

Trustee Prescott shared that Sea View School parents were pleased with the opportunity for their students to present to the board and that they will like the new school format for school plan presentation.

Trustee Field enjoyed the visit to NISS and shared conversations he had with NISS staff on the need to be creative and explore options when discussing how to deliver and maintain programs as high schools decline in enrolment.

Trustee Garrett enjoyed his tour of NISS and stated how obvious it was that teachers are involved with and care about their students.

Chairperson Wishart enjoyed the school visit to NISS and stated that it will be nice for the public to be invited to see the terrific things going on in schools.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

DPAC Co-Chair Penny Mills expressed her appreciation for Sandra Gunson who presented at the last DPAC meeting. Ms. Mills stated that the inquiry-based learning workshop was wonderful and was thankful to have been invited to participate. Ms. Mills reported that the final DPAC meeting of the year will be at Sea View School on June 25th at 6:00 p.m., and that dinner will be provided.

Ms. Mills stated that at the last DPAC meeting, field trips were discussed and the idea of looking at local alternatives to Camp Homewood.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Fred Robertson thanked the Board for its letter of support to the Ministry. Mr. Robertson stated that should the provincial government choose to cut into the collective agreement, there will be difficult times ahead.

Mr. Robertson expressed his displeasure with the Fraser Institute's annual report that ranks schools, stating that the report is insulting, unjust and unacceptable in the way it characterizes good schools with caring staff.

Mr. Robertson reminded the Board of the rural teacher's conference on Friday, May 11th and that VINTA was willing to pay the registration for any teacher in the district who chooses to attend.

Mr. Robertson stated his concern with the proposed budget and the decrease of approximately 4.0 fte teachers while the number of administrators will increase by 1.0 fte. Mr. Martin responded that the student educator ratio and average class size would remain the same, and the change in the number of administrators relates to a request from the First Nations communities regarding targeting funding.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE
ADJOURNMENT
47/12**

CUPE Local 2045 President Joanne Welsh had nothing to report.

Schmidt:

That the regular meeting of May 7, 2012 be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer