

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

November 19, 2012

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at North Island Secondary School, Port McNeill, B.C. at 6:00 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
84/12**

Manke/Field:
That the minutes of the October 15, 2012 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

School Community Connections
Boardroom furniture
Remove: items a. and b. under "New Business"

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
85/12**

Garrett/Hunter:
That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**ERASE
PRESENTATION**

District Principal of Special Services Kelly Amodeo presented an overview of the Ministry's ERASE anti-bullying program and on-line reporting tool.

**RURAL SCHOOLS
COLLABORATION**

The Board watched a brief video production showcasing local teachers' work with rural schools collaboration.

**BCOS SOCIETY
LETTER**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin shared a letter with the Board from the BCOS Society asking for School Community Connections funding to be spent on the installation of a shower unit for the Quatsino School Learning Centre.

Trustee Hunter requested further assessment be done before the request is brought back to the Board.

TEACHERS' PENSION

Mr. Martin shared a letter regarding the Teachers' Pension Plan.

**CLASS SIZE AND
COMPOSITION**

Superintendent Scott Benwell reported District class size averages and demonstrated that elementary schools are currently operating at 78% student capacity. Dr. Benwell also explained that there are no divisions in the district at over 30 students.

**SPC TRAINING
/INQUIRY
WORKSHOPS**

Dr. Benwell reported on the recent visit by Judy Halbert as the district continues its work with parents, teachers, support staff and administrators on inquiry-based learning. Dr. Halbert helped to host the SPC planning workshop, worked with school teams on inquiry projects, and discussed “transformational school districts” with trustees.

**PARTNERSHIP IN
LEARNING
CONFERENCE**

Dr. Benwell stated that the District was fortunate to have sent a team of District staff, administrators, teachers, and DPAC representatives to the Partnership in Learning Conference in Vancouver. The team learned many new, engaging, and innovative ways of thinking about education and learning.

**WORKFORCE
STRATEGY
CONNECTIONS
PROGRAM**

Dr. Benwell was excited to report that a recent application for \$25,000 in funding for Workforce Strategy Connections Programs was approved.

**REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF MOUNT
WADDINGTON
PARTNERSHIP
POSSIBILITY**

Dr. Benwell was also happy to report that the Regional District of Mount Waddington had committed their support to the Workforce Strategy program, and would be looking to support the program by potentially supplying necessary gear or equipment needed to prepare students entering the workplace.

**DISBURSEMENTS
OCT. 2012
86/12**

Hunter/Garrett:
That the October 2012 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

**LONG TERM
FINANCIAL
PROJECTION**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin presented a long-term financial projection illustrating the necessity to implement cuts in spending of \$200,000 per year for the next six consecutive years as the District comes out of Provincial funding protection.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. Martin explained to the Board new legislation as it pertains to the School Calendar. Bill 36 effectively eliminates a Ministry Standard Calendar starting with the 2013-2014 school year. Districts will develop their own school calendars guided by minimum number of instructional hours to be submitted no later than March 31st for review by the Ministry of Education.

**BOARD ROOM
FURNITURE**

Mr. Martin asked the Board to approve the replacement of the chairs in the Board Office boardroom. Mr. Martin explained that the chairs are roughly 30 years old, outdated and in disrepair.

87/12

Hunter/Garrett:
That the Board approve the purchase of new chairs for the School District boardroom.

CARRIED

PUBLIC

Superintendent Scott Benwell shared a revised schedule for

CONSULTATIONS

community consultations on the strategic plan and trustee electoral areas. Dr. Benwell also shared a planned presentation for the public meetings as well as initial Thoughtstream results.

**COMPLAINT
PROTOCOL**

Dr. Benwell reminded the Board of the complaint protocol as detailed in Board Policy PM 1-12 Complaints.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Manke was excited about the Cheslakees school visit and its potential. He enjoyed how administrators took the time to showcase both Cheslakees and Sunset schools. Trustee Manke also spoke on the wonderful learning environment at Woss school and the individual attention received by each student there.

Trustee Hunter appreciated the new format for school plan presentations. He also informed the Board that at the recent Provincial Council meetings there was much discussion around a new student information system to replace BCesis.

Chairperson Wishart enjoyed his visit to Cheslakees and commented on the wonderful, dedicated staff at both schools.

Trustee Field stated he appreciates the new format for school visits and that he enjoyed himself that day. He discussed the recent BCPSEA Symposium that he attended and the sessions on CUPE and VINTA bargaining.

Trustee Prescott enjoyed watching students work so expertly with Smart Boards in their classrooms.

Trustee Garrett stated how more comfortable principals were presenting their school plans in their own building and how much he enjoyed the conversational feel of the new format.

Trustee Schmidt stated how very optimistic she is with the direction of education in the District and how much she enjoyed watching collaboration between students and staff during the school visits.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

DPAC Co-Chair Penny Mills reported that the DPAC had their first meeting at the end of October, and NISS is still looking for parent representatives. At the meeting, parents discussed the problem of bullying at the secondary level throughout the Province and approved a \$500 contribution towards bringing Michael Bortolloto to deliver his anti-bullying message to schools. Ms. Mills was pleased to report that there may be grant money available through the Canadian Red Cross for workshops on anti-bullying and building healthy relationships.

Ms. Mills expresses concerns with public opinion and the image of district high schools. Parents have been encouraged to get into schools, talk to administrators and take a tour.

Ms. Mills thanked the district for paying the registration fees for two parent representatives to attend the Partnership in Learning conference.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Fred Robertson expressed his desire to review class composition as well as class size data.

Mr. Robertson requested that VINTA be given input when the District looks to implement spending cuts for long-term financial planning.

Mr. Robertson commented on BCTF president Susan Lambert's comments regarding two-tiered bargaining, stating that not everyone within the BCTF has accepted a two-tiered bargaining model.

Mr. Robertson asked the Board, if given the opportunity, to help ensure that a process is in place to enable the bargaining process to happen. Mr. Robertson stated the VINTA would like the ability to resolve local issues locally.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

No CUPE representative present.

**ADJOURNMENT
88/12**

Prescott:
That the regular meeting of November 19, 2012 be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer