

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

November 18, 2013

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 6:06 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
99/13**

Manke/Hunter:
That the minutes of the October 21, 2013 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

No additions.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
100/13**

Schmidt/Garrett:
That the agenda be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

**TECHNOLOGY
RESOURCE WIKI**

A.J. Elliott Principal Melody Watson joined the meeting via on-line video conference. Ms. Watson shared her work on Technology Resource Wikis and presented a Wiki she developed during the summer. The wiki was created as a means to provide a direct link to a number of useful on-line learning tools and contains instruction and teaching examples for those tools as well. The wiki is a free resource and can be accessed at: www.sd85techtools.wikispaces.com.

**TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION**

Cheslakees teacher Teresa Wadhams shared her experience at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Vancouver. She explained the impact of residential schools on the children who attended, their families and future generations.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Wishart shared various correspondence for the Board's information.

**DISTRICT CLASS SIZE
AVERAGES**

Superintendent Scott Benwell shared District class size averages as of October 15, 2013.

**HISTORIC PUPIL
TEACHER RATIOS**

Dr. Benwell shared historic pupil to teacher ratios, showing a positive trend towards lower ratios even as District enrolment declines.

**DISTRICT
COMPARISONS**

Dr. Benwell shared a series of graphs that show the low class size averages of SD#85 as they compare to overall Provincial averages and

to those of other Districts.

INFO BRIEF

Dr. Benwell was pleased to share the second edition of “Info Brief”. He hopes to publish the document monthly.

IN-SERVICE AGENDA

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh reported on the many in-service opportunities happening in the District during the month of November.

**DISBURSEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 2013
101/13**

Field/Hunter:
That the October 2013 disbursement statement be approved.

CARRIED

**PROVINCIAL
AGREEMENT –
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Mr. Martin gave his recommendation that the Board approve the Educational Institution Affiliation Agreement with the Health Authority. The agreement is necessary to allow students the opportunity to gain work experience in the health care sector as part of their work experience / field studies program.

102/13

Garrett/ Prescott:
That the Educational Institution Affiliation Agreement with the Health Authority be approved.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Manke enjoyed the visit to Sunset and Cheslakees, stating that going into the classroom is always a learning experience. He is pleased that the parking situation at Sunset has improved.

Chairperson Wishart enjoyed the student escorts at Sunset. He enjoyed the Kindergarten classroom visit at Cheslakees as well.

Trustee Hunter had a great visit at both schools. He reported on the Provincial Council meeting and noted that several motions that this Board supported were passed. This information is available at www.BCSTA.org.

Trustee Field also enjoyed the student-led school visit at Sunset and stated that it was phenomenal seeing what the Kindergarten students are accomplishing. He sees much potential in Cheslakees as an Early Learning Centre.

Trustee Garrett reported that A.J. Elliott school recently hosted the District Cross-Country event. He stated that the weather cooperated, the sun came out, and the day was a success.

**PAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

No DPAC representative

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Fred Robertson thanked the Board for allowing Ms. Wadhams to present on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He

stated that pupil – teacher ratios and class size averages were not always as revealing in smaller schools and districts and that class composition is becoming a greater challenge to teachers than class size.

Mr. Robertson mentioned the very quiet Provincial roll-out of the replacement for BCeSIS.

Mr. Robertson hoped the Board would take a stand against BC Ferries' planned cutbacks that include the elimination of services to many small, coastal communities.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE Local 401 2nd Vice President Eleanora Brown had nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT
103/13**

Prescott:
That the regular meeting of November 18, 2013 be adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer