

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

November 7, 2011

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leighton Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy, B.C. at 6:33 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Jeff Field, Trustee
Ann Hory, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Werner Manke, Trustee

Absent: Victor Tracy, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
84/11**

Hunter/Manke:
That the minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Noon Hour Supervision - Cheslakees

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
85/11**

Hory/Field:
That the agenda be adopted with the additions.
CARRIED

**LETTER TO THE
MINISTER**

The letter that was sent to the Minister as requested at the October meeting was circulated to the Board.

**LETTER OF
APPRECIATION**

Chairperson Wishart shared the letter he wrote to the Grassroots Garden Society as requested by Trustee Hory at the October meeting.

**LETTER FROM THE
MINISTER**

The letter from the Minister of Education regarding the *Teachers' Act* was circulated to the Board.

**LETTER FROM THE
MINISTER**

The letter from the Minister of Education regarding the launch of the BC Education Plan was circulated to the Board.

**HOME-SCHOOLING
LETTER**

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, shared with the Board the letter he drafted to home-schooling families in the District. The letter invites families to use District resources and educational programs in any way that works best for them. With approval from PACs, contact information for local PAC groups will be added to the letter to make it more personal.

**EMPLOYMENT
EQUITY**

Secretary-Treasurer, John Martin, spoke to the board about the Employment Equity Training workshop that was held at North Island Secondary School October 21st and thanked both Conni Kilfoil and CUPE Local 2045 for putting the session on. Mr. Martin stated that the workshop was well attended and very informative. The all-day session produced many good ideas that will help in the development of an Employment Equity Program.

**LETTER FROM THE
DEPUTY MINISTER**

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, shared a letter from the Deputy Minister that clearly outlines the expectations surrounding report cards. Report Cards will be issued, regardless of strike action, and will contain: the name of the student, the courses the student is registered in, attendance information, as well as achievement in any course taught by administration.

**LETTER OF
UNDERSTANDING**

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, reported on his meeting with the President of North Island College and the letter of understanding that was signed. The letter outlines the District's and College's work together in the interest of learners and their shared intent to reduce barriers and bureaucracy, while demonstrating that education is a life-long process.

BILL 33 REPORT

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, informed the Board of changes to class size and composition for the month of October as they pertain to Bill 33 considerations. North Island Secondary School reported consultation for two divisions with three or more IEPs. These consultations were triggered by grade 8 rotations and had been previously reported in the September Bill 33 report to the Board. Port Hardy Secondary School reported two divisions with additional students with IEPs. Dr. Benwell informed the Board that consultations had occurred, that the organization of divisions was in compliance with the provisions of the School Act, and was, in his opinion, appropriate for student learning.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Assistant Superintendent, Katherine McIntosh, reported that during the months of September and October parents were informed that early dismissals at school for parent-teacher interviews were being postponed due to job action. Ms. McIntosh explained that language in the Collective Agreement states there will be two days of early dismissal provided for teachers to host parent-teacher interviews and that the District intends to honour that agreement. Parent-teacher interviews will be rescheduled for later in the school year.

**NOON HOUR
SUPERVISION**

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, addressed the issue of noon hour supervision concerns for Cheslakees Elementary School. Dr. Benwell stated that administration has worked hard to define the playground area, reducing the playground size by placing cones to mark physical boundaries. He explained that another noon hour supervisor had been hired at Cheslakees. Dr. Benwell also noted that noon hour supervisors at both Cheslakees and Sunset are now wearing high visibility vests during their supervision.

Trustee Manke stated that many kindergarten parents at the last Cheslakees PAC meeting questioned the Ministry's lack of foresight when instituting all-day kindergarten by not providing additional funding for supervision. Trustee Manke requested a letter be written to ask the Ministry of Education to address this concern.

86/11

Manke/Hory

That a letter be written to the Ministry of Education regarding the lack of additional funding for the supervision of all-day kindergarten students.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Manke shared his recent visit to Woss Lake Elementary School. He stated that the students appear to be getting an excellent education. Trustee Manke relayed that the Manager of Western Forests Products in Woss claimed he would do whatever he could to encourage employees, especially those with young families, to move to or remain living in Woss. Trustee Manke also shared his visit with the grade 2/3 class at Sunset as students were introduced to their project assignments.

Trustee Hory wished the best of luck to those trustees running for re-election.

Trustee Hunter shared his experience at the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting and let everyone know that meeting minutes had been posted on the BCSTA website. Trustee Hunter also stated that it was the first time in his recollection that the Minister of Education was in attendance and commented that the Minister was very personable and congenial. Trustee Hunter shared that he had attended the Alert Bay all-candidates meeting and had expressed the opinion that he has worked with a well-functioning Board of Education for the past three years.

Trustee Field shared his recent education on digital QR codes during a visit to Eagle View Elementary School. The school's librarian taught Trustee Field about the use of these QR codes that are displayed around the school.

Trustee Wishart express his enjoyment working with the other trustees for the past three years, and his hope to be re-elected. He wished everyone the best of luck.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

Danita Schmidt, Co-chair of DPAC, reported that the first DPAC meeting of the school year was held on October 24th. She explained that supervision concerns at Fort Rupert, Eagle View and Cheslakees Elementary Schools were discussed as well as the proper protocol for addressing those concerns.

Ms. Schmidt reported that DPAC would like to set up a training workshop in cooperation with the Superintendent for parents who wish to be involved in School Planning Councils.

Ms. Schmidt stated that Kevin Ogren had attended the DPAC meeting as a VINTA Representative. Job Action was discussed as well as the difficulties surrounding fundraising and how fundraising has been

impacted by Job Action.

Ms. Schmidt informed the Board that Eagle View PAC will not be hosting the Christmas Bazaar this year, as it relies heavily on teacher involvement to ensure its success. The date has been set for December 4th if any other group wishes to take on the event.

Ms. Schmidt was excited to report that Sea View and Eagle View Elementary Schools recently bought playground equipment. Both schools saved significant amounts of money buying the equipment at clearance prices.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

Local VINTA Representative, Shawn Gough, thanked the Board for continued good relations with VINTA, reminding the Board that it is the body that empowers BCPSEA and encouraging its support of local bargaining. Mr. Gough also thanked the Board for its concern for the Minister's plans for Special Education funding. Finally, Mr. Gough expressed his own concerns about the Minister's BC Education Plan, and how it appears to be mostly about stripping contracts.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

President of CUPE Local 2045, Joanne Welch, informed the Board that Conni Kilfoil would like help the Board set up an Employment Equity Agreement with CUPE. Ms. Welch stated that Ms. Kilfoil is also willing to facilitate additional workshops on Harassment and Duty to Accommodate. Finally, Ms. Welch reported that CUPE Local 2045 has a new National Representative, Jocelyn Morgan.

**ADJOURNMENT
87/11**

Hory:
That the regular meeting of November 7, 2011 be adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer