

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

**October 11, 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 6:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Jeff Field, Trustee  
Ann Hory, Trustee  
Eric Hunter, Trustee  
Werner Manke, Trustee  
Victor Tracy, Trustee  
Carol Prescott, Trustee

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**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES  
70/11**

Hory/Manke:  
That the minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting be adopted.  
**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO THE  
AGENDA**

Community Futures request  
Letter from the Minister of Education

**ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA  
71/11**

Hunter/Manke:  
That the agenda be adopted with the additions.

**CARRIED**

**BCSTA FUNDING  
FORMULAS**

Trustee Field told the Board that the letter to Michael McEvoy regarding funding formulas was written and sent as requested.

**PLAYGROUND FAQ**

Superintendent of Schools, Scott Benwell, explained to the Board that School District No. 85 was not successful in acquiring any funding from the Ministry allocated to playground development. Dr. Benwell shared a FAQ to help clarify the Ministry's decision.

Trustee Hunter asked that if additional playground funding were to be provided to the district, that PAC groups be reimbursed for their financial contributions to playgrounds.

**COMMUNITY  
FUTURES REQUEST**

Secretary-Treasurer, John Martin, brought a request to the Board on behalf of Community Futures for the loan of 48 tables and 96 chairs to be used for their Career Fair on November 8, 2011. Community Futures is hosting this event free of charge to the public and has invited students from both North Island Secondary and Port Hardy Secondary School to attend. The event is hoping to attract upwards of fifty exhibitors. Mr. Martin explained that the cost to the district in waived rental fees and the cost of transporting tables and chairs to and from the event would be approximately \$250.00.

**72/11**

Tracy/Hory  
That the Board provide for the loan and transportation of tables and

chairs to Community Futures free of charge.

**LETTER FROM THE MINISTER**

Trustee Wishart brought to the Boards attention a letter he received from the Minister of Education. The letter speaks to items in the Minister's throne speech that pertain to education. In the letter, the Minister outlined the details of a class organization fund proposal put forward through its discussions with the BCTF. The fund would provide \$165,000,000.00 over three years with the addition of \$75,000,000.00 for each year after to support teachers and school districts in the area of classroom composition.

**THANK YOU TO COMMUNITIES**

Dr. Benwell provided the Board with a copy of the Thank You that was published in the gazette on behalf of the Board of Education. The publication thanked community members who contributed to local scholarship programs in support of our 2011 North Island graduates.

**DISBURSEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 2011  
73/11**

Hory/Field:  
That the September 2011 disbursement statements be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**SCHOOL PLANS**

All 2011-2012 school plans were circulated to the Trustees for approval. Individual school plans will be presented throughout the year.

**74/11**

Manke/Prescott  
That all 2011-2012 school plans be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**JOB ACTION**

Dr. Benwell notified the Board that there had been little change in regards to job action since the last meeting of the Board. Minor changes were made to the schools' supervision schedule, including additional coverage at Fort Rupert Elementary School. Dr. Benwell expressed his appreciation to VINTA for their cooperation in problem solving issues that have arisen due to job action. He also conveyed that administrators have expressed feelings of being disconnected from staff.

Katherine McIntosh expressed her feeling that the general tone at schools was still positive.

**BILL 33**

To comply with the School Act, the Board of Education must approve the Superintendent's report on class size and composition, and further report to the Minister of Education upon its approval. Dr. Benwell reported that, as of September 30, 2011, the organization of classes was in compliance with the provisions of the School Act and was, in his opinion, appropriate for student learning.

Dr. Benwell thanked Administrators for their efforts in consultations in order to fulfill Bill33 requirements.

75/11

Hory/Manke

That the Board approve the Superintendent's September 30, 2011 report on class size and composition.

**CARRIED**

Trustee Manke noted that nearly 50% of both Port Hardy Secondary School and North Island Secondary School classes have more than three students with I.E.P.s. Trustee Manke asked that a letter be written to the Minister Education, referencing the throne speech and the statements regarding a commitment to teachers and school districts in the area of classroom composition.

76/11

Manke/Tracy

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Education in response the throne and the Minister's commitment in the area of classroom composition.

**CARRIED**

**SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>  
ENROLMENT AND  
DISTRICT AVERAGES**

John Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, reported that enrolment for the District, as of September 30, 2011, is 1478.38 fte students. This number is approximately 50 students less than the previous year. Mr. Martin explained that district enrolment is only 17 or 18 less than projected numbers. Mr. Martin reported 548 of the total number of enrolled students are of aboriginal descent. This is up slightly from last year. He also reported that the overall number of enrolled students with special education designations is down from last year.

Assistant Superintendent, Katherine McIntosh, reported to the Board that staffing numbers will be maintained at all elementary schools including Sea View Elementary Junior Secondary School, but that North Island Secondary School may lose a 1.0 fte teacher for Semester Two. Ms. McIntosh was happy to report that district averages are significantly below ministry requirements at all grade levels. District averages are calculated by taking the total number of students in a grade level and dividing that number by the number of classrooms provided to those students.

Average allowed by legislation:

K: 19 max

Gr. 1-3: 21 max

Gr. 4-7: 28 max

Gr. 8-12: 28 max

District Averages:

K: 17.2

Gr. 1-3: 18.7

Gr. 4-7: 22.5

Gr. 8-12: 22.9

- POLICY COMMITTEE** Tracy/Hory  
**77/11** That PM 2-50 Community Involvement in Education receive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.  
**CARRIED**
- 78/11** Hory/Manke  
That PM 2-295 Student Admission receive 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.  
**CARRIED**
- 79/11** Hunter/Tracy  
That PM 4-70 Employment Equity receive 1<sup>st</sup> reading and be circulated for feedback.  
**CARRIED**
- 80/11** Prescott/Hory  
That PM 5-35 Scent Free Environment receive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.  
**CARRIED**
- 81/11** Prescott/Hory  
That PM 5-155 Assessing Violence Potential receive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.  
**CARRIED**
- TRUSTEE SHARING**
- 82/11** Hory/Manke  
That a letter of appreciation be sent to Grassroots Garden Society.  
**CARRIED**
- Trustee Manke commented on the trustee visit to Fort Rupert Elementary School, expressing how obviously proud the principal, Mr. Kaleb Child, was of his school. Trustee Manke also commented that younger students appeared disappointed in the trustees as guests, perhaps having expecting something more entertaining in the way of visitors to the school.
- Trustee Hunter expressed that he is looking forward to attending the October BCSTA Council meeting on behalf of the Board and that he will bring up the topic of home-schooling up as requested at last month's In-Camera Meeting.
- Trustee Prescott informed the Board that she was in attendance for the

preparation for the Grassroots Garden Harvest Celebration at North Island Secondary School. Trustee Prescott shared how rewarding it was to be a participant in the event and to see the pride in the event organizer and in the students who participated. Trustee Prescott also shared her experience with the Missoula Children's Theatre's recent visit to Port Alice. After a five day workshop, students put on a wonderful drama production for the public.

Trustee Field commented on the warm atmosphere of a smaller school like Fort Rupert Elementary and how much he enjoyed his visit there. He also stated that Diane Toth still volunteers at Fort Rupert Elementary, reading to students. Trustee Field spoke on the VISTA Fall Conference and a session he attended on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. He explained that the Comox School District published a DVD spoof on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning then expressed how funny it was, and that it was worth watching if given the opportunity.

Trustee Tracy invited everyone to attend the Annual District Cross-Country Run on October 18, 2011 in Sointula. A.J. Elliott will be hosting the run, and Trustee Tracy will be one of the event's marshals.

Trustee Wishart spoke on the BCPSEA meeting he recently attended. While there, he discussed job action, the pressure on administration and excluded staff, and how students in our district are not currently feeling much of its effects. Trustee Wishart stated that he enjoyed his visit to Fort Rupert School, watching students and staff at work. Trustee Wishart acknowledged that this was Trustee Tracy's last board meeting, and thanked him publically for his dedication to the Board, and for all of the advice and wisdom he has shared.

**DPAC  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Penny Mills, Co-chair of DPAC, informed the Board that the next DPAC meeting was scheduled for October 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the School Board Office. Agenda items at the meeting will include parental concerns with supervision at Eagle View Elementary School, as well as using video conferencing for meetings. Ms. Mills discussed the impact of job action on parents. Ms. Mills stated that although there seems to be few parental concerns on the impact to student learning, parents are feeling the effects in the areas of fundraising, and changes that need to be made to the fundraising system.

**VINTA  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Fred Robertson, President of VINTA, thanked Trustee Tracy on behalf of teachers for all of his work. Mr. Robertson acknowledged that job action is still in effect, having its intended impact while still allowing teacher to do their jobs. Mr. Robertson stated that he looks forward to meeting with DPAC and discussing job action and the pressures being put on the system.

Fred Robertson recognized the position the Board took with BCPSEA in stating that School District No. 85 was not prepared to take action against our teachers at this time. Mr. Robertson expressed how much

such a statement will affect teachers, instilling them with confidence in the Board.

Fred Robertson expressed his concerns with the throne speech and that proposed legislation will significantly and fundamentally alter public education for the worse. Mr. Robertson described this legislation as a means of removing fairness and due process from legislation that currently exists and appears to follow the US model of public education. Mr. Robertson expressed his view that public education is about more than just skills development. Public education is about graduating citizens into society, not just creating workers for industry.

Fred Robertson shared his concerns regarding Bill 33 consultations, the number of classes with more than three I.E.P.s, and how extremely difficult some of these classes are going to be to teach.

Fred Robertson asked the Board if there was a way to further break down the monthly disbursement reports. John Martin explained that the reports are computer generated, and payments on purchasing cards are not broken down, they are made as one payment. Mr. Martin will refer the request to staff in the Accounts Payable department.

**CUPE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms. Jody Welch, President of CUPE Local 2045, informed the Board of the upcoming Employment Equity meeting on October 21, 2011 and of the meeting on October 27, 2011. Ms. Welch also informed the Board that she will be going to the CUPE National meeting in Vancouver for one week at the end of the month.

**ADJOURNMENT  
83/11**

Tracy:  
That the regular meeting of October 11, 2011 be adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chairperson of the Board

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Secretary-Treasurer