

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

**October 20 2014**

**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

Absent: Danita Schmidt, Trustee

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<b>RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES</b>	Chairperson Wishart opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakiutl First Nation and the Kwak'waka speaking peoples.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES 62/14</b>	Field/Hunter: That the minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting be adopted. <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</b>	Resource Centre Supplies Reallocation Correspondence
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA 63/14</b>	Schmidt/Hunter: That the agenda be adopted with additions. <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>MOU – NIC</b>	Superintendent Scott Benwell was pleased to introduce Tony Belavia, Assistant Vice-President of Access and Programs and Greg Batt, Regional Director, Mount Waddington Campus, both from North Island College. Mr. Belavia and Mr. Batt were in attendance for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between NIC and SD85 that formalizes the work that has been done in partnership to provide more options for students in our District.
<b>CAREER AND TRADES EDUCATION</b>	Dr. Benwell introduced NISS Principal Jay Dixon and teachers Kathleen McArthur and Greg Muirhead to present on the Connections Program and Field Studies course currently offered at both high schools. The presentation focused on how both programs connect students with community businesses and transition students from school into the workforce.
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	Chairperson Wishart shared a letter of thanks regarding the District Dogwood Scholarship Award.
<b>MOU</b>	Dr. Benwell reported on the signed memorandum of understanding between NIC and SD85 in partnership with two other school districts that will allow local students to take Criminology 101 during the high

school semester system. Students would receive dual credit for the course.

**BALANCED SEMESTERS**

Dr. Benwell reported that NISS and PHSS have adjusted their semester timelines in order to balance semesters due to the teacher strike.

**MINISTRY SATISFACTION SURVEY**

Dr. Benwell reported that the District will include in this year's Ministry Satisfaction Survey, some questions relating to the inquiry-based learning model taken from Drs. Linda Kaser and Judy Halbert's "4 Key Questions about Learning".

**HARRIS AND CO. LAW CONFERENCE**

Dr. Benwell reported on the Harris and Co. Law Conference that he recently attended.

**DISTRICT CLASSROOM NUMBERS**

Dr. Benwell shared charts that illustrate, by comparison (current and historical), the relative low class sizes, average class sizes, and pupil teacher ratios in the District. Dr. Benwell expressed his concern that class sizes will increase as we come out of funding protection.

**NON-SEXIST ENVIRONMENT**

Local VINTA President Shawn Gough and Dr. Benwell signed a formal letter that re-confirms the District's and VINTA's commitment to providing a non-sexist environment.

**DISBURSEMENTS: SEPTEMBER 2014 64/14**

Garrett/Manke:  
That the September 2014 disbursement statements be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**TECHNICAL UPDATE**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin updated the board on the Ministry's claw back of job action savings. Although our District has not run into problems yet, there has been no commitment from Government to offset any potential loss of revenue from the strike.

**POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Field reported that PM5-35 Scent Free Environment was reviewed and although no changes were made, reminders to schools will be sent out to ensure that the policy is being enforced. He reported that a committee will be formed to discuss revisions to PM 2-230 Provision of Educational Programs to Students and will report back at the next policy meeting. He also reported that PM 2-295 Student Admission was reviewed and no changes were made.

**LIF/ED. FUND**

Dr. Benwell reported that schools were able to confirm Spring Learning Improvement Fund consultations. The District met with VINTA and signed off on the Education Fund Agreement. Education Fund staffing will be reviewed again in December to ascertain actual costs.

Mr. Martin stated that the District had reached an agreement with CUPE regarding Learning Improvement Fund spending and that this year's LIF would provide twice the support to students as last year.

**RESOURCE CENTRE  
SUPPLIES  
REALLOCATION**

Trustee Prescott asked how teachers from outlying schools could access supplies previously housed at the District Resource Centre. Mr. Martin stated that teachers could search the L4U database and request supplies from individual schools. Assistant Superintendent Carol Robertson will help provide a list of resources.

**TRUSTEE SHARING**

Chairperson Wishart enjoyed the school tour of NISS led by five students as well as the lunch provided by the Foods class.

Trustee Manke observed amazing opportunities for secondary students and how happy the student body seems to be at NISS.

Trustee Garrett was impressed with NISS students' ownership of the building and by the school plan presentation as well as the wonderful relationship that administration has with the students.

Trustee Hunter gave credit to all staff for setting the tone of the school.

Trustee Field stated that he will be attending the upcoming BCPSEA Symposium. He attended two PAC meetings at EVES and one at FRES.

Trustee Prescott enjoyed her visit with the Superintendent of Numata at the School Board Office. She joined the K/1/2 class at Sea View on a "walk & talk" discussion on fall.

Chairperson Wishart announced that he and trustees Field and Schmidt had been officially elected by acclamation.

**BCSTA**

Trustee Hunter will be attending the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting that will be focussing on the K to 12 Accountability Framework.

**DPAC  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Jessica Downey introduced herself as the DPAC representative and hopes to be voted in as Chairperson.

**VINTA  
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA representative Shawn Gough thanked trustees for their service and wished them the best of luck in the upcoming election. He implored the Board to seek change to the funding formula for rural schools so that smaller districts are not treated the same as larger ones. He expressed his concern that, as budgets shrink, the district will lose academic students if schools are unable to offer courses.

**CUPE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no CUPE representative.

**ADJOURNMENT  
65/14**

Field:  
That the regular meeting of October 20, 2014 be adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chairperson of the Board

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Secretary-Treasurer