

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

September 12, 2011

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Field, Acting 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:

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

Absent: Leighton Wishart, Trustee

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
63/11**

Hunter/Manke:
That the minutes of the July 4, 2011 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Sunset Update

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
64/11**

Hory/Tracy:
That the agenda be adopted with the additions.

CARRIED

ENROLMENT

Gail Neely, Mayor of Port Alice, spoke on behalf on the Village of Port Alice and questioned the Board as to the validity of a rumour that SVES would be losing .5 fte of a teacher. Ms. Neely petitioned to Board to reconsider such a decision, warning that any loss of a teacher to SVES would affect the community and further enrolment.

Assistant Superintendent, Katherine McIntosh, recognized and thanked the delegates who came from Port Alice in support of their school, explaining that no decision to remove a teacher had been made and that enrolment numbers were still being monitored.

CORRESPONDENCE

John Martin, Secretary Treasurer, reviewed the Election Cost Sharing Agreement from the District of Port Hardy. The District has asked for an increase in fees from the 2008 cost sharing. John Martin recommended that the Board approve the agreement.

65/11

Tracy/Hunter:
That the Election Cost Sharing Agreement with the District of Port Hardy for the 2011 School Trustee Election be approved.

CARRIED

John Martin reviewed the Election Cost Sharing Agreement from the Village of Alert Bay. Mr. Martin recommended that the Board approve the agreement.

66/11

Tracy/Hunter:

That the Election Cost Sharing Agreement with the Village of Alert Bay for the 2011 School Trustee Election be approved.

CARRIED

BC CASE

Kelly Amodeo, District Principal of Special Programs, recently attended the BC Council of Administrators in Special Education Conference. Ms. Amodeo described to the Board the provincial trend to move away from a “Pull Out” model of learning assistance to the “Universal Design for Learning” model. She also informed the Board that audits will be going ahead regardless of Provincial Job Action.

FINANCIAL

John Martin shared a letter of findings from the chartered accounting firm of Chan, Nowosad, and Boates, the firm that recently audited the accounting procedures for the District.

Mr. Martin summarized the 2010/2011 audited financial statements. He explained that the operating fund balance had increased by \$204 748.00. This will ensure that the District will be in good shape financially for the next year if it were to lose the \$1.2 million in funding protection.

67/11

Prescott/ Hunter:

That the 2010/2011 audited financial statements be approved.

CARRIED

DISBURSEMENTS

**JUNE, JULY, AUGUST
68/11**

Hunter/Manke:

That the June 2011, July 2011, and August 2011 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

SUMMER WORK

Darby Gildersleeve, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, informed the Board of work completed on Sunset Elementary School this summer. The school has been re-roofed, received seismic upgrades, and had work done to classrooms. Mr. Gildersleeve reported that Fort Rupert Elementary School received a substantial upgrade to its heating system and that Port Hardy Secondary School received lighting upgrades and work to classrooms as well. Mr. Gildersleeve also reported on the work that was done on the covered area and hallway cubbies at Eagle View Elementary School and seismic upgrades that were done to the ceiling tiles at Sea View Elementary School.

Darby Gildersleeve stated that he is still waiting for reports from schools in regards to the recent earthquake and that work is currently underway to update the schools’ and district’s emergency response plans.

JOB ACTION

Scott Benwell, Superintendent of Schools, informed the Board that the

BCTF had served strike notice that commenced on September 6, 2011. Dr. Benwell shared a draft supervision schedule detailing where excluded staff members were working to provide additional coverage and relief for administrators. Dr. Benwell stated that relations with VINTA remain respectful as both parties work to clarify language and processes. Dr. Benwell also explained that letters to parents were sent home from both himself and the Board Chair and that a Job Action Updates page had been set up on the School District website.

**BELL SCHEDULE
CHANGES**

Scott Benwell explained to the Board that both Sunset and Cheslakees Elementary Schools had requested minor changes to their bell schedules. These changes were made to accommodate parents' requests and do not effect instructional time in the schools.

**DOGWOOD DISTRICT
AUTHORITY AWARDS**

Scott Benwell recognized the seven students who won Dogwood/District Authority Awards for the 2010/2011 school year. Each award was for \$1,000.00, five going to Port Hardy Secondary School students, and two to North Island Secondary School students. Dr. Benwell also recognized local businesses and community members for their generosity in the thousands of dollars given to North Island graduates in the form of local scholarships and awards.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Tracy discussed packages that were sent out to families from AJ Elliott School. The information spoke of the relationship between teachers and the School District, the school's Code of Conduct, and the Principal's general philosophy on education. Trustee Tracy stated he believed it to be a valuable resource.

Trustee Prescott shared her experience at the 2011 Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair, as the Fall Fair Committee Chairperson. Trustee Prescott spoke of the many complements that were received on the butterfly artwork created by District elementary students. Trustee Prescott has saved the artwork and will be returning it to the students when possible.

Trustee Manke shared his recent involvement as a judge for the 2010-2011 Canada Wide Science Fair and the enthusiasm of the students who participated. Trustee Manke encouraged all of the Trustees to get involved by volunteering at the school level.

Trustee Hory shared her recent visit to Port Hardy Secondary School, commenting on the vital atmosphere in the building while she was there and the general feeling that things were going well in the school. Trustee Hory commented on her appreciation of the student artwork at this year's Fall Fair.

Trustee Hunter shared his experience with the Maori Dancers that visited Alert Bay this summer. Trustee Hunter described how the children of Alert Bay met the Dancers as they disembarked the ferry,

and how awe inspiring it was to be there.

Trustee Field shared his recent visits to Port Hardy Secondary School and Eagle View Elementary School and commented on how nice it was to see the elementary school so busy again. Trustee Field also stated how fortunate he felt to have been a part of the interview procedures that took place in June.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

Danita Schmidt, co-chair of DPAC, told the Board that the next DPAC meeting was scheduled for September 26, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the School Board Office. Ms. Schmidt is hoping that there will be more representation this year, especially from outlying areas. There will be no AGM. DPAC will continue to have guests at their meetings and provide workshops.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

Fred Robertson, President of VINTA, commented on how well students at North Island Secondary School participated in the recent earthquake evacuation drill.

Mr. Robertson expressed his concern with the possibility of losing a teacher at Sea View Elementary School and the importance of maintaining the momentum that has been building from the work and innovations made by staff there.

Mr. Robertson discussed his recent conversation with David Blades, explaining that the Masters Cohort on the North Island through the University of Victoria was definitely happening and would most likely be starting in July 2012.

Mr. Robertson expressed his appreciation for the effort this district has taken in regards to Class Size and Composition and Bill 33. Mr. Robertson stated the BCTF was in Job Action because of the lack of movement from the Province in negotiations since April 2011. Mr. Robertson also stated that the BCPSEA has proposed teachers be subjected to evaluations by one individual, equating that to the complete loss of seniority, and the possibility of the teacher being dismissed with no recourse as a result of the evaluation. Mr. Robertson stated his belief that the Board was not interested in stripping teachers' contracts, even though the majority of the BCPSEA Board of Directors is made up of school trustees. Mr. Robertson stated his concern that the changes BCPSEA is demanding will fundamentally change education in British Columbia. Mr. Robertson made no apologies for being on strike.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms. Jody Welch, President of CUPE Local 2045, told the Board that new CUPE bargaining dates would have to be set. Ms. Welch explained that the CUPE Local 2045's National Representative was leaving his position at the end of the month. No new Representative had been hired at that time.

ADJOURNMENT
69/11

Hory:
That the regular meeting of September 12, 2011 be adjourned at 7:35
p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer