

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

September 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy, 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
Danita Schmidt, Trustee

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES	Chairperson Wishart opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakiutl First Nation and the Kwak'wala speaking peoples.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 56/14	Manke/Hunter: That the minutes of the June 9, 2014 meeting be adopted. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	No additions.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA 57/14	Schmidt/Hunter: That the agenda be adopted as circulated. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
CORRESPONDENCE	Chairperson Wishart shared letters sent from the Board to BCPEA, the BCTF, the Minister, and the Premier regarding the strike. He also shared a letter of response from the Minister.
BCSSA SUMMER CONFERENCE	Superintendent Scott Benwell reported on the BCSSA and BCASBO Summer Conference he attended with the Secretary-Treasurer. He reported that talks were dominated by the current labour dispute, but stated that the Ministry was moving forward with its work in curriculum and changes to the graduation program.
SHORT COURSE	Dr. Benwell was pleased to report that new administrators D'Arcy Deacon and Jillian Walkus attended Short Course at UBC this July.
DL	Dr. Benwell announced that, after discussions in June with principals at both high schools, it was agreed that the SD85 Distributed Learning School will now be directed through PHSS. It was recognized that NISS was busy developing the Connections program, and that both PHSS administrators were eager to assume the administration of the DL school.

**SCHOOL PLAN
UPDATE**

Dr. Benwell recognized that successful school planning is done in consultation with all school community members. Due to the current labour dispute, and the absence of teacher input, school plan timelines will be adjusted accordingly.

**DISBURSEMENTS:
JUNE, JULY, AND
AUGUST 2014
58/14**

Schmidt/Manke:
That the June 2014, July 2014, and August 2014 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

**HOLBERG
PLAYGROUND
EQUIPMENT
REQUEST**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin shared a request to relocate the Holberg school playground equipment to Stepping Stones Daycare at Robert Scott Elementary School. Mr. Martin explained that the equipment is not currently being used, is not needed by any other district school, has little monetary value, and is appropriate in size for a daycare. He recommended the request be approved.

59/14

Field/Schmidt:
That the request to relocate the Holberg playground equipment to Stepping Stones Daycare at Robert Scott Elementary School be approved.

CARRIED

**CAPITAL PROJECT
UPDATE-NISS**

Manager of Operations and Maintenance Darby Gildersleeve updated the Board on the NISS HVAC upgrade. Mr. Gildersleeve explained that the work is almost complete and acknowledged the contractor for work well done.

Mr. Martin stated that project costs remained well within the contingency budget, with claims of only \$20,000 in extra expenses.

**COMPUTING
CONTROL AND
COMPATIBILITY
ASSESSMENT AUDIT**

Mr. Martin informed the Board that SD85, among other districts, has been chosen to undergo a computing controls audit. Auditors will be checking to ensure that technology purchases have been appropriate and that sufficient safeguards are in place. This audit is being done in all areas of government, including education.

**SEPTEMBER STRIKE
SAVINGS REPORT**

Mr. Martin shared a memo from the Assist Deputy Minister regarding strike savings, asking districts to report on all areas of savings. He stated that it appears the Ministry may be intending to recover all savings from the strike but that the language is vague.

**APPROVAL OF
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
60/14**

Mr. Martin shared the draft audited June 30, 2014 financial statements.

Schmidt/Manke:
That the June 30, 2014 audited financial statements be approved.

CARRIED

BCPSEA

Trustee Field reported that the Green Party is petitioning the Provincial Government to accept the BCTF's request for binding arbitration.

BCPSEA Trustee Hunter reminded trustees that the deadline for motions for the Provincial Council is September 20th.

TRUSTEE SHARING Trustee Prescott shared that Sea View won the School Participation Award at this year's Fall Fair.

Trustee Manke shared his concern about how poorly informed, and misinformed, the public seems to be in regards to the current labour dispute.

Chairperson Wishart agreed that misinformation is a common issue in all districts. He reminded trustees that municipal elections forms need to be submitted between September 30 and October 10 for those interested.

DPAC REPRESENTATIVE DPAC Chairperson Amanda Jorgenson reported that many parents are frustrated, confused and feel uninformed about the current labour dispute and that high school parents express particular concerns regarding credits and graduation. Many parents have chosen to home school or send their children to independent schools. She stated that the pre-school in Port Alice may have to move from Sea View because of the picket line.

Ms. Jorgenson stated that BCCPAC met in Vancouver on August 16, where a small representative group wrote a strong letter against the BCTF. Many DPAC members are not happy with the letter and a retraction may be forthcoming. DPAC has been encouraging parents to write their own letters to the Provincial Government.

CUPE REPRESENTATIVE 2nd Vice-President for Local 401 Jody Welch stated that elections for 2nd Vice-President will be held later this month.

VINTA REPRESENTATIVE VINTA representative Shawn Gough expressed his disappointment that promotion of the BCed Plan has been used for partisan purposes. He was also disappointed with the Premier's response to the Board's letter and recommended the Board reply with a statement of "not enough". He asked if trustees had heard a rumor that the Premier is planning to set in place a three-tiered system, effectively eliminating Boards of Education.

Mr. Gough stated that the BCTF will be voting on Wednesday on whether teachers would stand down if the Provincial Government agrees to binding arbitration. He concluded by thanking Board members for attending the community meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
55/14 Schmidt:
That the regular meeting of September 8, 2014 be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer