

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

May 21, 2013

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the North Island Secondary School Library, Port McNeill, B.C. at 5:33 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

The meeting was called in order to consider changes to school trustee electoral areas. A copy of the Trustee Variation Guidelines from the Ministry of Education and a letter from the Village of Port Alice dated May 21, 2013 were distributed to all attendees.

**ELECTORAL
AREAS**

Trustee Schmidt reviewed previous Board discussions on school trustee electoral areas and introduced a motion, seconded by Trustee Prescott, to maintain the current areas and undertake another review in five years. After extensive discussion by trustees, it was agreed that any future review should be in a separate motion.

01/13

Schmidt/Prescott:

That the Board support the status quo option for its trustee electoral areas.

DEFEATED

Trustees debated various other options regarding electoral areas. Trustee Hunter introduced a motion, seconded by Trustee Prescott, to support the approach taken in the letter from the Village of Port Alice. Secretary Treasurer John Martin advised the Board that in his opinion, the motion did not adhere to the Trustee Variation Guidelines. Discussion ensued on finding an option that would meet the Ministry of Education's Trustee Variation Guidelines.

02/13

Hunter/Prescott:

That the Board support the Village of Port Alice proposal to incorporate the current Western Zone into the Port Hardy and Tri-Bands Area, with an additional seat being granted to The Town of Port McNeill Area.

DEFEATED

Further discussion ensued on finding an option that would meet the Ministry of Education's Trustee Variation Guidelines.

03/13

Manke/Field:

That the Board support Option One, amended by removing Coal Harbour from the Port Alice/Western Zone Area and incorporating it into the Port Hardy and Tri-Bands Area.

DEFEATED

Superintendent Scott Benwell reviewed the information contained in the Trustee Variation Guidelines, and noted the principle of voter parity contained therein. He stated that movement away from this principle will only be allowed if it is impossible to have relative equality of voting and the change will result in more effective representation. He noted that the current situation was not of the Board's making and he reminded trustees that the consultation process was conducted responsibly. Trustee Prescott questioned the reason for holding the consultation meetings with the communities. The Superintendent responded that it was anticipated that the process would generate additional options for the Board to consider, and from that viewpoint, the consultation was successful.

Trustee Wishart asked Trustee Field to assume the Chair in order to introduce a motion.

04/13

Wishart/Manke:

That the Board support Option Five (North and South Zones, both at large), as suggested by the RDMW Area A Director.

Trustees discussed the motion.

RECESS

05/13

Hunter/Garrett:

That there be an immediate recess for 15 minutes. (7:00 p.m.)

CARRIED

A recess occurred until 7:15 p.m. when the meeting resumed. Trustee Wishart returned to the Chair and Trustees continued to discuss motion 04/13.

06/13

Manke/Field:

That motion 04/13 be amended to divide the South Zone into two Areas, as per Option Six.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Motion 04/13 as amended:

07/13

That the Board support Option Six:

- 1) Three Trustees from Trustee Electoral Area 1, being the District of Port Hardy, RDMW Area B including Holberg and Winter Harbour, and the north Part of Area C including Coal Harbour, Quatsino and the reserves belonging to the Kwakiutl First Nation, the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations, and the Quatsino First Nation;

- 2) Two Trustees from Trustee Electoral Area 2, being the Village of Alert Bay, the Village of Port Alice, and RDMW Area A, including Malcolm Island, Echo Bay, Kingcome Inlet, and the reserves belonging to the Namgis First Nation and the Whe-La-La-U Area Council;

- 3) Two Trustees from Trustee Electoral Area 3, being the Town of Port McNeill, the south Part of RDMW Area C including Hyde Creek and Nimpkish Heights, and RDMW Area D, including Telegraph Cove and Woss.

CARRIED

Opposed: Trustee Prescott and Trustee Hunter

The Chair thanked the Board and staff for their work on the trustee areas issue.

ADJOURNMENT

08/13

Manke:

That the special meeting of May 21, 2013 be adjourned. (7:55 p.m.)

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer