



---

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,  
HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015,  
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, GOLD RIVER, BC**

---

- TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Kathy Kennedy, Chairperson (Gold River)  
Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot – by videoconference and phone)  
Ken Pringle (Gold River)  
Fern Eastcott (Tahsis)  
Gwen Alsop (Zeballos – by videoconference)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor  
Ellena Gjesdal, Administrative Assistant/Recorder  
One Staff and Two Public Members
- 

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**2015:R-048** MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott  
AND RESOLVED:  
*“TO approve the agenda.”*

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**2015:R-049** MOVED: Trustee Eastcott, SECONDED: Trustee Pringle  
AND RESOLVED:  
*“TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2015.”*

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Nil.

**PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:**

A concern was raised regarding the need for the Gold River Secondary School library to be more accessible to students, and the importance of school libraries in general – especially in communities where there are no public libraries.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Chair, SD68 (Nanaimo Ladysmith)
- BC School Trustees Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD74 (Gold Trail)
- Chair, SD69 (Qualicum)
- SD 69 (Qualicum)
- SD 69 (Qualicum)
- SD 69 (Qualicum)
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education Regarding Difficulties Since Implementation of the MyEducation BC Software
- BCSTA Trustee Winter Academy 2015: Final Registration Reminder
- 1<sup>st</sup> Reminder: Provincial Council Motions Due by Tuesday, January 19, 2016
- Issue 05: Boards Making a Difference: Stories From Your Community – The Charles Bloom Forestry Program
- Copy of Letter to Honourable Michael DeJong, QC, Expressing Concern Regarding Exempt Staff Compensation
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education Supporting the Recommendations of the BCSTA and the BCTF to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
- November VISTA Meeting Minutes
- Attachments to November VISTA Business Meeting Agenda
- Aboriginal Education Committee Report to VISTA
- The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Report to Branches: Winter 2015

- BCSTA
- BC Public School Employers' Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- The Education Leader: Trustee Academy 2015
- BCPSEA 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting – Submission of Proposed Resolutions and Registration
- Clarification of BCSTA Communications Protocol for Emails
- Trustee Academy Materials
- Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

**2015:R-050**      MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott  
AND RESOLVED:  
*"TO receive and file the correspondence."*

### **REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:**

The Board approved the closure of the School Board Office to the public from December 21-31, 2015, inclusive, to allow for staff holidays. There was one land issue discussed as well as one labour issue regarding the proposed Principal and Vice-Principal pay increase. Trustee Alsop declared a conflict of interest regarding the proposed motion on this topic and removed herself from the discussion. The Board passed a motion to grant a 2% raise for school-based Principals and Vice-Principals, retroactive to July 1, 2015.

### **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

#### **a. School Reports**

Trustee Pringle reported that basketball has started up again at Ray Watkins Elementary, twice a week, with Coach Rob Wilson. The Grade 6 and 7 students are going to Gold River Secondary to work with Mrs. Kornylow in preparation for this year's Science Fair. Report cards went out on December 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by parent/teacher interviews and a successful Book Fair on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A Community Lunch hosted by Marsha Maquinna will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup> and everyone is welcome. Preparations are underway for the Christmas Concert on December 16<sup>th</sup>. 'Relax and Read' is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>, followed by 'PJ Day' on the last day of school.

Trustee Alsop reported on a well-attended workshop in Zeballos on November 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the 'Zeballos to Tahsis Trail Development' proposal, which could provide education and work experience for youth into the future. The idea of a 34-km trail from Tahsis to Zeballos originated a few years ago as a way to support local and regional economies, develop tourism and connect the communities. The group supported a three-phase approach: (1) ATV trail; (2) hiking trail; and, (3) biking trails. The business plan should include emergency preparedness, search and rescue on the coast, educational value, potential business opportunities connected to the trail and in the communities, letters of support, marketing research, and access or no access to sensitive First Nations land.

Trustee Alsop attended a school trip to the fish hatchery where she learned a great deal about the work that is underway with salmon roe, including daily collection of vital data on care and maintenance. They also travelled a few miles out of town to where a large pond has been excavated and fed by an underground aquifer that will ensure a certain water level. Students took precise overlay pictures with their ipads to monitor changes with the water level, erosion, vegetation, etc. They have been planting around the perimeter and it will be interesting to see the project grow in years to come. Through these and other projects, the school wants to build capacity in the youth by encouraging the skills and knowledge needed to pursue work in restoration and natural resource management. The school's mandate to develop a greater emphasis on outdoor and hands-on learning is supported by these initiatives.

The Grades 3-6 students are leading Zeballos School in recycling and composting. Last year, they began composting their food waste in vermi (worm) compost bins and, this year, successfully organized the collection and sorting of packaging and printed paper items accepted under the Multi-Materials BC Program. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, their recycling program expanded again to include all 'return for deposit' items – all of which is taking a big bite out of the waste created by the school! The students have made colourful signs for each classroom to explain what goes into the blue

bins and the food waste buckets, and have educated other students and staff about the amazing Red Wiggler worms and what they eat. Each day, the class gathers the recycling and sorts it at the classroom's "transfer station" – large boxes designated for the different recyclable items – which are delivered weekly to the Village's recycling bins and 'return for deposit' items are taken by volunteer to the Return-It Depot in Campbell River. The food waste is carefully weighed and fed daily to the worms which can handle 25% of what is currently generated in the school. This year, the Strathcona Regional District, Greentools Canada and Wormworx are supporting the class to purchase larger, more sophisticated worm bins (called Hungry Bins) and extra Red Wigglers to allow all of the school's food waste to be converted into rich organic fertilizer for gardens in the community. If the Zeballos landfill closes in 2019 as planned, all of these efforts will save money into the future when garbage will have to be shipped to Cumberland. The staff and students at Zeballos School are applauded for doing their part to move toward a Zero Waste Zeballos!

A core group of Grade 8-12 students have partnered with M.C. Wright and Associates Ltd., Biological Consultants, to assist with restoration activities and photo monitoring at a newly constructed off-channel habitat on the Zeballos River. M.C. Wright and Associates, while under contract to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, designed this habitat pond and the gravel excavated was used to raise the elevation of Zeballos Forest Service Road by two to three meters, thereby ensuring that the communities will no longer be cut off during severe floods. The project partners (Ehattesaht First Nation, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nootka Sound Watershed Society, and Juniper Environmental Services) are excited to facilitate these learning and skill building opportunities. The restoration work explores issues including the historic aggrading and degrading of habitat in the watershed and the resulting decline of wild salmonids, and provides opportunities for students to develop locally applicable skills and knowledge for future careers in ecosystem restoration and natural resource management. The students have begun replanting the newly constructed habitat and monitoring changes, under the direction of M.C. Wright and Associates and school staff, by assessing the use of the various habitat types by aquatic and terrestrial organisms. The students will continue to take photos at established monitoring stations and, based on their observations, have been asked to identify and set up additional stations. M.C. Wright and Associates have developed and provided the school with their N-Compass Media software - a photo station monitoring iPad App and database – and students are using this App to take photos in the field. They are then uploaded into the database, which students will use to follow and learn about the changes in the habitat over time, and to produce a year-end report. Replanting activities also provide the opportunity to learn about local plant species including traditional names and uses of these plants by Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.

This year, an important and ground-breaking partnership was made between Zeballos School, the Ehattesaht First Nation and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with support from the Nootka Sound Watershed Society and School District 84, to take responsibility for continuing the operation of the Zeballos River Hatchery and to ensure that this facility continues to enhance salmon populations on the Zeballos River. It is hard to say who receives the greatest benefit of this initiative: the wildlife and ecosystems of the Zeballos River, the students who are gaining skills and knowledge for future employment, or the communities that depend on the salmon for food and income! The work builds on the past efforts of groups and individuals that have operated the hatchery and is increasing the community's capacity to continue restoring the salmon nation. Students have been participating in all aspects of the hatchery operation this year, including capturing brood stock, fertilizing eggs and monitoring their development. Under the students' care, 16,500 chum salmon eggs are happily incubating and, along with DFO and community members, students will release the smolts into the Zeballos River in the spring.

Trustee Alsop concluded by reporting that the last week of school will include a school/communities social evening with a concert and meal, a day of skating and movies in Port McNeill, and a supper party for all the well-deserving staff.

Trustee Eastcott reported on Captain Meares' Remembrance Day assembly with guest of honour and local veteran of the Korean War, Dave Madill. Dave also spent time with the secondary students after the assembly discussing his experiences as a young paratrooper. The Junior Canadian Rangers provided a colour party. The Grad Class of 2016 met and selected Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> as the date for

their graduation ceremonies, with three graduates anticipated this year. The 'Farm to School' lunch program started up again this month and special thanks to Karli and her numerous volunteers who put together such great meals for everyone. Nootka Sound RCMP are helping serve lunch again this year – a great opportunity for the officers to connect with the students in a friendly, social atmosphere. On November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Captain Meares hosted the annual District Volleyball Tournament with approximately 50 students from the four high school programs in attendance. Players were guaranteed at least three matches (nine games in all), and the tournament was a great success. Amber Zirnhelt, a former nationally ranked downhill mountain bike racer, attended as guest speaker and spoke to the players about goal setting, staying focussed and dealing with adversity – a message that fit very well with the spirit of the event. The annual PAC Christmas Bazaar took place on November 29<sup>th</sup> with almost 30 tables of food, crafts and games. Several student groups had fundraising tables for Grad and the upcoming trip to Quebec. December is shaping up to be an exciting month with the Jr. Science class visiting Gold River Secondary for a joint science simulation with the Grade 8 class, preparations for the upcoming Christmas concert and many more activities prior to Winter Break.

Trustee Kennedy reported that the PAC met on November 25<sup>th</sup>, the Science Fair is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup> and the Regional Science Fair tentatively scheduled for April 6-7 in Port Hardy. Mrs. Kornlyo spoke to PAC of her family trip to the Toronto Science Fair this past summer in search of ideas, and there were far too many! She requested a donation to \$400-\$600 for the fair and was given \$600. PAC also approved Mrs. O'Reilly's request for funding support in the amount of \$300 for using the pool and arena facilities. PAC will be providing oranges and hot chocolate on the last day of school. Provincial Exams will be held from January 25-28, and the next PAC meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Hanson reported that Kyuquot's secondary students will be arriving home from their Ontario trip on Friday. The recent Craft Fair was a great success with a total of 12 tables. The concession raised a few hundred dollars to benefit the school and a special thank you to Lynne Norbjerg for the use of her home for the staff dinner. FNEESC had another great year, and Kyuquot School wishes everyone a safe Christmas Season and happy holidays.

**b. District OH&S Committee Meeting Report**

Trustee Eastcott reported that the District OH&S Committee met on November 24<sup>th</sup> with representation from all worksites except Kyuquot. The functions of the Committee were reviewed, as outlined in Board Policy B.12, and a reminder to everyone to go to the District's Health and Safety Program on the website when seeking information ('Staff Resources', 'Health and Safety'). The site will continually improve and grow as everyone works together. Each worksite provided a brief and interesting report of their OH&S activities so far this year. A summary of the District Earthquake Safety Committee's October meeting was provided and the minutes are available for viewing on the OH&S website. A draft of the proposed Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention Program was provided, and the 'Steps in the MSI Prevention Process' (Page 3) were reviewed. The program will be quite an undertaking, starting with determining what employees are doing in their jobs, followed by risk assessments and then developing safe work procedures and practices where needed – with the first group being the maintenance and custodial workers.

Each OH&S Committee member and Safety Rep is entitled to eight hours of annual training, and a list of the WorkSafeBC approved on-line courses was provided. The October 2015 monthly report, generated by the District's claim managers in School District 23, was reviewed and this report provides statistics in terms of first aid reporting, duration and injury rate, claims by occupation, and claims by injury causation. Last but not least, the OH&S reps were asked to encourage employees to report any hazards on a 'Find a Hazard' form and submit it to their Supervisor for action, and for entering in the 'Find a Hazard' draw at each District OH&S Committee meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 3:30 pm, via videoconference. The minutes of all District OH&S Committee meetings can be viewed on the OH&S website.

c. **BCSTA Trustee Academy 2015**

Trustee Eastcott reported on the conference and in particular the three workshops she attended. Trustee Kennedy reported on the School District 44 vocal ensemble, as well as the three workshops she attended.

d. **Working Relations Committee Meeting**

The Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer/Operations Supervisor reported that the Committee met on December 7<sup>th</sup>. There were no violent incident reports to discuss. The school calendar needs to be looked at early this year as there will be five additional hours of non-instructional time for implementing the new provincial curriculum. There were questions raised on a proposed new policy on the administration of medications to students, the Pathways Program, teacher housing, and the shortage of Teachers Teaching on Call. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2016.

e. **Enhancement Agreement Meeting**

Trustee Alsop reported on the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting which was held to revise the Pathways Program and to create a timeline for its initiation in the schools. This program was initiated by the NTC Education Department in partnership with school districts, communities, parents, and others to support Aboriginal students on an individual basis. The group discussed the benefits of these documents and how they will assist in targeting goals and aiding the support teams towards a positive education outcome for students. The Program revisions were discussed, and each community will be asked to submit information to assist with discerning the correct dialect to be used to complete the forms. The student handbooks will be revised to begin career exploration in Grade 8 rather than Grade 10. Kyuquot School has volunteered to pilot the program starting in Spring 2016.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a. **Community Consultations 2015-2016**

The latest report is on the District's website with responses requested by December 18<sup>th</sup>. There have been no responses to date, but should any come in, they will go to the Board at the January meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Election of Board Chairperson**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor assumed the chair and called for nominations for Board Chair. Trustee Alsop nominated Trustee Kennedy, who accepted the nomination. After calling for nominations a second and third time, Trustee Kennedy was acclaimed Board Chairperson and assumed her new position.

b. **Election of Board Vice-Chairperson**

Chairperson Kennedy called for nominations for Board Vice-Chairperson. Trustee Alsop nominated Trustee Hanson, who accepted the nomination. After calling for nominations a second and third time, Trustee Hanson was acclaimed Board Vice-Chairperson.

c. **Employee Recognition and Service Awards**

As per Board policy, the following employees will be recognized for their service to the District:

- **10 years:** Sally Cooper
- **15 years:** Craig Anderson, Christopher Cooper, Katrina Kornlyo
- **25 years:** Kim Anderson, Janeen Frame, Wayne Keil, Gillian McCormack

d. **Actions for Learning Proposals**

The Board reviewed the Actions for Learning proposals for 2015-2016.

**2015:R-051**      MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott  
AND RESOLVED:  
                  *“TO accept the Actions for Learning proposals as presented.”*

e.      **Calendar Change for New Curriculum**

Introduction from the BC Ministry of Education:

The Ministry of Education and stakeholders throughout the Province are implementing BC’s Education Plan to help transform education to better meet the needs of all learners. Changing a system as complex as the education system takes time. To do it well involves extensive ongoing consultation, thorough research and exploration of possibilities, thoughtful decision-making and detailed planning.

Consultations to date have pointed to clear directions: A more flexible curriculum that prescribes less and enables more for both teachers and students, and a system focused on the core competencies, skills and knowledge that students need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Feedback from teachers on BC’s Education Plan has suggested that currently, BC’s curriculum has too many prescribed learning outcomes and that reducing those outcomes will give teachers more time and flexibility to allow students to explore their interests and passions. The task for the Ministry as it develops new curriculum and assessment guidelines is to remove barriers to personalizing instruction so that the curriculum is optimally manageable for teachers and allows them more freedom to find approaches that work for schools and students alike.

Provincial Curriculum Framework Development Process:

One specific strategy the Ministry of Education (Ministry) and the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation (BCTF) have agreed to is the creation of additional non-instructional (NI) time during the current and next two school years. This year, there will be an additional 10 non-instructional hours created, by a legislated change to the School Calendar Act to reduce instruction time by 10 hours. This change will also occur, but for a five-hour reduction in instructional time, in both 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Curriculum Implementation Plan:

1.      Dates Selected:

- a.      April 15 (full day NI already scheduled for curriculum implementation): Hosted at RWES.
- b.      April 22 (half day, not previously scheduled, requires calendar change): At individual schools.
- c.      May 12 (full day, not previously scheduled, requires calendar change): Hosted at RWES.
- d.      May 20 (half day, not previously scheduled, requires calendar change): At individual schools.

*Keep times tied to weekends. Minimum disruption and maximum meeting time for teachers. It will affect everyone next year.*

2.      Planning Committee Selected and Met on December 4, 2015.

3.      Planning Committee has set the agendas for each of the NI Days.

April 15 (full day): At RWES

A.M.

- Overarching theme - Integrating Aboriginal ways of knowing
- Why the new curriculum and what is it?

P.M.

- Grade/subject groups to look at/unpack curricula with guided questions
- Groupings: primary / intermediate / secondary (humanities + math/science + other)?
- Check-in
- Share next steps

April 22 (half day): At individual schools

Core Competencies (whole staff)

- What does <insert core competency> look like in \_\_\_\_\_ (subject / grade)?
- How do we plan to intentionally develop these competencies?
- What are we currently doing to develop the competencies?
- What's missing?
- How might competency development be assessed?
- Where are our kids now?

Group check-in

May 12 (full day): At RWES

A.M.

- Overarching themes: What and Why interdisciplinary? Aboriginal ways of knowing.
- How - modelling: example constructing interdisciplinary unit / lesson

P.M.

- Focus groups: age groupings (student age)
- Guiding questions / task (use big ideas to brainstorm possible cross-disciplinary unit?)

Check in

May 20 (half day): At individual schools

Unit development

- Individually or with colleague

Electronic sharing of product(s)?

- Group dropbox / website

Check-in (re: sense of optimism, independence going forward, next steps, collaboration)

Feedback to Ministry

**2015:R-052** MOVED: Trustee Eastcott, SECONDED: Trustee Pringle  
AND RESOLVED:

*"TO approve a calendar amendment adding non-instructional days on April 22, 2016 (pm only), May 12, 2016 (full day) and May 20 (pm only)."*

**SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER/OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:**

a. **Enrollment Report**

As of December 7<sup>th</sup>, there are 380 students enrolled in School District 84. Continuing Education is going strong with a new joint partnership between the District, NTC and the Ehattesaht First Nation creating afternoon Adult Dogwood upgrading in Zeballos. Kyuquot still has a strong Adult Education Program supported by the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation as well.

b. **Operations Report**

The District has been very shorthanded, and staff have been dealing with broken water pipes, power outages and heater issues. The vehicle maintenance and work order systems are being streamlined to ensure that work is being completed on a priority basis and schools are being serviced equally.

**c. Financial Warrants Update**

As at November 30, 2015, five months or 41.67% of the 2015/16 fiscal year, and three months or 30.0% of the school calendar year has elapsed. The budget amounts shown in this Finance Warrant report are the 2015/16 Preliminary Budget amounts based on the estimated enrolment for 2015/16 as prepared in the Spring 2015.

At the end of June 30, 2015, the District had an Operating surplus of \$1,035,000 carried forward from 2014/15 to 2015/16, of which \$634,000 has been allocated, and \$401,000 is unallocated. To the end of November 2015, \$1,641,000 or 31.4% of the Ministry Operating Grant has been received. To date, the Ministry Operating Grant is trending appropriately as budgeted. The actual and budgeted Ministry Grant will be adjusted for the final September 30 enrollment in December 2015.

To the end of November 2015, \$672,000 or 24.1% of the 2015/16 school year (LEA) Local Education Agreement has been recorded. The 2015/16 LEA funding will be adjusted based on the actual 2015/16 nominal roll funding data in the Spring 2016. Based on the trend to the end of November 2015, LEA revenue billing is a deficit of <\$166,000>.

To the end of November 2015, the total salaries and benefits expenditure is trending slightly favourably on a prorated budget for the school year. At this time, it is too early in the school year to determine the exact trending pattern. The budget amounts shown are based on the Preliminary Budget. To the end of November 2015, service/supplies expenditures are meeting budget amounts on a prorated budget basis. At this time, it is too early in the school year to determine the exact trending pattern. In total, expenditures to the end of November 2015 are in a surplus of \$314,000; or 10.7% on a prorated basis.

Note: For this finance warrant, the expenditures are estimated to be understated by approximately \$100,000 due to expenditures not being recorded for November. Purchase Cards expenses for the month of November have not been recorded and some vendor invoices have not been received nor processed, due to the early writing of this finance warrant.

Based on strictly actual revenues less actual expenditures, the School District is recording a deficit of approximately <\$284,000> for the year to the end of November 2015. With appropriated surplus of \$634,000 included in the actual analysis, the November 2015 actual can be restated with as a surplus balance of \$351,000.

At the end of the 2014/15 fiscal year, the Annual Facility Grant (AFG) had a surplus of \$345,000 being brought forward to 2015/16. To the end of November 2015, the AFG has a surplus of approximately \$364,000 remaining. To date, \$67,000 of expenditures have been incurred to the end of October 2015. Major expenditures incurred in AFG are:

- \$7,000 for the Ministry CAMS (Capital Asset Management System)
- \$36,000 for the Ministry Next Generation PLNet system
- \$17,000 for various building renovations
- \$7,000 staff salary and benefits charged to AFG

Future major AFG projects includes:

- continue with lighting fixture upgrades
- interior painting
- fencing
- floor replacement
- refurbishment of Teacherages (employee housing) at ZESS
- roof repair in insulation of roof at CMESS

To the end of November 2015, \$251,000 of funds is remaining on the ZESS Replacement School capital project. This balance is to be used for the demolition of the old school, and land preparation for the teacherages (employee housing) move and replacement.

d. **District Programs Report**

JOLT:

Building on the success of Changing Results for Young Readers in previous years, the District has expanded the scope and focus of this collaborative inquiry group. While the focus of the group, facilitated by Dana Plett, remains on building literacy for all students by focusing on strategies that will have an impact on a "wonder child", the project has expanded to include teachers of all grades. To illustrate that our focus has expanded, the name of the group has shifted from "Young Readers" to "JOLT - Joyful Opportunities for Learning Team." Each participating teacher selects a "wonder child" – a student who is currently struggling with reading - and develops a hypothesis about strategies and approaches that might help this child. This forms the basis for the teacher's inquiry question which is pursued and refined throughout the year. In previous years, we have found that this approach has not only had a positive impact on the "wonder child", but has made a difference for all learners in the class. We are excited that this approach has now expanded to include teachers from primary through secondary, and that the JOLT team is now up to 12 members.

Teacher Mentorship:

According to BCTF research, Vancouver Island West School District 84 has the second highest percentage of "new" teachers (those with less than five years experience) in the Province, and the third lowest percentage of teachers with more than 20 years experience. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity. There is the challenge of ensuring that new teachers do not become overwhelmed and isolated as they develop in their professions; there is also great opportunity to support our newer teachers to develop the skills and mindsets necessary to enable all students to succeed. The Teacher Mentorship Program provides a coherent, sustainable, research-based system of support for teachers. Built on a model of collaborative inquiry, the program allows teachers to engage in reflection on their own practice with colleagues to examine difficult problems of practice. Support for the program comes from BCTF, BCSSA, UBC, and the Ministry of Education. School District 84 currently has 12 educators participating in the Teacher Mentorship Program, which has met twice for collaborative inquiry so far this year. The Mentorship Team appreciates the efforts at our schools to provide release time to allow teachers to participate.

VIU Rural Leadership Capacity Project:

To support the capacity of the School District to facilitate inquiry and professional learning, educators from SD84 (Dana Plett, Catherine Wilson, Stephen Larre) are participating in the VIU Rural Leadership Capacity Project. This project involves rural school districts across the Province, assisting member districts in building the district's culture and capacity to support professional inquiry. The SD84 team has taken the opportunity to develop an inquiry question for the Network of Innovation and Inquiry - *"How will the use of inquiry in professional learning groups (e.g. Mentorship, JOLT, Diversity Series) create a culture of collaboration for responsive, reflective practice in SD84?"* Our goal is to build a culture in the District where collaborative professional inquiry is the norm, and educators are working with one another collaboratively to ensure the success of every learner.

Special Education:

Fall has been off to a busy start with specialist visits. The District has been pleased to host a visit from Alison Bullock (Speech Language Pathologist). Ms. Bullock provides speech and language therapy throughout the school year to students over Skype; she makes visits in the fall and spring to connect with students and assess their progress. We have also been visited by Ms. Brenda Temple, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, who provides therapy services to deaf and hard of hearing students over videoconference. We were also visited by Ms. Sarah May-Poole, a consultant with POPARD (Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders), who assisted school teams with refining the programs for students on the autism spectrum. These visits provide valuable expertise to our school teams to assist in designing and implementing appropriate programs for students; the hard work of our school teams and LARTs in facilitating these visits is greatly appreciated.

Technology - MyEdBC Conversion:

Throughout the summer and fall, SD84, along with many other districts across the Province, has transitioned from BCeSIS to MyEducationBC. While there have been some provincial setbacks in the transition, these have largely been overcome and the system is functioning relatively smoothly. School Principals and Administrative Assistants were trained before the school year began, with additional support provided as needed. Teachers have been trained to take attendance and complete report cards (where appropriate). As expected, there has been a great deal of ongoing support required as we all get to know the new system and work out the kinks. It is expected that this amount of support will taper off as the year progresses and into future years.

**TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:**

Nil.

**PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:**

Nil.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS:**

The next public meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the School Board Office. Any requests for additions to the agenda should be forwarded to the School Board Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Kennedy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.