



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016,
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, GOLD RIVER, BC**

- TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Kathy Kennedy, Chairperson (Gold River)
Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot) (videoconference)
Ken Pringle (Gold River)
Fern Eastcott (Tahsis) (telephone)
Gwen Alsop (Zeballos) (videoconference)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor
Annie James, Human Resources Administrator/Recorder
One Staff Member
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CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2016:R-001 MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2016:R-002 MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Alsop
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 14, 2015."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Chair, SD57 (Prince George)
- BC School Trustees Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD23 (Central Okanagan)
- VIWTU
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BC Public School Employers' Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association
- SD79 (Cowichan Valley)
- Copy of Letter to BC Premier and Minister of Finance re Support of the Recommendations of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
- Happy Holidays from BCSTA
- Highlights – BCSTA Board of Directors Meeting: November 26, 2015
- Update from Trustee Academy, and Looking Forward to 2016
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Finance re Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services – November 2015 Recommendations for K-12 Education
- Request for Wages and Travel of All Teachers to Attend the Additional New Curriculum NIDs and Experience Credit for Attending NIDs
- Boards Making a Difference – Stories from Your Communities: A Special Christmas "Assembly" – SD36 (Surrey)
- Reminder: Financial Disclosure Act Statements
- AGM 22 – January 29, 2016 - Second Notice
- 2nd Reminder: Provincial Council Motions Due by Tuesday, January 19, 2016
- Reminder: Financial Disclosure Act Statements Due January 15, 2016
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education, Inviting Him to the Spring BISTA Conference on March 5/6 in Duncan
- VISTA Spring Conference – March 4 and 5, 2016

2016:R-004 MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott
AND RESOLVED:
"TO table VIWTU's request to next Board meeting."

2016:R-005 MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Alsop
AND RESOLVED:
"TO receive and file the correspondence."

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Kennedy reported that three labour issues were discussed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

Trustee Hanson reported that Kyuquot School's Scholastic Book Fair was a success. Excitement is building for the upcoming Mt. Washington field trip! Some teachers are doing an Actions for Learning inquiry on using technology in the classroom to facilitate engagement with the curriculum. KESS has been invited to Quatsino to return their visit to the potlatch last year. The Guelph trip a tremendous success, as was the Christmas concert!

Trustee Eastcott reported that Captain Meares' Grade 7-9 class collaborated on a science project with Gold River's Grade 8 class involving the Challenger Learning Centre, which is an education legacy of the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster in 1986. Groups of students make a real-time online connection with Mission Control in Colorado, and are presented a scenario that the students must work together to resolve. CMESS's challenge was to safely evacuate the residents of a small Caribbean island that was simultaneously threatened by a volcano and a hurricane. The students receive weather and seismic data collected from NASA and US Geological Survey satellites, then must predict the safest time and place to evacuate the population. The students did a great job and were highly engaged in the simulation and, based upon the success of this first activity, a second scenario might take place in the spring.

Captain Meares' annual Christmas Concert was held on December 16th and the elementary students, with support from some of the highschool singers, performed a play entitled "The Magical Snow Globe", a version of "The Little Match Girl" adapted by Mrs. Sanderson. There was also a musical performance by some of the highschool students, who sang and played guitar. There was a great turnout from the community and the students did an excellent job. Additionally, PAC held the draw for their Jumbo Stocking – one of the biggest fundraisers of the year – with this one also including an iPad Mini. PAC also provided tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and loads of baked treats for guests. The grads have also been busy fundraising and have almost met their target through chocolate sales, cake walks and bottle drives. Exciting plans are coming together for the New Year - spirit days, field trips, a return of Math Mania, and ongoing preparations for the highschool trip to Quebec. Everyone looks forward to an exciting 2016.

Trustee Alsop reported that the Zeballos Christmas Concert and Ehattesah Christmas supper were held together on December 15th, with a record number of attendees. The students provided many photo ops during their class presentations, and supper was outstanding. Santa (aka Wayne Alsop) even made a surprise visit with gifts! On the first day after the Winter Break, Mr. Christall sent a newsletter to the primary students' parents to outline the class plans for January: Math - counting and grouping; Science - simple machines, gravity and magnetism; Potlatch - practice for dancing and drumming, and making gifts; Reading and Writing - emphasizing First Nations' stories and Nuuchah-nulth language; and a reminder that parents are always welcome in the classroom. Volunteers are especially important to help prepare for the Potlatch.

The Elementary teacher, Mr. Nabbe, received the new worm bins sponsored by the Strathcona Regional District, and the class is preparing to expand the red wiggler worms into their new accommodations. It is intriguing to watch the students sort and weigh compostable items into the various worm bins. The class learned that overfeeding results in a very noticeable aroma, and that sometimes fruit flies show up to check out the compost.

Several Junior High boys are starting the New Year by travelling with Mrs. Miller back and forth to basketball practices in Gold River. They have joined the GRSS team, coached by Mr. Larre, and are excited at the prospect of playing in Ucluelet on Friday and Saturday of this week. Although the travel commitment is a challenge for Zeballos School, it is a great opportunity for the students.

It is possible that five Zeballos students will graduate this year. The Principal/LART is working closely with them to complete the NTC post-graduate funding applications, and the District's Counsellor, Mr. Lapointe, will be travelling to Zeballos next week to assist them to choose career options. These students are also working diligently preparing for the upcoming provincial exams which, together with report cards, will determine if students meet the requirements for this year's commencement ceremony.

In summary, Trustee Alsop reported that 13 Grade 6-12 students will be travelling to Ottawa in February on a school exchange and they will soon be meeting their host students via Skype, to help them prepare for the culture shock. If the weather in Ottawa gets colder, they might have a chance to skate on the Rideau Canal which would certainly be an experience to remember!

Chairperson Kennedy reported that she chatted with Mrs. Kornyllo about the upcoming Science Fair which will include the Grade 6 and 7 students this year. Adding the additional 30 students will make it very exciting as well as very busy, and everyone looks forward to the event. Provincial exams at Gold River Secondary are scheduled for January 25-28. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for January 27th and Chairperson Kennedy has spoken to several parents just to see how things are going. The consensus seems to be, "Where has the time gone?". Chairperson Kennedy will be away on January 29th attending the BC Public School Employers' Association AGM in Vancouver.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Community Consultations 2015-2016

The next round of community consultation meetings will take place as follows: Zeballos - January 27, 3:30-5:30 pm; Kyuquot - January 28, 6:30-8:30 pm; Captain Meares - February 2, 6:30-8:30 pm; and, Gold River - February 3, 6:30-8:30 pm. The meetings will address the facilities review process, budget and calendar.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Board Committees 2016

Trustees are appointed as follows:

- **Budget Committee** – Board of Education
- **CUPE Labour Management Committee** – Trustee Kennedy, Trustee Eastcott (Alternate)
- **CUPE Negotiating Committee** – Trustee Kennedy, Trustee Eastcott (Alternate)
- **District Earthquake Safety Committee** – Trustee Alsop
- **District Mission and Goals Committee** – ad hoc
- **District Occupational Health and Safety Committee** – Trustee Eastcott
- **District Policy Review Committee** – Board of Education
- **First Nations Education Liaison Committee** – Trustee Alsop, Trustee Pringle (Alternate)
- **Grievance Committee** – Area Trustee
- **Joint Rental Accommodations Committee** – Trustee Hanson, Trustee Pringle (Alternate)
- **Scholarship Committee** – Trustee Kennedy
- **VIWTU Negotiating Committee** – Trustee Pringle, Trustee Hanson (Alternate)
- **Working Relations Committee** – Trustee Pringle, Trustee Eastcott

b. **School Calendar 2016-2017**

In order to meet the Ministry's March 31st deadline, the Board must decide on the School Calendar in February, post it for feedback and then finalize it at the March Board meeting.

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

a. **Enrollment Report**

As of January 7, 2016, there were 386 students enrolled.

b. **Operations Report**

The Operations Department has been short-handed over the last month and dealing with the snow and ice. Hopefully, the weather will let up soon so that project work can continue.

c. **Financial Warrants Update**

As at December 31, 2015, six months or 50.0% of the 2015/16 fiscal year, and four months or 40.0% 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. Final amended budget amounts will be updated for the February 2016 finance warrant.

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 December 2015, \$2,152,000 or 41.1% 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 February 2016.

To the end of December 2015, \$1,345,000 or 48.1% 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 Spring 2016. Based on the trend to the end of December 2015, LEA revenue billing is a surplus of \$228,000.

To the end of December 2015, the total salaries and benefits expenditure is trending slightly favourably on a prorated budget for the school year. At this time, salaries and benefits are trending favorably for the school year. The budget amounts shown are based on the Preliminary Budget, and this will be updated to the Final Budget in the February finance warrant. To the end of December 2015, service/supplies expenditures are meeting budget amounts on a prorated budget basis. At this time, service/supplies are trending favorably for the school year. In total, expenditures to the end of December 2015 are in a surplus of \$452,000; or 12.0% 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 December. Purchase Cards expenses for the month of December 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 surplus of approximately \$195,000 for the year to the end of December 2015. With appropriated surplus of \$634,000 included in the actual analysis, the December 2015 actual can be restated as a surplus balance of \$830,000.

At the end of the 2014/15 fiscal year, the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) had a surplus of \$345,000 being brought forward to 2015/16. To the end of December 2015, the AFG has a surplus of approximately \$357,000 remaining. To date, \$75,000 of expenditures has been incurred to the end of December 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
- \$18,000 for various building renovations
- \$14,000 staff salary and benefits charged to AFG

Future major AFG projects include:

- continue with lighting fixture upgrades
- interior painting
- fencing
- floor replacement
- refurbishment of teacherages (employee housing) at Zeballos
- roof repair and insulation of roof at Captain Meares

To the end of December 2015, \$250,000 of funds remains 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.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Nil.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

There was an inquiry about reinstating the ArtStarts Program for the District, even in a reduced way if necessary, in order to expose students to performances that they may, otherwise, never have an opportunity to see. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor explained that it is a relatively expensive program but it is something that the Board could consider during the budget deliberations in the Spring. If individuals feel strongly about this, it is important that they come forward.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next public meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 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 7:45 pm.