



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015,
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, GOLD RIVER, BC**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Kathy Kennedy, Chairperson (Gold River)
Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot)
Fern Eastcott (Tahsis)
Gwen Alsop (Zeballos)

TRUSTEE ABSENT: Ken Pringle (Gold River)

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent of Schools/Secretary-Treasurer
Annie James, Human Resources Administrator/Recorder
Three Staff Members

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2015:R-043 MOVED: Trustee Eastcott, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2015:R-044 MOVED: Trustee Alsop, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2015."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. **Mr. Deane Johnson, Principal, Ray Watkins Elementary and Gold River Secondary**

Mr. Johnson started off his presentation by saying how much he is enjoying the opportunities and challenges of being the Principal for both Gold River Schools this year. At Ray Watkins, one of the first events was 'International Dot Day' with students talking about how they would make their mark in the world. "Caine's Arcade" was a great hit last week, and students are also enjoying 'Mathletics'. There is a student teacher at RWES for the full year, with three more coming in the spring from Vancouver Island University together with one for Gold River Secondary – a real bonus for both schools! The Grade 6/7 students went to We Day along with students from Tahsis and Zeballos. The Grade 6/7 'Adventure Class' has been enjoying many outdoor experiential activities. Both Grade 6/7 classes visited the RCAF 19th Wing in Comox recently, and Mr. Johnson was pleased to report that both classes are progressing very well so far. During the recent power outage at Ray Watkins, the Grades 4-7 students attended Gold River Secondary where they behaved very well and found it to be quite exciting. They also joined the secondary students to go to We Day. Some of the Primary to Grade 9 students travelled to Sointula and Campbell River for cross-country track meets, and Mr. Wilson took three students to a recent BC Lions game. The Gold River Secondary School Grad has been set for Saturday, June 4th – a change from the traditional 'First Friday in June'. A very exciting activity took place at Gold River Secondary School last week – the unveiling of the totem pole, 'Geenuhth', with many visitors and dignitaries in attendance. Thanks to the Literacy Society, RBC met with the Grade 10-12 students as part of Financial Literacy Month. Gold River Secondary has joined with Zeballos School to form a basketball team this year and looks

forward to an exciting season! Also, the District Volleyball Jamboree is always a highlight and this year's will be held in Tahsis. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lapointe and Mr. Wilson have been working well together with their shared responsibilities, as well as with their Administrative Assistants, to continue with the good organization and systems in place.

There are 15 students in five grade levels (K-4) in the Nesaika Kumtuks classroom in Nanaimo. Mrs. Goodall and Mrs. Keil are doing an amazing job there with the students and partner groups. The class has an Aboriginal focus using Strong Nations books for Young Readers. Everyone seems quite happy and enjoying activities such as the 'Roots of Empathy Program' with the Mid-Island Métis, a cross-country race at Aspen Grove Park, going to the Pumpkin Patch Maze, Parrot World, the Wildlife Rehab in Coombs, and a Halloween Costume Parade. Each week the students visit the Public Library, as well as enjoy a Friday visit from elders. The building has been recently renovated and painted, and is now sporting a new 'Nesaika Kumtuks' sign, so it is going very well.

The Continuing Ed Program in the District had 46 students last year taking one to three classes, with one graduating at the end of the year. A new partnership is underway this year with the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, Ehattesaht, Nuchatlaht, and the Literacy Society to support a literacy/numeracy program with class time and attendance taken. Two afternoons a week, students go to Zeballos School and take courses and get credit for it. The NTC covers part of the teacher, Ehattesaht is covering the cost for child care, Nuchatlaht is providing transportation, and the Literacy Society is providing food. The Continuing Education Program is having growing numbers of Gold River people interested in taking courses, with about six now registered.

Gold River Secondary School has a proposal for next year, and Mrs. Kornlyo attended the meeting to present, "Explore Science in Hawaii". The experiential learning based course is designed to prepare students to successfully participate in exploring Hawaii. Independently and in groups, students will develop leadership skills and a thorough knowledge based of scientific principles as they relate to the geography and biology of Hawaii. As well, applications of astronomy and plate tectonics are key elements to the scientific exploration of Hawaii and, as a result, the students will develop the ability to take more active roles as global citizens and have a more solid understanding of the world. The program will start in February 2016 with weekly classes and independent and group projects. Successful students will be responsible for the costs of a passport, required immunizations, travel and health insurance, and the cost of the trip to Hawaii which is scheduled for March 2017. Ms. Kornlyo requested that the Board of Education fund \$1000 for each student who is eligible to generate additional FTE funding, and other fundraising will help to lower the costs as well as a monthly payment plan for students which will begin in September 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Chair, SD72 (Campbell River)
- BC School Trustees' Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD91 (Nechako Lakes)
- Chair, SD23 (Central Okanagan)
- Chair, SD23 (Central Okanagan)
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Transportation re Safety for School Children
- Registration Invitation – BCSTA Trustee Academy 2015
- Reminders and Updated Agenda for BCSTA Oct.22 Meeting of Board Chairs in Richmond
- BCSTA Board Chairs Discussion Group
- Copy of Letter to Attorney General and Minister of Justice re Fail to Stop for a School Bus
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure re Fines and Penalties Associated with Section 149 "Fail to Stop for School Bus"
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re MyEducationBC Provincial Student Demographic System – Performance Issues
- Boards Making a Difference – Stories from Your Communities Issue 04
- Ministry of Education Sector Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2015

- Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BC Public School Employers' Association
- BCSTA
- News Release: Local Government Election Expense Limits Legislation Introduced
- BCSTA Board of Directors Meeting Highlights – The Unofficial Record
- BCSTA Provincial Council: October 2015 – Synopsis
- Reminders Regarding Expense Reimbursement from Last Week's Meetings
- BCSTA's The Education Leader: Issue 02
- The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- BCSTA Trustee Winter Academy 2015: Final Registration Reminder
- Annual General Meeting First Notice: Call for Proposed Resolutions
- BCSTA Update: Call for Submissions: Local Government Elections Expense Limits

2015:R-045 MOVED: Trustee Johnson, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott
AND RESOLVED:
"TO receive and file the correspondence."

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

The Board adopted the Five-Year Capital Plan and discussed one land and four labour issues. Two Trustees declared a conflict of interest and excused themselves from a portion of the labour discussions.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

At the spring School Board meeting in Zeballos, Mr. Alsop presented a report regarding the need for resources (staff) to address the challenge facing the high school, where a high proportion of students have IEPs and require adapted programs. Many read below their enrolled grade level and emotional issues challenge many of them, resulting in poor attendance and reduced attention to curriculum when they are in school. Family support for education has been limited, and homework non-existent.

In his term as Principal, Mr. Johnson initiated a program to increase academic achievement. One strategy was to have Grade 10-12 students write Provincial exams four times a year. The result last year was an almost perfect passing grade in all exams by June. Five students are now in a position to graduate this year and some are even starting to do homework, although some still lack many basic skills. These students are now initiating questions about post-secondary choices in diverse areas such as Culinary Arts, Music and Trades, which is a big change for Zeballos! Access to counselling support is limited, and NTC may be helping with a visit by one of their workers; at this time, the part-time LART is helping students to make realistic post-secondary choices.

The Grades 7-9 students struggle with sitting in desks, staying in the classroom, completing school work, and listening to the teacher. Mr. Stapff provides classroom support for these classes. As a teacher, he is able to provide support very different from that provided by the Education Assistant, who is also in each class. One example is an immediate phone call to the parent or guardian when behavior occurs. This month, at different times, three different parents were sitting in the back of the class watching their children, or doing the work along with them. One parent, after about four visits, has now begun daily homework sessions for his children in the evenings. The parents have been not only supportive, but grateful.

In October, eight Zeballos students travelled to We Day in Vancouver. Thirteen students chosen to travel on the exchange to Ottawa were announced. Seven students worked daily on the Fish Hatchery project, and received some recognition with gifts of iTunes cards. Four students have begun to

practice basketball prior to joining with the Gold River team for the winter tournaments. These projects are labor intensive, but are important strategies in replacing negative behaviors with positive ones. Staff members are starting to see some real changes in behavior with the Grade 9 and 10 students, and it is the expectation that with continued effort, changes will be seen in the Grade 7 and 8 students as well. An unexpected side effect has been the increasingly positive view of the school in the community. This month concluded with a Halloween party jointly sponsored by the school and Nuchatlaht and Ehattesaht First Nations. The fireworks display put on by the Zeballos Fire Department was outstanding, and a combined Christmas Concert and Party is already being planned. The school year is off to a great start!

Trustee Hanson reported on the very busy Kyuquot School. The student exchange is being finalized for Guelph, with the Kyuquot students travelling there in December, and then hosting the Ontario students in May. With help from Annie James, the first ever comprehensive safety plan for the school has been developed and emergency supplies are in the works. A special welcome to two new teachers this year - Alice Malthouse (Houpsitas K) and Helen Jones (Primary)! The students all seem to be happy and engaged so far this year, and everyone participated in 'The Great BC ShakeOut' on October 15th. The enrollment is at 51 FTE and it is expected that there will be one Dogwood graduate and four adult graduates this year. Planning is already underway for the elementary trip to the Children's Festival in May, as well as the potlatch in Zeballos. The Singing and Culture Program is off to a good start with momentum carried forward from last year. The Language Program is progressing and students' learning this year is emphasized on conversations rather than just simple words and phrases. The Virtues Program is back this year, with September and October's emphasis on courage and gratitude – all of these programs supporting the School's focus on literacy and mental health. The DART assessments were completed. The lunch and breakfast programs are off and running and everyone is very thankful for two new ovens that were installed. Approximately 38.5% of the portables were painted over the summer and everyone looks forward to the other 61.5%! The Continuing Education Program is off to a good start and the whole staff is planning to attend the FNEESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee) Conference in November in Vancouver.

Trustee Eastcott reports that October was a very busy month at Captain Meares School, and the 2015/16 school year is well underway. There have been many field trips and special events and everyone looks forward to the coming months. The staff and Grade 7-12 students had a fantastic time at We Day where the speakers and artists brought hope and inspiration to everyone, and proved that no challenge is too great to overcome. On this trip, the students also visited the Museum of Anthropology and the Vancouver Aquarium, combining inspiration with education and making for a great field trip. The community consultation meeting was held on October 28th and all went well. There are decisions to make as the student enrollment is down. The Berry Festival was held on October 26th and was a huge success. The lunch program will be starting up again on November 18th. Everyone enjoyed the Reptile Show on October 28th, with a full house in attendance.

Chairperson Kennedy reported that she attended the Gold River Secondary School PAC meeting on October 28th which was, unfortunately, not well attended. The basketball team is up and going and the We Day participants had a great time. Report cards will be sent home on November 16th, and PAC received a grant from government gaming in the amount of \$1840, and looking for more hockey pool money to come in. There was some discussion about a water bottle filling station to be installed at GRSS, but the cost of the fountain is approximately \$600 so PAC will think hard on that one! The Grad Class of 2017 has concerns around fundraising as there are only nine students in the group. Thoughts were perhaps to help this year's grads with fundraising or let the parents put money towards grad expenses. Mrs. Stratton has contacted Mr. Lapointe and asked him to have all English classes write letters on behalf of concerns around the Pharmacy closing on January 1st. Ms. Haynes has jumped on the band wagon for this, and Mrs. Stratton has made the same request to Ray Watkins Elementary School. The PAC is currently brainstorming for a future fundraiser which is required for receiving government gaming funds. The next PAC meeting is on November 25th.

b. District Policy Review Committee Report

The Policy Committee met earlier in the day and reviewed the feedback received regarding the proposed amendment to Policy C.3, *Extra and Co-Curricular Activities*.

2015:R-046 MOVED: Trustee Alsop, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott
AND RESOLVED:
“*TO adopt Policy C.3, Extra and Co-Curricular Activities, as amended.*”

The Committee discussed a new draft Policy E.51, *Administering Medications to Students*.

2015:R-047 MOVED: Trustee Eastcott, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“*NOTICE of motion to create new Policy E.51, Administering Medications to Students.*”

All Sections C and D policies were reviewed without change. Section E policies will be reviewed at the next meeting scheduled for February 9, 2016.

c. BCSTA Board Chairs' Meeting

Chairperson Kennedy reported that the meeting started with opening comments from Theresa Rezansoff (BCSTA President) and the purpose of the day which was conflict resolution. The first session focused on conflict of interest with Mike Hancock and Audrey Ackah, and how board chairs can effectively deal with issues of conflict when raised at the board table or by the community. The second session, “How is it Going so Far?”, was led by the senior chairs and resulted in some intense discussions as well as many good questions. Trustees received a book, “Creative Thinking Classrooms”, which provides a look at educational changes for the 21st Century. Next on the agenda were speakers Malcolm Gaston (Assistant Auditor General for BC) and Jason Reid (Executive Director for Financial Audits) leading a thorough discussion on emails. ‘Conflict Resolution and Board Teamwork’ was led by Raj Dhasi and focused on board chair skills for allowing broad discussion and disagreement while maintaining a respectful working relationship within a board. The final session of the day dealt with tips for dealing with the media and general communications strategies for boards, offering practical tips, discussions and questions and answers regarding how board chairs or senior staff can effectively deal with media in a variety of settings and circumstances.

d. Ministry of Education Meeting with Board Chairs

The items of interest from this meeting included discussions around exempt staff compensation; rural frustrations; new curriculum implementation; the StrongStart Program; the Evergreen Leaving Certificate; youth mental health; teacher collective bargaining; the BC education system which is #3 in the world following Japan and Finland; an estimated 4% of jobs will require a Grade 12 education by 2022 with all others requiring some type of post-secondary; the need for better communication between teachers, students, parents, and PAC; involving parents as to what skills they see their children needing for their future and for the future of their communities; \$4.2 billion in spending since 2001 on capital school upgrades with 53 out of 60 districts putting capital plans forward this year; no districts in deficit as of June 30, 2015; and, how well is our system performing?

e. BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

On Friday evening, the Minister of Education Mike Bernier and Deputy Minister of Education Dave Byng addressed the Provincial Councillors. Minister Bernier shared information about recent visits to districts across the province, noting his goal to visit every district in his first year as Minister. Mr. Byng presented a slideshow to trustees, which touched on several things, including key government and ministry priorities as well as key accomplishments of BC’s public education system. They were both very enthusiastic and very willing to field some tough questions such as rural problems, bussing, lower enrollment, funding, etc. Saturday’s reports included the President’s Report,

the Education Committee, the Aboriginal Education Committee, and the Canadian School Boards Association. Four motions were carried: Safe Stop Program, Executive Compensation, Principal and Vice-Principal compensation, and Funding for executive and management staff compensation.

f. **Working Relations Committee Meeting**

At the November 2nd meeting, discussions included a review of the Policy Committee minutes; no incident reports to review and nothing new to discuss regarding the calendar; the plan to distinguish and communicate the Vice-Principal roles; the new curriculum and upcoming training to be provided by the Ministry with six teachers from the District to attend; the upcoming Curriculum Implementation Committee meeting and the CI Day planned in April; no WRC meetings scheduled for January or April unless requested; an update regarding recruiting international students with no progress to report to date; notice required in order to cancel TTOC assignments; MyEdBC being down from November 6-12 which will result in a delay for some of the report cards; an update about the Operations Supervisor transition; the local agreement regarding the School Calendar; and, the hope for the up-to-date Collective Agreement in the near future. The next meeting is scheduled for December 7th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **Community Consultations 2015-2016**

The Board held community consultations from October 26-29, 2015 in Kyuquot, Zeballos, Tahsis, and Gold River, respectively. Hosted by the local Trustee(s), the consultations featured a brief informational presentation by the Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer and four questions designed to elicit feedback from the eight to ten community and staff members who attended each session.

In total, 18 response sheets were submitted and are summarized below:

Kyuquot: The three responses from Kyuquot centre around the theme of equal access and opportunity for the students of KESS. While there is a general satisfaction with the programs offered by the school, there are concerns around facilities. In particular, the responses indicate a need to address the school gym, the general upkeep of the facility and internet connectivity.

Zeballos: The three responses from Zeballos indicate a high level of satisfaction with the programs and facilities being offered to their students. One area of concern expressed is the need for more access to clinical counsellors for the students.

Tahsis: The eight responses from Tahsis indicate a very high level of satisfaction with the programs being offered by the school. All expressed the need to focus any proposed changes towards facilities, not staffing. There is an acknowledgement that the facility is too large for the population of the school and as such, all suggested that the unused elementary wing could be removed and some suggested removing the shop. There was strong agreement that the last teacherage in Tahsis should be sold and that there should be efforts made to lease out excess space.

Gold River: The four responses from Gold River all indicate a high level of satisfaction with the programs being offered at the two schools, but recognize the difficulty of offering a wide variety of programs to a declining student population. There is a recognition in all the responses of the reality of the excellent specialty rooms (gym, shop, home ec., art, etc.) at the aging GRSS, the lack of such rooms at the much newer RWES and that there are pros and cons for each. There is a strong feeling that the Board Office should be moved into a school and the facility sold or leased out.

Following Board review, an approved version of this summary will be posted on the District's web site for feedback. A summary of the feedback will be presented at the January Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nil.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. **Enrollment Report**

The 1701 report was presented with an enrollment of 369.8750 FTE, which has since been reduced to approximately 367 FTE students due to some duplicate enrollments.

b. **Operations Report**

With the changing weather, the exterior painting has been put on hold until next year; however, this has allowed more time for the construction of the new building in Zeballos. At this point, the "shell" of the building has been completed and the electrical contractor is preparing to install the wiring prior to the interior work and installation of the concrete floor.

Most recently, a totem has been carved and painted for display at Gold River Secondary. The Maintenance Department has been called upon to provide a base and organize the installation. At the same time, the flagpole is being replaced and relocated.

The Board did approve the plan for the Operations Supervisor transition so over the next few days, the Superintendent of Schools/Secretary-Treasurer will be discussing the upcoming changes with those involved. It is to the end of June 2016, to be revisited at that time.

c. **Financial Warrants Update**

As at October 31, 2015, four months or 33.3% of the 2015/16 fiscal year, and two months or 20.0% 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 October 2015, only \$1,130,000 or 21.6% 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 October 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.

To the end of October 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 October 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 October 2015 are in a surplus of \$343,000; or 16.5% 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 October, Purchase Cards expenses for the month of September and October are not recorded, due to the early writing of this finance warrant and tardiness return of September Purchase Card Statements to the Board Office by users.

Based on strictly actual revenues less actual expenditures, the School District is recording a surplus of approximately \$78,000 for the year to the end of October 2015. With appropriated surplus of \$634,000 included in the actual analysis, the October 2015 actual can be restated with as a surplus balance of \$713,000.

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 October, the 2015 AFG has a surplus of approximately \$367,000 remaining. To date, \$62,000 of expenditures has 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
- \$12,000 for various building renovations
- \$7,000 staff salary and benefits charged to AFG

Future major AFG projects include:

- repair electrical wiring for RWES
- 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 October 2015, \$251,000 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:

Trustee Alsop heard on the news that school districts on the mainland are concerned that the arrival of the expected refugees are going to stress the schools in terms of numbers, etc., and wondered if there was a way to have some families come to School District 84. The Superintendent of Schools/Secretary-Treasurer acknowledged that the District has a lower cost of living, and has staff and space in the schools; however, the District may not be able to handle enough volume to make it viable. He is unsure of the Ministry of Education's involvement, or whether this is being handled federally, but will follow up and report back to the Board.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Kennedy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.