



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020
BY ZOOM**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Arlaine Fehr, Chairperson (Gold River)
Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot)
Debbie Mann (Gold River)
Allison Stiglitz (Tahsis)
Andrew Smith (Zeballos)

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
Annie McDowell, Associate Director of Human Resources
Two Staff Attendees

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm, and acknowledged the traditional territories of the Mowachaht/Muchalat First Nation, the Nuchatlaht First Nation, the Ehattesaht First Nation, and the Ka:yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2020:R-024 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2020:R-025 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 14, 2020."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- BC School Trustees Association
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
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 - Copy of Letter from BCSTA President to the Minister of Education re Appreciation of Combined COVID-19 Response in Public Education
 - BCSTA Weekly: BCSTA Strategic Plan Year-End Report; BCSTA's Business Travel Insurance; Day of Mourning Update; Vimy Foundation Student Resources; Opinion h- Helping Parents Through COVID-19; Letters; Upcoming Events & Dates
 - BCSTA Weekly: News & Notes: FIPPA and Online Learning; Update – FOI Request Extension; Ad Hoc Committee and Working Group Reports; Technology Loans; Day of Mourning Learning Materials; Family Violence During COVID-19; NASBE Policy Update on Continuous Learning; Opinion – International Students and COVID-19; Upcoming Events & Dates; Reminders
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees

- BCSTA · BCSTA Weekly: News & Notes: Provincial Council Synopsis; Back-to-School Planning During COVID-19; K-12 Public Sector Employment Continuity; COVID-19 FAQs; QEBSA Statement on Re-Opening of Schools; Virtual Counselling for BC Youth Ages 12-24; Good News in Education; Zoom Updates; Letters
- BCSTA · BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- ZESS · ZESS Newsletter

2020:R-026 MOVED: Trustee Hanson, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
“TO receive and file the correspondence.”

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Fehr reported on the discussion of two labour issues and one land issue.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

Trustee Stiglitz reported that there was a recent article in The Mirror about the Captain Meares students socially distancing together in the community garden, working on farm to school activities.

b. District OH&S Committee Meeting

Trustee Stiglitz attended the recent District OH&S Committee meeting. The Committee's terms of reference were reviewed, and thank you to Harmony Nielsen from Captain Meares School for agreeing to be the co-chair to represent employees. The Committee conducted its annual review of accident/incident/investigation reports, violence in the workplace reports, trends, and statistics. Each worksite is required to complete an Evaluation of its Joint Health and Safety Committee, as well as an Annual First Aid Assessment – both due by June 30th. There was discussion around keeping worksite doors closed to keep out insects and rodents, as well as winter safety and snow/ice removal responsibilities. The next meeting will be scheduled for October 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Preliminary Budget 2020-2021

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer provided a Powerpoint presentation on the preliminary budget for 2020-2021.

2020:R-027 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz; SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“TO have all three readings of the Annual Budget Bylaw in one reading.”

2019:R-028 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“TO adopt the Annual Budget Bylaw of the Board for the fiscal year 2020-2021, showing the estimated revenue and expense and the total budget bylaw amount of \$13,055,660 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year as prepared in accordance with the School Act.”

b. Strategic Plan

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer is presently working on getting the Board's Strategic Plan into a publishable document to reflect the feedback from community consultation meetings on the District's mission, vision and values as well as the District's Education Plan. The Strategic Plan will include:

- an acknowledgement of the traditional territories;
- a message from the Board about the Strategic Plan;
- the mission, vision and values as finalized by the communities;

- the Education Plan to support student well-being and success;
- a series of measures of improvements that the Board is expecting to see over the five years of the Strategic Plan.

c. **COVID-19**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Province will be opening up some non-essential services after Victoria Day. The Province of BC has done well in flattening the curve, with currently just a few new cases of COVID. The government is aiming to ease up to 60% contact which should keep the curve relatively flat while enabling some resurgence of education, social and government services. The preliminary talk is to have some of the students going to school on a more regular basis sometime between now and the end of June, to provide in-class learning and support for families. More information will be available this week from the Ministry of Education.

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer stressed that health and safety comes first, and parents will have the choice to have their children at home or at school, and communities' feelings will be taken into account as well. The District as a whole has been doing a good job supporting employees, students and families, and working very hard to make sure that students have as many learning opportunities as possible during this time.

Chairperson Fehr expressed appreciation to all of the staff for the work that is being done for students, and to all the parents who have their children at home and are finding out firsthand what it is like to be a teacher - whether a professional teacher teaching in a new way or a parent presenting it for the first time.

d. **School Calendar 2020-2021**

The Ministry has approved the District's School Calendar 2020-2021 and it will be distributed to staff and families by the end of May.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Graduation in an Uncertain Time**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Principals at Zeballos and Tsawalk are currently working with the potential graduates and will be talking about a graduation ceremony if the students complete their work. Gold River Secondary School is currently working on details around their grad ceremony, as is Kyuquot School where there will be seven grads this year. Most schools are planning on having some type of year-end wrap-up activity, suitable for their community. Regardless of how events turn out, some people will be disappointed with grad this year but it seems like that is always the cause because everyone has opinions on the subject. In the end, after all the consultation and discussion, it really does fall with the school administration to make the final decisions and the Principals are committed to doing what it is their grads would like to do, in a healthy, safe and responsible manner.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. **District Update**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that, while dealing with COVID-19, the District is also dealing with budget and staffing. The Zeballos School Principal posting is now closed and interviews will take place in the near future. The first round of teacher postings has been published with a number of vacancies to fill. Unfortunately, some staffing will have to wait until the budget and enrollment can be confirmed at the start of next school year.

b. **Enrollment Report**

The enrollment is holding stable at 460 students (without Continuing Education), which was where the District started in September 2019. Most of the decrease next year results from the number of Kindergarten students in September 2020 being less than the number of Grade 12 students leaving in June 2020.

c. Finance Warrants

Financially, COVID-19 has improved the budget to some point as it has limited travel and meeting costs.. At the beginning of May, about 20% of the school year was left and about 19.9% of the budget left, so very close in terms of how the District is trending in terms of its spending this year. Hopefully this will result in a slightly larger surplus which will alleviate some of the pressure around the 2020-2021 preliminary budget in September.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

There was an inquiry around remedy and if it is cheaper to pay remedy than it would be to split classes. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer explained that the Ministry and the BCTF worked out a Memorandum of Agreement that became part of the Provincial Collective Agreement so there are rules about how things get dealt with when there are class size violations. Districts have to make best efforts to be in compliance with the language so, for example, if a K-Grade 3 split has 21 students, that is too big so would need to be two classes. However, in School District 84, the K-3 splits tend to have 12 students in them which would be fine for one class but, if there were nine designated students in the class, then that would equal 21 students which would require two classes and, in this case, would be funded by the Ministry's CEF (Classroom Enhancement Fund) and, as students then move in or out, the District would pay remedy. The Collective Agreement language for SD84 says not more than two students with a designation per class which does not mean that the class will be split if the size is ok but rather, that remedy will be provided. If the numbers are less than the maximum, then there is no extra money for splitting classes – only for remedy. People have mentioned in the past that remedy is not ideal; however, the provincial parties have decided this is what will be in place until the conclusion of this Collective Agreement.

With reference to the budget, there was an inquiry if there would be any funds available to assist SD84 students to, hopefully, go on to the regional and national science fairs next school year, noting that the Board has provided funding in previous years. The 2020-2021 Canada-Wide Science Fair will be held in Ottawa and the cost per sponsor teacher and student is about \$1825/person which covers accommodations and travel. Although some fundraising is done locally, the time is short between the regional results and the national deadlines. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer stated that there is some funding in the budget to support any of the schools that qualify for provincial or national competitions.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

In response to Trustee Mann's inquiry about District scholarships, the deadline to submit applications was extended this year due to COVID-19 and arrangements will be made soon for the District Scholarship Committee interviews.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The next public meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 4:00 pm – either by Zoom or at the School Board Office (to be announced). The public is invited to attend. Any requests for additions to the agenda should be forwarded to amcdowell@viw.sd84.bc.ca two weeks prior to the meeting. Board meeting minutes are posted on the District's website at <http://www.sd84.bc.ca/board-meetings-school-district-84>.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:07 pm:

2020:R-029 MOVED: Trustee Hanson, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."