



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, GOLD RIVER, BC**

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/Recorder

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Mowachaht/Muchalat Territory.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2019:R-044 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2019:R-045 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting minutes of June 10, 2019."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. **Mr. Philip Parkes, Principal, Nootka Sound Outdoor Program and International Program**

Mr. Parkes provided an informative and exciting report about School District 84's very unique programs:

- International Program started in 2016-2017, with a 0successful summer program with Korean students
- From that, one-month summer camps have taken place which include the local students at no charge – and these camps are now considered to be the best in the industry
- In September 2016, the first international student arrived from Japan, and had a successful three-month stay
- A group from China came for a two-week cultural integration program
- In 2017-2018, the District broke into the German and Swiss markets and the international program started to grow, with a total of 30 students throughout the year
- Two long-term students came from Korea and Japan for the full school year, there was a two-month winter program with Korea that has run for the past three years based at the elementary school, and students from Germany who raved about Gold River and what it has to offer
- School District 84 offers a very special hands-on program – a unique experience like no other program in Canada – and intimate with the community as many know the students by name and look after them very well
- Mr. Parkes' goal is to exceed parents' and agents' expectations, and by keeping that philosophy very strong, the programs are successful and students want to stay longer and book for more

- Mr. Parkes shared that the International Program is more than just about bringing fee-paying international students to Gold River; more importantly, it is also about offering two-way cultural exchanges to enrich the education for Gold River students
- A German student wants to return next year and Japan and Korea are competing with each other over the District's summer program
- Registrations in the short-term (one week to two months) integration programs are sought after
- In 2018-2019, 42 students came to the District from all over the world – for a total of 11 FTE which generated about \$232,000 in revenue, with about half paying for the program costs, homestays, health insurance, placing students, etc.
- The District's program is very unique in Canada and has now grown to the point where students come from Korea and Japan for longer terms and for graduation – one student for three years and another one in her third year who will graduate here, another Japanese boy for one month who returned – and now some long-term German students (15 who started in September and there are more coming)
- The major hurdle is finding homestays – and the District takes this very seriously as Mr. Parkes is their legal custodian and must ensure that all students are safe and well looked after
- The District is looking to hire a Homestay Manager for the International Program to recruit and work with homestay families and to look after issues as they arise
- Last year, the District paid over \$90,000 to homestay parents in Gold River (\$800 per month) and this year it will rise to \$110,000 (\$850 per month) – a high-range rate with an additional transportation allowance for parents to pick up the students
- Some of the many benefits of having international students in the District include increased school enrollment and classroom engagement, overall improved participation by all students in school, revenue for elementary field trips, additional funding to schools with international students (\$3000 elementary/\$5000 secondary), and new relationships which has already resulted in follow-up visits by exchange students and their families
- The District has sponsored many international and exchange trips for the students - Italy, France, India, Mexico, Australia
- A group of six students from GRSS travelled to France on a recruiting mission in the Spring of 2017 and, as a result, a France exchange has been established, now in its third year, and with 11 students expected from October 5-30, 2019
- Any senior student can be part of the exchange program, and this usually requires that their family then becomes the homestay for the students when they visit the District, but if that is not possible, then other arrangements can be made to ensure that those students are included
- The District becomes a “super host” to the exchange students who are shown an amazing time while they are here – and the same goes for the SD84 students who then travel to other countries to experience new lifestyles and cultures
- The exchange students travelling to France are expected to successfully complete a year-long practical, hands-on course on comparative cultures plus a French course with Mr. Parkes which includes weekly classes, and they must be exemplary students with a good academic standing - all of which prepares them to be self-reliant and develop the skill-set needed to be on their own with their host families in a foreign country
- Mr. Parkes has successfully applied each time for the Mobility Award through the Ministry of Education which provides \$8-10,000 towards the exchange program and significant reason why the program is free to students
- The aim is to make the exchange programs 100% available to School District 84 students, with no cost involved (which does not happen anywhere else in British Columbia) and some of the international revenue is used to support exchange programs to ensure that students can participate
- The International Program also generates employment in Gold River; i.e. a cook is hired for the summer program, as well as Teachers Teaching On Call, additional custodial hours, students, bus drivers, etc., plus also hires local service providers
- The enrollment projection for 2019-2020 is 13-15 FTE students, with tuition set at \$22,100 per student
- One of the goals over the next couple of years is to expand the program to the other District communities; i.e. a pilot project for a week in Tahsis, in Zeballos, and in Kyuquot – which may have some challenges in terms of the availability of homestays, the isolation and no cell service

- International students are required to exhibit exemplary behaviour while in the District, and there have been times when this has been challenged by the international and local students and, in one instance, resulted in an international student being sent home – an important lesson for the Gold River students to be careful to not jeopardize the international students in certain situations because they have to behave
- School District 84 is the only public school district with international student dorms – and many thanks to the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer for making this happen
- The dorms are being used for the international summer and short-term integration programs, as well as by staff and students in the District who are travelling to Gold River to participate in sports events or Nootka Sound Outdoor Program field trips
- The Nootka Sound Outdoor Program is linked to what people are coming here to do – to be part of the community and life in general – with excellent staff who are providing incredible teaching and outdoor experiences for students, plus the new District Counsellor who has already reached out to the students to provide support especially when loneliness sets in, etc.
- The Spanish agent has contacted Mr. Parkes, asking if she could be the District’s exclusive agent and send five long-term students next year (Mr. Parkes agreed to three)
- Germany is selling the District as being the exclusive agent to a completely unique program in Canada – and it is so true!

In closing, Mr. Parkes expressed appreciation to the Board and to the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer for all of the support given to both the NSOP and the International Program, and was very proud to announce that the Nootka Sound Outdoor Program will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year!

CORRESPONDENCE:

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| · Chair, SD38 (Richmond) | · Copy of Letter to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services re Budget 2020 Consultation |
| · BC School Trustees Association | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · BCSTA Weekly: Boards of Education are Essential / Emergency Preparedness Working Group Update |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · BCSTA Update: Correction: “Boards of Education are Essential” Download Link |
| · Minister of Education | · Accomplishments Over the Past Year and Work Underway |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · BCSTA Weekly: Upcoming BCSTA Events / Funding Model Implementation Progress Report / Select Standing Committee on Finance |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |
| · Commissioner of Official Languages | · Copy of Letter to the Canadian School Boards Association, re the Significant Cuts Made to Provincial Budgets in Recent Years Which Have Had Impact on School Board Funding and on the Bilingualism Rate Among Young Canadians |
| · BCSTA | · BCSTA Weekly: President’s Year End Message / BCSTA Motion Database / CSBA Congress |
| · BCSTA | · Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees |

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. **School Reports**

Trustee Stiglitz reported that Captain Meares' first week back to school was a great success, with the total enrollment at 25 FTE. With the addition of five new Kindergarten students, Mrs. Sanderson's Grade K-6 class has grown to 13 students, and the senior class has increased to 12 students. The year started off with a presentation by Paramedics Carla Heywood and Josie Milandovic regarding handwashing and the spread of germs, and then broke into two groups for a "When to Call 911" presentation. This included actual calls to dispatch so that the students would learn what happens when a call to 911 is made. On September 10th, staff hosted a 'Welcome Back BBQ' for students and families. The Terry Fox Run is scheduled for September 24th and, in keeping with tradition, the student who raises the most money gets to pie Miss Jones in the face! The Principal attended a recent Learning Assistance Resource Teacher meeting in Gold River and the CMESS School Base Team meetings are scheduled for September with IEP meetings to follow.

Trustee Mann reported that Ray Watkins Elementary School has enrolled eight more students than was originally projected.

Trustee Smith reported that Zeballos School is still down one elementary teacher. The Principal has been successful in finding a clinic counsellor who will be visiting Zeballos School on a regular basis this year.

b. **District Scholarship Committee Report for 2018-2019**

Congratulations to the following recipients:

- Citizenship and Service – Shannon Fassbender (CMESS)
- Future Education Workers – Amber Pitt (GRSS)
- Raj Jaswal – Jared Gjesdal (GRSS)
- Vocational and Technical – Benjamin Larre (GRSS)
- District/Authority Scholarship (Ministry) – Ashley Briggs and Shannon Fassbender (CMESS); Tyler Gedlaman, Jared Gjesdal, Benjamin Larre, and Amber Pitt (GRSS)
- Judith Anderson Memorial Scholarship – Tyler Gedlaman (GRSS)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Nil.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **The New School Year Begins!**

It has been a very smooth and successful start to the new school year, with much enthusiasm from young and old alike.

b. **2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements**

2019:R-047 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements as presented."

c. **Actions for Learning Reports**

The Board reviewed the summary reports from last year's Actions for Learning projects. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer will follow up on the Board's request to have one or more of the groups attend a Board meeting to present a verbal report.

d. Community Consultation Meetings

The Board set tentative dates/times for the October community consultation meetings:

- Monday, October 21 – 5:30-7:00 pm – Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School
- Tuesday, October 22 - 6:30-8:00 pm – School Board Office
- Wednesday, October 23 - 7:00-8:30 pm – Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School
- Monday, October 28 – 4:00-5:30 pm – Zeballos Elementary Secondary School
- Tuesday, October 29 – 6:30-8:00 pm – Tsawalk Learning Centre, Nanaimo

The topics for this round of consultations will be:

- reporting back on Pathways and the District Education Plan as well as student numbers, outcomes, achievements;
- gathering input on the Board's vision, mission and values;
- gathering questions/comments/concerns to share with the entire Board in November.

e. New Date for October Board Meeting

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer will be unavailable for the regularly-scheduled October Board meeting. The Board rescheduled the meeting to Monday, October 21, 2019, to be held in Tahsis.

f. Thank You to Summer Custodial and Maintenance Staff

A special thank you, once again, to all of the Custodial and Maintenance staff who worked so diligently this summer to make sure that the schools were clean and ready for school start-up!

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. District Update

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer was pleased to report that staff and students seem to be very happy and enthusiastic to be back to school. The District is almost fully-staffed – still one intermediate teacher vacancy at Zeballos School, one half-time teacher vacancy at Gold River Secondary School, and one Education Assistant vacancy at Kyuquot School. Classes are being covered by certified teachers and the hope is that all vacancies will be filled as quickly as possible.

b. Enrollment Report

The enrollment for the first week of school was up and down, but averaging 420 FTE including the Nootka Sound Outdoor Program registrations. The 2019-2020 preliminary budget is built on a projected enrollment of 460 FTE students, so the hope is that enrollment will continue to climb this month.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Trustee Smith reported that concerns are being raised that the School Calendar does not match the Band Office's pay day calendar this year (pay day Fridays are half-days and used to line up with the District's fortnight calendar). Trustee Smith has suggested that the First Nations' pay day schedule be changed because changing the School District's calendar can be a challenging process.

Trustee Smith received a letter from the Village of Zeballos requesting that the District support the Village by sending a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Highways to support the creation of an evacuation trail in Zeballos. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer will write a letter as soon as possible.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The next public meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019, at 4 pm, at Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School. The public is invited to attend. Any requests for additions to the agenda should be forwarded to the School Board Office 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 5:15 pm:

2019:R-048 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
 "*TO adjourn.*"