



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020
AT THE ANCHOR INN, CAMPBELL 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
Seven members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, and expressed gratitude to the Cape Mudge People for the honour of holding the Board meeting on their territory.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA::

2020:R-053 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2020:R-054 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the regular Board meeting of October 13, 2020."

CORRESPONDENCE:

- . BC School Trustees Association
- . BCSTA
- . BCSTA
- . ZESS
- . BCSTA
- . BCSTA
- . BCSTA
- . Chair, SD52 (Prince Rupert)
- . Carol Donaldson, Gold River
- . Chair, SD5 (Southeast Kootenay)
- . BCSTA Weekly: CSBA Executive Update; CSBA Annual Report; Boards at Work: Orange Shirt Day Story Walk; BCSSA October Newsletter; Upcoming Standing Committee Meetings; Funding Opportunity: Share2Care Campaign; Letters; Save the Date for Academy 2020; Reminders
- . Daily News for School Trustees
- . BCSTA Weekly: Legal Bulletin-FESL Reporting; Framework in Action Speakers; Skills Canada Newsletter; Anti-Racism Reading List; Opinion – Should We Have a Federal Education Minister; Events; Reminders
- . October 2020 Newsletter
- . Daily News for School Trustees
- . BCSTA Weekly: Provincial Council; Trustee Academy Registration is Open; Legal Bulletin-Challenge to COVID-19 School Measures; Framework in Action Learning Series; Wellness Together; Cannabis Talk Kit; Boards at Work-Outlearning in SD41; BCANDS Indigenous Support for Student Learning Program; Reminders
- . Daily News for School Trustees
- . Copy of letter to Teacher Qualification Service re Delays in TQS Service
- . Final Assignments for Educational Assistant Certificate Program: Passion Project: 'People First Language'
- . Copy of Letter to BCSTA re School Site Land Acquisition Issues and Solutions Discussion Paper of July 2019

- . BCSTA
 - . President, BCSTA
 - . BCSTA
 - . RWES
 - . BCSTA
 - . BC Public School Employers' Association
 - . Ian Caplett, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
 - . BCSTA
- . BCSTA Update: Academy 2020: Renewed Focus, Leading Through Crisis
 - . Copy of Letter to Minister of Finance re Congratulations on an Incredible Career in Politics
 - . BCSTA Weekly: Provincial Council Synopsis; Trustee Academy; School Sports Update; Opinion-Looking at Learners Differently; Upcoming; Reminders
 - . November 2020 Newsletter
 - . Daily News for School Trustees
 - . BCPSEA 27th Annual General Meeting First Notice – Deadline for Submitting Special and Ordinary Resolutions and Pre-Nominations is December 9, 2020
 - . Agenda for SD84-NTC Community Engagement on K-12 Education
 - . BCSTA Weekly: Trustee Academy Spotlight-Irvine Carvery; NEW-MLA Advocacy Kit; Send Us Your Updates; BC School Sports Governance Proposal; Emergencies and Official Languages; Webinar-Teaching and Learning with Equity; Letters; Upcoming; Reminders

2020:R-055 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO receive and file the correspondence."

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Fehr reported that this month's closed meeting will be held after the public meeting, and will be reported out in December. .

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

Trustee Smith reported that Zeballos School is getting back into the swing of things, and grad plans are already underway. All of the students enjoyed going to the outdoors and to local areas last month.

Trustee Mann reported that the Ray Watkins Elementary School PAC have met and a report will be forthcoming. Students have been enjoying the use of the Recreation Centre once again and several classes are making use of the outdoor classroom area.

Trustee Stiglitz reported that the enrollment had declined but has now climbed back up. Students are all within one cohort that is being divided into two classes. Students have enjoyed a few NSOP activities and everything is slowly getting back into the groove of things – but nothing to report on PAC or grad as of yet.

Chairperson Fehr reported that Gold River Secondary School currently has 80 students enrolled. Students were grateful to come back to school in September, and are adjusting well. Welcome to Ms. Chan who was hired to teach PE and Foods/Home Economics and is very involved with all aspects of the school community! There are limited extra-curricular activities, but girls' and boys' basketball is underway, coached by Ms. Chan and Mr. Larre. Several NSOP trips have occurred, and everyone enjoyed the Hallowe'en activities on October 30th. A Remembrance Day Assembly will be held on November 10. Term 1 Report Cards will be sent out on November 23 with Parent/Teacher Interviews on November 26. The 2020 Grad Class is currently working on plans for a possible "celebration" in December but nothing confirmed yet.

b. BCSTA Provincial Council Report

Chairperson Fehr attended the Provincial Council meeting on October 24, 2020. A COVID-19 update was provided: 213 school exposures (October 22) with only eight related to school transfer and the

majority of cases from exposure outside of school. The regular business meeting took place, followed by debate on motions. The following motions were passed:

- Form a climate change working group
- Video options available for all BCSTA meetings
- Safe routes to school
- Funding for trades
- Provincial funding for Education Programs in Correctional facilities
- Additional supports for Letters of Permission and Non-Certified staff
- Timelier response from Teacher Regulation Branch
- Align school construction with 10-year enrollment projections
- Enhanced co-government approach for recovery stage of COVID-19
- Action on Anti-Black racism
- Public sector executive wage freeze not apply to the Education sector

Motion not passed:

- Covered outdoor play spaces and outdoor classrooms

c. **Working Relations Committee**

The meeting on October 26, 2020 addressed the possibility of establishing a three-year calendar that synchronizes with First Nations' paydays, and the change to some administrators' titles to provide a better description of roles, with no change to salaries, benefits or responsibilities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **Framework for Enhancing Equity and Achievement**

The framework will next go to the Enhancement Agreement/Local Education Agreement table and will tie in with the work from the two-day NTC/SD84 engagement session to build success for all students. The action items coming out of these meetings will form a solid piece of the strategies going forward from that document when finalized. Any questions or feedback can be directed to the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer at ltarasoff@viw.sd84.bc.ca.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nil.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. **District Update**

COVID continues to drive much of what is happening in the District and a number of activities are gradually trying to get up to speed. The Nootka Sound Outdoor Program, although not offering overnight trips at this time, has engaged students in several day trips and COVID-safe activities. Masking, social-distancing and handwashing have been very important and especially when students from different cohorts have travelled together.

Although several parents were reluctant to send their children to school at the beginning of the school year, all of the students are now back although attendance does fluctuate when the COVID numbers go up in the Province and/or Vancouver Island.

b. **Enrollment Report**

The District is significantly lower this year and with the Nanaimo Learning Centres transitioning to SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) next year, the District will experience a rapid decline.

c. Finance Warrants

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that, due to funding protection and a reduction in students and corresponding reduction in staff, the District is in a very strong financial position this year. It appears that the District will not need to use any of the surplus to support this year's operations. This is also partly due to the additional funding received as part of the federal initiative for COVID. All of these additional funds have strongly benefited the bottom line.

Capital is also very strong. The District has received a number of capital projects and much of the work will be coming in under budget, which will allow for additional project work to be undertaken at various sites.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

There was an inquiry made to a Trustee about a student not receiving their District Authority Scholarship voucher, and any questions about District Scholarships should be directed to the School Board Office.

PUBLIC AND PRESS INQUIRIES:

Public inquiries were as follows:

- *Is there a necessary requirement that support positions for students and schools are dictated by a hiring policy of the District or is it possible to hire individuals who can obviously support students but do not have the traditional certification?* The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer explained that the District's constant challenge is to find qualified, certified teachers to fill postings. It can contract with the NTC to buy support services, providing that the District is not reducing teachers. Another option is to apply to the Ministry of Education's Teacher Regulation Branch to approve a Letter of Permission to hire an uncertified teacher. This requires a certain process where the District would need to prove that it has tried repeatedly to attract certified teachers, with no success. If approved, the Letter of Permission is for one year only, and would qualify the individual as a Category 4 teacher.
- *At what point does the Board of Education have the ability to implement curriculum that makes sense in a Nuu-chah-nulth context that will help schools and students, and that would be entirely different from the BC curriculum?* Chairperson Fehr spoke about the flexibility of the new curriculum and how it can be adapted to include local resources. If people mobilize, change is possible. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer explained that there is an approved Nuu-chah-nulth Grade 5-12 curriculum developed by SD84 and SD70 and there is nothing restricting, for example, Science 10 being delivered in a cultural fashion and, in fact, it should be done that way. What is required is that people still address the core competencies of Science 10 and the big ideas of Science 10, so there is still the need to discuss electricity but teachers can talk about the NTC view of electricity; i.e. Why is it that way? Is there a stewardship aspect to that? Are there some colonialization of what might have to take place? There are all kinds of opportunities for creativity in the curriculum. It is possible to develop a K-12 program that is Nuu-chah-nulth language/culture community-based, community-developed curriculum that would meet all of the learning outcomes of the grad program in a way that is better, that supports the students, and allows them to use the knowledge that they have in their culture and community without having to twist it around to Christopher Columbus. However, this would require full partnership with the Nuu-chah-nulth communities and other larger capacities, but it is definitely worth doing for the success of SD84's students. At this time, the Ministry has not provided extra funding for this type of initiative. The District's budget is based on enrollment, strategic plan and priorities with currently about \$300,000 targeted directly to enhance Indigenous education. It is time for broader consultation with the Indigenous communities around the District's entire budget.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 4 pm, at the School Board Office in Gold River (or by zoom). Any requests for agenda additions should go to amcdowell@viw.sd84.bc.ca 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 5:12 pm:

2020:R-056 MOVED: Trustee Smith, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."