



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021
VIA 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 Members

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2021:R-013 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2021:R-014 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 8, 2021."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. **Mr. Scott Cobbe, Principal, Zeballos Elementary Secondary School**

Mr. Cobbe reported that enrollment at Zeballos School has been holding steady at 45 students since September, and one student graduated in January. The COVID-19 outbreak in Ehatis and Oclucje have had a significant effect on the rhythm of the school year, and the Nuw-chah-nulth Mental Health Counsellors and Cultural Workers have been making regular, weekly visits to support the students. Additional staffing hired in November and March has been very effective. Teachers have been very purposefully working to integrate local First Nations' knowledge in their classrooms. Although COVID has had a negative impact on achieving the accompanying experiential learning activities, the groundwork has been laid.

There were two NSOP trips to Mount Cain in February – one for intermediate and one for secondary students – and everyone enjoyed a great day of skiing and snowboarding. A special thanks to the staff who helped to make these events such a great success. During the last month, students have been enjoying ice dyeing with Mr. Bouey, first dyeing bags to take home and next will be light covers for the classroom. Students have been honing their math skills by playing cribbage, and staff and students have been enjoying playing basketball together in the gym.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- BC School Trustees Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Action on Anti-Black Racism
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Timelier Response from Teacher Regulation Branch

- BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - Chair, SD5 (Southeast Kootenay)
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - Zeballos School
 - Ray Watkins Elementary
 - Chair, SD69 (Qualicum)
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Minister of Education re Provincial Funding to Improve Access to Educational Programming in Correctional Facilities
 - BCSTA Weekly: Provincial Council Practice Sessions; AGM Motions; Speaker Series – Jessica Wood; Moose Hide Campaign; Let's Talk About Water; Stronger Than Hate; Opinion – The Assessment Debate; Letters, Upcoming Provincial Council Meeting and AGM Details
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - BCSTA Weekly: Provincial Council; COVID-19 Survey; Disrupting Misconceptions; Teaching the Holocaust; Diversity in Quantum Computing Conference; BCSTA Scholarships; Opinion – The Assessment Debate Part Two; Upcoming – AGM Details
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re COVID Vaccine for School District Staff
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - BCSTA Weekly: Provincial Council Synopsis; CSBA President's Bulletin; Indigenous Leaders Panel; Information for Travellers; BCSTA Scholarships; Opinion – Does Sampling Work? Upcoming – Get Ready for AGM
 - ZESS February Newsletter
 - RWES March Newsletter
 - Copy of Letter to BCSTA President re Support for the BCSTA's Recommendations to the Government of BC for Increased School Life Cycle Funding
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - Legal Bulletin: Trustee Home Office Expenses
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Health and Minister of Education re COVID-19 Vaccine Priority for Workers in the Public Education Sector
 - BCSTA Weekly: AGM Keynote Speaker – Andy Hargeaves; Late AGM Motions; AGM Nominations; BCSTA Legal Operating Procedures; New COVID-19 K-12 Online Resources; Prime Minister's Awards Extension; CSBA Indigenous Leaders Panel; Aboriginal Education Research Forum; Autism Conference; Indigenous Foodways Documentary; Opinion – Can We Improve Classroom Assessments? Letters; Upcoming – AGM Reminders

2021:R-015 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO receive and file the correspondence."

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETINGS:

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

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

Trustee Mann reported that Ray Watkins Elementary School report cards went out today and parent-teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday. Thursday is the last day before Spring Break!

Trustee Stiglitz reported that students are looking forward to the NSOP snowboarding trip on Wednesday. She recently met with the Captain Meares teens to discuss the community consultation questions, and found it to be very informative. The CMESS report cards were sent home last Friday.

Vice-Chairperson Hanson was very happy to report that the Kyuquot School staff have been vaccinated. Report cards have been sent home and students are looking very forward to the NSOP ski trip this week. No word on a grad date yet, but that will be announced soon.

b. **LEA/EA Meeting**

Trustee Smith reported a discussion on whether or not to apply for a Human Rights exemption to hire First Nations staff. Research on this is underway and will be discussed again at the next meeting. There was also some discussion regarding the possible hire of an Indigenous administrator or teacher, with the agreement to focus on a teacher first. The portfolio and student learning plans were also discussed, as part of the Pathways Program. There will be an update at the next meeting and out to communities for feedback before the end of the year. Finally, the communities and District will continue with the staff training and other offerings of the VIU courses.

c. **Working Relations Committee Meeting**

A meeting was held on February 22nd and discussion items included the melding of the Collective Agreement which is an ongoing process, and a review of the COVID health and safety plans and changes over the last months.

d. **BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting**

Chairperson Fehr attended on February 20, 2021, and reported on the following highlights from the Business section of the meeting:

- Schools remain to be safe places
- Districts are to begin planning for Stage 1 in September
- Learn from this year when planning
- BCSTA travel expenses increased for per diem rates and dependent care

Motions passed:

- Funding for Distance Learning to be increased to 100% FTE
- Covid-19 Vaccine priority for workers in Public Education sector
- Providing accessible and timely information regarding COVID-19 and school safety

e. **District Policy Review Committee Meeting**

A meeting was held on March 8th to review the feedback from two proposed amendments, and are now recommended for Board approval:

2021:R-016 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt Policy B.4, Travel, Meals and Other Expenses, as amended."

2021:R-017 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt Policy B.32, Community and Commercial Use of Facilities and Grounds for Child Care, as amended."

Sections E policies were reviewed, with some requiring housekeeping changes. The Bylaws were also reviewed with no changes required.

Minutes of the District Policy Review Committee meetings are posted on the District's website: <https://sd84.bc.ca/about-sd84/policy-manual/>.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **Spring Community Consultation Meetings**

The community consultations were held via Zoom on February 22 and 23. Unfortunately, there was a power outage just before the consultation on the 22nd, but there were still eight of the original 23 registered, who were able to attend. Those not in attendance were invited to attend the second evening and 24 attended in total when 21 had originally registered. So, in total 32 of the 44 who registered to attend, did attend. The individual responses were provided to the Trustees to review, and are summarized as follows:

1. *In light of the ongoing situation with COVID-19, what would you like the Board of Education to know about how to help your children and your family?*
 - a. Add more staffing to make more physical distancing possible (x2)
 - b. Give students technology to work from home (laptops) (x3)
 - c. Students and staff are under stress (X4)
2. *What do you want the Board of Education to know about how you see the Framework for Enhancing Equity and Achievement supporting your children? Does it do enough? What other goals and strategies might be considered?*
 - a. Access to courses/opportunities/supports (x5)
 - b. Equity is important (x5)
3. *What do you want the Board of Education to prioritize in terms of the 2021-2022 budget? Please state how these items will best enhance your child's education.*
 - a. Access to courses/opportunities/supports (x11)
 - b. Staff training/support (x2)
4. *Please share any thoughts as to what you feel about the proposed redesign of CMESS and how these will impact on your child's education.*
 - a. Soundproofing (x4)
 - b. Maintain and enhance specialty class spaces (x3)
5. *Please share any thoughts as to what you feel about the proposed RWES/GRSS amalgamation and how these will impact on your child's education.*
 - a. Older grades need to be able to focus (x2)
 - b. Concern about layout (x3)

b. **Calendar 2021-2022**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that the proposed School Calendar was circulated, with no feedback received. Discussions have taken place with the VIWTU regarding the Letter of Understanding, and he recommended that the School Calendar be adopted as circulated.

2021:R-018 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the proposed School Calendar 2021-2022 as circulated."

c. **Preliminary Budget 2021-2022**

The District is predicting being in funding protection next year, so should receive 98.5% of what was received this year. The preliminary budget is based off of the projected enrollments in February and, with losing the Nanaimo Learning Centres after this year, a projected 290 students will be serviced by 98.5% of this year's budget amounts. There will be some increased costs around salaries and inflation. In March, the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer solicits the Board's input in terms of what approach he should take to build the preliminary budget - moderate, conservative or aggressive – and then a draft is presented in April and a final preliminary budget presented in May for adoption. On September 30th, the enrollment is confirmed, and the District receives its actual budget in December.

After much discussion, all of the Trustees agreed that the budget should be built using a moderate approach.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nil.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. **District Update**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer was pleased to report that, despite the COVID restrictions, the Nootka Sound Outdoor and International Programs are going very well. It has been surprising how many trips have already taken place this school year – and are planned for the Spring. There is a real desire by the schools and staff to be integrating and taking advantage of the outdoor experiences either

within the communities or out on ski trips, etc. The international students have followed the required COVID procedures and testing and, despite all of this plus the cost of the program, they are still choosing to come to School District 84 and are enjoying their time here.

Unfortunately, and after such a difficult year, the District is anticipating a fair bit of staff turnover. The hope is that, once the weather improves and the power outages come to an end, employees will realize that this District is a good place to be!

b. **Enrollment Report**

The enrollment is currently at 404 students – considerably more than the projected 290 students for next year.

c. **Finance Warrants**

The District is right on track with its spending right now, with 40% of the school year left, and 43% of the budget still available.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Nil.

PUBLIC AND PRESS INQUIRIES:

A positive shout-out from Kyuquot School regarding their two practicum students from Victoria, all of the energy updates that are happening with 151 solar panels now mounted on the building, the electricians presenting to staff and students about energy and conservation, all of the outdoor learning opportunities that are happening for students, and the dedication of teachers who make it happen!

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 4 pm, by Zoom. Any requests for agenda additions should go 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 4:54 pm:

2021:R-019 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Smith
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."