



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 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 4:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2021:R-020 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2021:R-021 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 8, 2021."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. **Mr. Jim Baron, Principal, Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School**

Mr. Baron opened by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Mowachaht/Muchalat First Nations. With COVID-19, it has been a much more conservative year at CMESS than in years past. The community lunches have been scaled down to the school family, and often combine the older students with the younger students in the food preparation. The Community Barbeque and Christmas Concert were sadly missed, but everyone looks forward to being able to invite the general community back into Captain Meares School, "fingers crossed", next year.

The Daycare, at the far end of the school, is progressing nicely and should be ready for the new school year. Captain Meares School has been experiencing some unanticipated growth in the school population with the welcome addition of eight new students in the elementary grouping in the past two months. With the rising cost of housing, more young families seem to be choosing Tahsis as their new home. This is being monitored closely as additional support may be needed in the coming years.

Mr. Baron expressed how proud he is of his team at Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School. All of the adults in the school have pulled together as a team to address the growing intermediate population. Students from Grades 3-6 benefit from the expertise of both Junior and Senior High teachers, Mr. Graves and Mr. Baron. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 2 are getting focussed instruction in early literacy instruction by their homeroom teacher Mrs. Graves, assisted by Mrs. Anderson. As a result, Mr. Baron is pleased to report increased engagement at all levels.

The music program continues to grow with more and more instruments showing up at the doorstep. The younger students have been singing and learning to play ukulele on a regular basis.

Mr. Baron reiterated how blessed he is to be working with such amazing and caring people at Captain Meares! This year, the team has faced many challenges and he is so proud to come to work every day and work along such a caring and professional group of people.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Minister of Education
- BC School Trustees Association
- President, BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Past President, Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD57 (Prince George)
- BCSTA
- President, Canadian School Boards Association
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD71 (Comox Valley)
- Minister of Education
- Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
- BCSTA
- Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training
- Canadian School Boards Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Ray Watkins
- Chair, SD33 (Chilliwack)
- BCSTA
- VISTA
- ZESS
- BCSTA
- Copy of Letter to Chair, SD69 (Qualicum) re Seamless Day Model Integrating Seamless Day Early Care and Learning into Public Schools
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Moving Forward after COVID-19
- BCSTA Weekly: AGM Speaker – Carole James; AGM Reminders; Moving Forward After COVID-19; Join a Committee; Legal Bulletin – Local Elections Amendment Act; Boards at Work – Girls in Trade Programs; CSBA Indigenous Leaders Panel; Mental Health in Schools; Racism in Schools; Food-Based Learning; Social and Emotional Learning Day; In Memory; Opinion – Teaching is the Test; Letters
- Call for Nominations – VISTA Executive
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Health and Minister of Education re School-Based Staff to be a Priority Group for Accessing Vaccinations
- BCSTA Weekly: AGM Details and Reminders; Manitoba Eliminates Boards of Education; BCCDC School Update; SOGI Resource Guide; CSBA Indigenous Leaders Panel Video; New Mental Health Tool; Everybody Moves; Letters & Reports; Join a Committee
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education, Manitoba, re Graves Concerns with Proposed Plan to Eliminate School Boards
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education Requesting Enhanced Mental Health Education and Services for All K-12 Students
- Copy of Letter to President, BCSTA, re Action on Anti-Black Racism
- Copy of Letter to President, BCSTA, re Active Transportation and Schools
- BCSTA Weekly: AGM 2021; FNSEC Speaker – Kasari Govender; CASSA-CSBA Joint Conference; RFPO-CSBA Advocacy Event 2021; NSBA Advocacy Institute; Cyberbullying; Online Exploitation; Anti-Gang Resources; Boards at Work – SD35 Does Take-Out; Letters; Reminders; Late AGM Motions; Join a Committee
- Copy of Letter to President, BCSTA, re Funding for Trades Students Under 19 Years of Agenda who have Graduated from Secondary School
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education, Manitoba, re Grave Concern re Elimination of School Boards in Manitoba
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re School Life Cycle Funding
- RWES Newsletter for April 2021
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General re Continuing Education Programs for Provincial Correctional Centres
- BCSTA Weekly: AGM 2021; AGM Training; BCSTA Board Candidates; School Life Cycle Funding Report; CSBA Op-Ed; Holocaust Education; Skills Canada News; Boards at Work – SD73 Fights Racism; Opinion – Are Education Cuts Coming; Letters; Reminders
- Business Meeting (Branch Bruch) Agenda – April 17, 2021
- School Newsletter
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees

- VISTA
- BCSTA
- Call for Nominations – VISTA Executive
- BCSTA Weekly: AGM 2021; Extended – Join a Committee; COVID-19 Announcements; Gender Equity in Physical Education; Virtual Farm Q+A; Earth Day; Heritage for Educators; Day of Mourning; Boards at Work – SD41 Shares Indigenous Learning; Opinion – Educating Students in Care; Letters; BCSTA Board Candidates; AGM Training; Late AGM Motions

2021:R-022 MOVED: Trustee Hanson, 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 three labour issues.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. **School Reports**

Nil.

b. **Local Education Agreement/Enhancement Agreement Meeting**

The Pathways Teacher’s Guide was presented, with 10 lessons completed and 10 more to come – all to be reviewed by the Committee. There is a commitment with VIU to run courses again next year on the Pathways Portfolio, for new staff orientation. The Committee is researching a Human Rights exemption for a special hiring program to recruit more Indigenous staff. The NSOP Vice-Principal, Monique Comeau, has been working in Kyuquot to co-create curriculum using Ka:’yu:k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h’ knowledge of language, culture and history of the area. There was some discussion around the possible hiring of an Indigenous Support Teacher for the District. In closing, the Committee agreed to begin working on the third Enhancement Agreement as soon as COVID eases up.

c. **District OH&S Committee Meeting**

The District Committee met on March 1, 2021 with a review of District Policy B.2, *Health and Safety*, followed by a brief roundtable of OH&S successes and challenges at worksites. Accident/incident/investigation reports (causes and prevention) were examined to determine if there were any trends and, out of that, a reminder to all employees to ask for assistance when moving heavy or bulky items – or to refuse until help is available. On-going business included a COVID-19 update, a discussion around new students transferring to the District, emergency preparedness plans that are under review in preparation for next year, and the annual earthquake hazard inspections to be scheduled before the end of the school year. Each OH&S Committee is required to complete an evaluation report and a first aid assessment by June 30. In closing, OH&S Reps were reminded of their entitlement to annual training, as well as the requirement for “New Joint Committee Members” training for any new Committee members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning**

The staff are working hard on the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, which is to be completed by September 30, 2021 in accordance with Ministry of Education policy. The Framework will guide the major strategic decisions around budget – to address the District’s foci:

- improving Early Literacy to ensure that students have the foundational skills to support their learning;
- increasing School Engagement leading to Graduation to ensure that students graduate with dignity, purpose and options; and,
- equipping learners for success by developing the attributes necessary to be successful educated citizens.

b. **Preliminary Budget 2021-2022**

In response to the Board's direction from last month, a moderate budget will be ready for presentation to the Board in May. The preliminary budget is based on the projected enrollment in February. The audit is done in August, the revenue is based on the September 30 enrollment, and then the final budget is approved in January. As reported previously, the budget is guided by the Framework for Enhancing Equity and Achievement.

c. **COVID Update**

School District 84 is one of eight districts in the Province with no COVID exposures. Most of the District's communities have now received their first vaccine, and looking forward to better days ahead!

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **BC School Trustees Association AGM Voting**

The AGM will be held on April 15-17, by Zoom. Trustees will be voting for five directors and all of the motions that have put forward – including those from last year's AGM which were delayed due to COVID.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. **District Update**

As the weather gets better, there are more opportunities for students to get outside. Mr. Parkes and Ms. Comeau have been working hard to get students out on NSOP trips as often as possible, with many nice trips planned including canoeing and a Zeballos power boat trip to Friendly Cove. Spring is a busy time for everyone in the District – both in the schools and in the District Office as plans get underway for next school year. Postings have been published for the two Principal positions – Ray Watkins and Zeballos – with a closing date of April 30.

b. **Enrollment Report**

The enrollment is currently at 404 students and is expected to reduce to 290 for next year.

c. **Finance Warrants**

The District is on track with its budget and, in fact, a little ahead due to COVID. It is expected that the District will be in a good financial situation at the end of the fiscal year.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Nil.

PUBLIC AND PRESS INQUIRIES:

There was an inquiry about the proposed Indigenous Support Teacher position. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer explained that this has been discussed by the First Nations Education Liaison Committee. A draft proposal will go out to the representatives at that table for their input and feedback prior to posting. Any other feedback can be sent to the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer by April 26, 2021.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, May 10, 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 4:26 pm:

2021:R-023 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
 "*TO adjourn.*"