



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

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

TRUSTEE ABSENT: Andrew Smith (Zeballos)

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
Annie McDowell, Associate Director of Human Resources
Natalie Lowe, Accountant
Three Staff Members

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2021:R-056 MOVED: Trustee Hanson, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda with the addition of 9.d, Framework Peer Review Process."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2021:R-057 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of October 12, 2021."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. **Actions for Learning Report – Anna Egan, Teacher**

Ms. Anna Egan (Kyuquot) and Ms. Aisha Balint (Zeballos) had similar or overlapping classes last year, so thought that they would collaborate together on the inquiry question: *What are actionable strategies that we can implement in our classrooms that will aid in student learning, and support the vision of 'best practice'?* The opportunity to witness each other's classroom and school environments was very helpful and the results of this inquiry were very informative, useful and supportive. Both teachers, who are now teaching in Kyuquot School, strongly encourage this opportunity for all teachers in the District and look forward to pursuing a similar opportunity this year, together with another colleague from Zeballos School.

Chairperson Fehr stated the Board's pleasure from seeing the Actions for Learning funds being put to good use.

b. **Seamless Child Care in SD84 – Alison Pringle, CUPE Local 2769 President, and David Fleming, CUPE Coordinator for Seamless Child Care**

Mr. Fleming provided a report on 'Integrated Childcare – Building a Seamless Model of Before and After School Care in BC's Public Schools':

- Too many families lack childcare services where and when they need it
- Need for school-aged care often outpaces supply of spaces

- Integration into the school system is a better model for kids and families
- Benefits of integrated childcare
- Integrated/seamless childcare structures
- School districts are in a unique position to overcome space creation barriers

Mr. Fleming concluded by saying that there are a variety of ways integrated care can be implemented, and CUPE is pleased work collaboratively on a model that works for students, teachers, families, workers, and the District.

Chairperson Fehr thanked Mr. Fleming for his presentation, and the details provided can be used for future decision-making.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- BC School Trustees Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD69 (Qualicum)
- BC Teachers' Council
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD43 (Coquitlam)
- Chair, SD5 (SE Kootenay)
- Chair, SD5 (SE Kootenay)
- Chair, SD5 (SE Kootenay)
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD23 (Central Okanagan)
- SD52 (Prince Rupert)
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD63 (Saanich)
- President, BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA Update: Education Partner and Joint Partner Liaison Meetings – Agendas, Your Questions and our Safety Plan
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Update: Reminder: Agenda + Safety Plans + Homework for Upcoming Meetings
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education to Request Level of Funding for Bus Replacement Be Set at Cost of Purchase of Electric Buses
- BCTC New Teacher Survey 2021
- BCSTA Weekly: Trustee Academy – Pre-Conference; What's New with SOGI; National Skilled Trade and Technology Week; October is Library Month; Fight the Phish; Events; Reminders
- Copy of Letter to BCSTA With Request to Consider Holding This Year's Trustee Academy On-line
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Timelier Response Needed from the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB)
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Safe Routes to Schools
- Copy of Letter to BCSTA re Support for Increased School Life Cycle Funding
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Weekly: Provincial Council October 23; Trustee Academy 2021; K-12 COVID-19 Situation Report; Youth Substance Use Survey; The Strawberry Project; CSBA Congress 2022; SERIES – Learning With Syeyutsus; Meeting Expenses; Send Us Your Updates; Prioritizing Wellness in Okanagan-Shuswap; OPINION – Divisive School Board Elections; Letters; Reminders
- Copy of Letter to Premier of BC, Minister of Education, Minister of Health, and Provincial Health Officer re SD23's Expectation that Any Mandate for Staff Vaccines be a Provincial Decision in a Provincial Health Order, with Costs Covered
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Budget Considerations
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy re Additional Funding Support Needed to Meet the 2030 CleanBC Targets
- Copy of Letter to Jasanveer & CERBC Team re Climate Education Reform BC Needs Your Support
- BCSTA Weekly: Trustee Academy Registration; Trustee Academy Seats; PC Synopsis; Trustee Survey-Youth Substance Use; Student Reporting Consultation; Operation Remembrance; Gender Equity in Physical Education; Climate Education; Letters; Reminders
- BCSTA Update: BCSTA Academy Agenda Now Online

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- BCSTA
 - Ray Watkins Elementary School
 - BCSTA
 - BC Public School Employers' Association
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - November Newsletter
 - BCSTA Update: Interruption of Email Services
 - BCPSEA 28th Annual General Meeting: First Notice and Attachments
 - BCSTA Weekly: Trustee Academy; Farm to School Grants; Student Mental Health Toolkit; BCCPAC News; Outdoor Education Toolkit; Accessibility Survey; Boards at Work – Celebrating Spaces in SD35; Opinion – How to Measure What Matters; Letters; Reminders

2021:R-058 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
“TO receive and file the correspondence.”

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Fehr reported that three labour items were discussed – one being the approval of funding for Christmas staff functions to the amount of \$30/attending employee, and one being a discussion on the COVID vaccine mandate which will be discussed further in this meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

October started off very smoothly at Ray Watkins Elementary School with teachers getting into the routine of collaboration time and working on plans to improve reading fluency and comprehension in their classrooms. The Grade 3/ 4 class and the Grade 5 class went on a trip to Campbell River to visit the Witness Blanket installation and the Sacred Journey display at the Campbell River museum. Some classes purchased pumpkins and had some pumpkin carving and pumpkin seed baking lessons. The whole school took part in a Halloween parade outside with lots of prizes for costumes (some provided by the school and some provided by the PAC). All classes took part in the Great BC Shakeout Earthquake Drill on October 21st. Ms. Victoria Cummings had taken over Strong Start and it was nice to see the parents and young children back in the school. FSA for Grade 4 and Grade 7 had been started. Talks with two different playground companies, Blue Imp and Green Roots Play Equipment, had begun to choose a design for the playground grant. Unfortunately, COVID cases began popping up in the community and towards the end of the month, some students attending RWES were testing positive. Two COVID exposure notices from Island Health were received during the last week of October and, as a result, attendance dropped dramatically over the last couple of weeks. The Principal is currently working on a school plan to put in place if attendance does not improve over the week.

The PAC at Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School is in full swing and making big plans for this school year. Trustee Stiglitz was pleased to report that the CMESS Student Council is active and making good progress with planning and activities which is exciting because there has been no Student Council for several years.

Gold River Secondary School enjoyed an afternoon with Elders from Tsaxana on September 29th. Everyone sat in a circle in the foyer and listened as these courageous survivors shared their stories of surviving residential school. On October 13, 50 students, staff and guests from Mowachaht/Muchalat were able to take the missed trip to Yuquot on the Uchuck. Mr. Ray Williams spent time with them in the church where he shared his residential school experience with the group.

A number of GRSS students competed in cross country running in Port Alberni and Victoria in October and are waiting to see if one of the students qualified for provincials. The month ended with a successful week of Halloween Activities, sponsored and organized by the Student School Spirit Activity.

Remembrance Day will be celebrated on November 10 with a virtual ceremony in the school. Gold River Secondary and the Gold River Restorative Justice are sponsoring Peace Circle training in Gold River on November 12, 13 and 14. Members of other organizations and the community are encouraged to sign up and participate, and should contact the school for more information. Term 1 reports are scheduled to go out on November 18 and an Open House is scheduled for Parent-Teacher meetings on November 24 (early dismissal).

b. Ministry of Education/BCSTA Joint Partner Liaison Meeting

Chairperson Fehr attended this meeting in Vancouver on October 15, 2021, which focussed on equity in education - before- and after-school child care and equity for rural students by addressing challenges and funding issues.

Truth and Reconciliation in BC Public Schools - Jennifer McCrea (Assistant Deputy Minister) and Deborah Jeffery (FNESC)

- Respect and recognition of First Nations people
- A need to have an awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour
- Must be truth first
- Students need to graduate with the full spectrum of skills
- Fix the system; not the kids
- Racism of low expectations
- DRIPA (Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act) action plan

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning - Marnie Mayhew and Lisa McCollough

- Implementation year
- System accountability
- Objectives:
- Formalizing planning
- Strategic Plan required
- Participate in a continuous improvement plan

Equity in Education

- Three districts talked about how they foster equity opportunities

Anti-Racism Action Plan - Jennifer McCrea – Assistant Deputy Minister

Key Elements:

1. Honour Indigenous rights and integrity
2. Build collaborative partnerships
3. Amplify
4. Demonstrate

Apply evidence informed decision-making to create change

c. Working Relations Committee Meeting

The meeting of October 25 addressed the Teacher In Charge job description and a sub-committee will be formed to create a draft document for consideration by both parties. The Committee talked about upcoming teacher and support staff bargaining, as well as a three-year school calendar. It was agreed that a draft calendar would be drafted for circulation, and it will be brought forward to the Board at the December meeting.

d. Enhancement Agreement/Local Education Agreement Meeting

The Committee met on October 25 and spent time working on a budget and how to deal with the reduced targeted funds. The overall revenue has decreased and, because fixed costs are often the same, there is less money available for school-level programs. 'Equity in Action' was discussed and this is a de-

colonizing review of the processes in the District and a meeting with the Ministry's Coordinator, Joe Heslip, will take place on November 9. A group went to work on the Teachers' Guide to the Pathways Program and it is posted on the District's website with a note that any changes to the Pathways sample lessons must be checked with the local representative(s) first. Ten draft lessons which have been approved for use now, are also posted for feedback and will be finalized for approval in time. Work is still underway on the Pathways Guide. The Committee also talked about the two VIU courses, now running for a second year - ILRP 100 and EDUC 450 – and there has been a good turnout with 20 enrolled between the two courses (two classes per month until June). The special hiring program was discussed which would allow the District to discriminate in favour of Indigenous applicants for all positions in the District until such time as the proportion of employees matches the number of non-Indigenous employees. Once the application is complete, it will be shared with all employee groups and communities and their feedback will be included with the application. Co-development of programs is happening in the District with teachers working together with the knowledge keepers to fit the curriculum into the cycle of historical ways of learning and knowing. The District is taking a gradual approach of looking at classroom plans first to make sure teachers know how to do a plan for their whole class, and then working towards individual student plans based on unique needs and strengths. The District is working with the NTC and VIU to get a student teacher program embedded in the schools next year, with the hope that local people, who have a some years of university complete, could enter a program to finish up their degrees and become teachers locally. There are different options being considered, but all with the aim of people spending one to two years doing intensive work in the District to acquire their B.Ed and then hiring them using the special hiring program. There is hope that Ha-huu-pa Camps can take place once again for students – so, all in all, much going on with Indigenous Education which is taking up much of the focus in the District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. COVID Update

Chairperson Fehr reported on the K-12 Sector Guidelines for Vaccination Policies, stating that the District has to complete four separate steps prior to implementing a vaccination policy. Step 1 is to gather data and evidence in alignment with privacy rules. The Board decided to establish a committee to work through this first step – with representation from VIWTU, CUPE, Principals and Vice-Principals, the Board, and the Superintendent.

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that there is COVID in the District's communities and, as a result, there is COVID in the schools. Unfortunately, people are seeing Island Health bulletins that indicate there are exposures at Ray Watkins and Gold River Secondary and therefore assume that the schools are hot beds of COVID, which is not the case. Science proves that schools are low sites of transmission and communities are where students are moving around without masks on, spending time with people who are unvaccinated, or with each other with their heads close together – and that is when transmission is high. Schools are safer places for students, than out in the communities. In schools, masks are being worn, distancing is happening and COVID protocols are being followed. It is hoped that parents are receiving this messaging and making decisions to send their children to school. Sending homework home can only go on for so long but if parents are sure that their children should not be in school, then they will have to be registered in a distance learning (home-schooled) program to be sure that they are getting a proper education.

b. Community Consultations

Both community consultation meetings were held by zoom and were very efficient. Approximately twenty people attended between both meetings, and good discussions were held around COVID and safety, enrollment, budget and funding protection, on-going projects to support student learning, and the Framework to Enhance Student Learning. Feedback was positive and people seemed to be fine with the work underway in the District.

Community consultation meetings will be held again in February, with dates/times to be announced.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **BC Public School Employers' Association Trustee Representative for SD84**

Trustee Stiglitz reported that she will be in conflict of interest concerning some of the upcoming work as BCPSEA Trustee Representative, and Chairperson Fehr will fill in as Alternate.

b. **Major Capital Plan Submission for 2022-2023**

This was presented a few months ago with a bylaw, and only a motion is required.

2021:R:059 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO accept the Major Capital Submission for 2022-2023, as presented."

c. **Minor Capital Plan Submission for 2022-2023**

2021:R-060 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO accept the Minor Capital Submission for 2022-2023, as presented."

d. **Framework for Peer Review Process**

To support school boards' work with implementing the Framework, the Ministry's 2021-2022 Framework Peer Review Process will occur on November 23-25. This session will be the culmination of a collaborative process initiated in August and including representation from across the K-12 sector. Districts have been given the choice of two options: (1) A Peer Review Team comprised of sector volunteers from FNEESC, BCSTA, BCSSA, BCPVPA, BCASBO, and Ministry staff will review District Enhancing Student Learning Reports using co-constructed quality indicators for continuous improvement and effective strategic planning. Areas of strength, future considerations, and emerging questions will be provided to each district as formative feedback in December 2021; or, (2) Select district will have an opportunity to actively participate in, and contribute to, this year's Framework Review Process through a self-assessment process. Approximately 15 school district teams will be selected to complete a self-assessment of their district's strategic planning and discuss directly with a peer review team their insights as well as feedback generated by the peer review team in the November peer review process. Preference will be given to those school districts nearing the end of their strategic planning cycle if required.

The Board agreed to participate in Option 2, and the Superintendent will inform the Ministry by the November 15 deadline.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. **District Update**

Although there are still some unfilled postings, overall the District is very well staffed and there are First Call Teachers Teaching On Call in place to fill in when teachers are absent. The District is currently in funding protection which means that the Ministry guarantees 98.5% of the previous year's budget at a minimum. This is impacting schools' budgets, particularly the targeted funds, because their enrollments have dropped as well. As a result, some of the funding supports will be put into school budgets to provide a buffer despite the per-pupil allocation being down. The District is experiencing difficult times with COVID and having serious attendance issues. Apart from that, there is fantastic work happening and the work that Heather Goodall and Dana Plett are doing and being supported by all of the Principals around reading and writing, and learning for the adults in the schools, will make a huge difference for students.

b. **Enrollment Report**

The District enrollment is holding steady at 301 students which includes international and continuing education students.

c. **Finance Warrants**

Ms. Natalie Lowe reported that funding protection is a wonderful thing for a district in times like this when student population shrinks suddenly and districts cannot always pivot as quickly as they might have to otherwise. The report included in the agenda package is a comparison to October of last year, the reason being that there have been so many changes happening that the budget could not be uploaded until the targeted funding for Indigenous Education was confirmed. In general, basic budgets are ready to be uploaded into the system which will happen shortly. The District is up a little more than 3% in spending over last year, but with COVID being dealt with in a better, way, there is more activity happening now. The District is in a good financial state and, as a result, programs have been enhanced to ensure that improvement happens in terms of literacy and numeracy. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer is ensuring that the District gets its fair share of the Classroom Enhancement Funding (CEF), which is not represented in this operating funding model but will be received once the District shows how it will be spent on appropriate staff in the classrooms.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Nil.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 13, 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 5:07 pm:

2021:R-061 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."