



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022,
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE IN GOLD RIVER, BC**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Arlaine Fehr, Chairperson (Gold River)
Allison Stiglitz (Tahsis)
Debbie Mann (Gold River)

TRUSTEE ABSENT: Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot)

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2022:R-052 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2022:R-053 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 13, 2022."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. Honouring Mrs. Helen McInnes, Retired Teacher, Ray Watkins Elementary School

On behalf of the Board and the District, Chairperson Fehr wished Mrs. McInnes all the very best that retirement can bring. Mrs. McInnes has truly been a dedicated teacher and colleague over the years, and has been and continues to be appreciated. In accordance with District Policy, Mrs. McInnes will receive a token of recognition and appreciation for her valuable work with students, staff and parents of the District over the past 35 years. As per her request, Mrs. McInnes' retirement gift in the form of a donation to the Canadian Red Cross in support of Ukraine has been made on her behalf, and her name will be added to the Plaque of Honour at Ray Watkins Elementary School.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- BC School Trustees Association
- BC School Trustees Association
- BCSTA
- Board, SD83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)
- Ray Watkins Elementary
- Chair, SD61 (Greater Victoria)
- BCSTA
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Child Care re Access to Education for All Students
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Child Care re Gender Inclusive Washrooms
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Child Care and Minister of Finance re Budget Concerns
- Upcoming Events Newsletter
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re 2022-2023 Annual Budget
- BCSTA Weekly: BC Trustees Video, News and Resources for Boards

- BCSTA
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- BCSTA
- Chair, SD72
(Campbell River)
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD68
(Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Anya Banas
- BCSTA
- Chair, BC Teachers'
Council
- Minister of Municipal
Affairs
- BCSTA
- Minister of Education and
Child Care
- Minister of Education and
Child Care
- BCSTA
- Assistant Deputy Minister
of Education and
Child Care
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Ray Watkins School
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Finance and Minister of Education and Child Care re Capital Cost Sharing
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Child Care re Capital Funding Announcements
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Child Care re Annual Report on Deferred Maintenance
- BCSTA Weekly: Local Election Resources and News for Boards
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Problems that Salary Freeze for Senior Management is Posing
- BCSTA Weekly: A Message from Our President; BCSTA's 2023 Budget Submission
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Child Care re Funding Concerns
- Copy of Letters of Thanks to President and Past-President of BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, and Trustee (Limestone District) for Their Service
- Copy of Letter to President, Canadian School Boards Association, re New Appointment as CSBA President
- Thank You to Board of Education for Scholarships
- Copy of Letter to Keith Godin, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Expressing Appreciation for His Work as He Moved to New Role
- Important Updates re Approval of Revised Certification Standards – Phase 2: Familiarization and Language Proficiency Sections
- Copy of Letter to All Polices Services in BC re 2022 General Local Elections
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to President, BCSTA re BCSTA Capital Working Group's Report
- Copy of Letter to All Board Chairs re the Student and Family Affordability Fund
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to President, BCSTA, re Inflationary Pressures in the K-12 Sector
- BCSTA Weekly: Academy News, Staffing Updates and Resources to Start the School Year
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Legal Bulletin: Election Expense Limits, Guides, Rule Changes and Nominators
- BCSTA Weekly: Important Back-To-School Dates!
- September Newsletter

2022:R-054 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
 “TO receive and file the correspondence.”

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Fehr reported that two labour issues were discussed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. **School Reports**

Nil

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **District Scholarship Recipients for 2021-2022**

Congratulations to the following recipients:

- **Citizenship and Service Award** – Riley Last, GRSS
- **Future Education Workers Award** – Cameron Stirling, GRSS
- **Raj Jaswal Award** – Cameron Stirling, GRSS
- **Vocational and Technical Award** – Anya Banas and Hayden Beer (GRSS)
- **District/Authority Scholarship** – Anya Banas (GRSS), Hayden Beer (GRSS)

b. **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer presented the 'Framework for Enhancing Student Learning' report and acknowledge Mr. Stephen Larre for the work that he has done to bring together an incredible amount of information into 10 pages. School District 84 is in Year Two of its five-year strategic plan and is seeing a real shift now in terms of early literacy. As there has been much attention and work put into early literacy, it is heartening to see the upward trend. Two notables: Many SD84 students are at the Provincial level with multiple choice questions, but do not do as well when having to write – and strategies will be put in place to address this. The District Assessment Framework is now in place and every student has a reading benchmark score.

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer recommended approval of the report, which will be forwarded to the Ministry.

2022:R-055 **MOVED:** Trustee Mann, **SECONDED:** Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report, as presented."

c. **Local Teacher Education Program**

The Program is now underway, beginning with a two-week land program in August facilitated by Lelaina Jules and her husband, Alex. The District looks forward to having these students graduate in December 2023, and to move on to become teachers in their own local SD84 communities.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Management Discussion and Analysis and Audited Financial Statements**

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer presented the Management Discussion and Analysis document, which is a fairly new Ministry requirement to break down the Audited Financial Statements into a more readable format. She acknowledged that the District is in good financial shape with another fairly significant operating surplus. The Ministry is aware of the plans in place to make good use of those funds, including \$1.5 million transferred to local capital for projects that will enhance the schools for the students, and upgrade and/or replace teacherages. Over \$1.3 million has been spent this year on capital additions through Ministry funds and, overall, a great job has been done in generating funds as well as spending them.

The District continues to receive Classroom Enhancement funding which pays for some of the teaching staff, leaving more available in operating. Recruitment of teaching and support staff continues to be challenging for SD84, and the District has moved to new ways to attract instructional staff. The International Program continues to do well for itself and provides additional supports to the system.

The Ministry's push is to marry the Strategic Plan and the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning to the Audited Financial Statements. The Ministry will be asking for a three-year financial plan to show that the funds coming in are being spent according to the priorities of the District, which hopefully will result in improved achievement for students. The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer stressed the importance of continuing to recruit qualified staff. The District has seen a rebound in its International Program and is focussed on strong relationships with its First Nations communities which bodes well for success in terms

of bringing further equity into the system. She assured the Board that it has an exceptional team in the District, and a special thank you to Ellena and Lynne in the School Board Office for their assistance during the audit process.

2022:R-056 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
 "TO accept the Audited Financial Statements for 2021-2022, as presented."

b. Election Cost Sharing Agreement

2022:R-057 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
 "TO approve the Election Cost Sharing Agreement between Strathcona Regional District and School District 84, as presented."

c. Thank You to Custodial and Maintenance Staff

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer expressed a big 'thank you' to the District's Custodial and Maintenance staff who really went above and beyond this summer with so many projects on the go! Thank you for your commitment to the students!

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. District Update

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that, although there are more students in the schools which is a good thing, the District is still struggling to hire teachers and support staff. There are not enough skilled or unskilled labourers in the Province and it is no different in education. The more remote the location, the harder it becomes and there are still schools in the Province that are not yet open because of staff shortages.

b. Enrollment Report

The enrollment report is a bit misleading as it includes 10 international students at Gold River Secondary School who do not count in the 1701 funding report to the Ministry. There are also homeschoolers included in the report; however, the District is currently at 310 students which is up from the projection. Ray Watkins Elementary is up to 130 students with a fairly large Kindergarten class. Zeballos School has seen growth in Kindergarten, and Captain Meares Schools is up to 29 students. These numbers will ebb and flow, with a trend to grow towards November and then ebb back down again. Although the increase is not enough to bring the District out of funding protection, it is nice to have more students in the schools!

c. Literacy

Mrs. Heather Goodall is back and working with her team around literacy initiatives in the District, and Ms. Joni Johnson is working on the home-based reading program. Mr. Deane Johnson is taking a lead hand around numeracy and training staff to use the SNAP – both an exercise and an assessment that students can use right through the elementary levels. There are many really promising structures and supports in place and the hope is that enough adults can be retained to make this all happen.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Nil.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

Nil

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2022, at 4 pm, at Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School in Tahsis. The public is invited to attend. 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 4:47 pm:

2022:R-058 MOVED: Trustee Mann, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."