



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023,
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, GOLD RIVER, BC**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Arlaine Fehr, Chairperson (Gold River)
Katie Unger (Gold River)
Allison Stiglitz (Tahsis) (Zoom)
Cyndy Rodgers (Zeballos)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
Annie McDowell, Associate Director of Human Resources
One Member of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm, acknowledged and gave thanks that the meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Mowachah/Muchalaht First Nation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2023:R-029 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2023:R-030 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 12, 2023."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. Canada Wide Science Fair – Miss Heather Kornylo, Gold River Secondary School

Miss Kornylo presented her project, Auto-Pend Lab, which helps students understand and explore harmonic motion. She placed first at the Northern Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair and was awarded the Julia Lane Scholarship as well as entry into the Canada Wide Science Fair in Edmonton, Alberta. This event showcased the best 340 projects from across Canada and was held at the Edmonton Convention Centre between May 14 and May 19 of 2023. Heather was awarded a gold medal for her innovation and the challenge award for the best project in the Senior Curiosity and Ingenuity category. For perspective, those two awards would easily rank Auto-Pend Lab among the top 20 projects in Canada. Congratulations Heather!

CORRESPONDENCE:

- BC School Trustees Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Copy of Letter to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, re BCSTA Presentation Questions
- BCSTA Weekly: SOGI Myth Busting; Dates for Boards; Teacher Education Review Framework; Social Determinants of Mental Health Webinar; Climate Emergency Support Overview; Mental Health Tool; Anti-Vaping Resources; Reminders

- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD70 (Pacific Rim)
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chairperson Fehr, SD84
- BCSTA
- BC Public School Employers' Association
- Ray Watkins Elementary School
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Weekly: Save the Date – Trustee Academy 2023; Dates for Boards; IPE BC 2024 Budget Submission; ChildCareBC Bulletin; Indigenous Energy Education Resources; K-12 Student Reporting; Demographic Survey; Learning Pathways; Boards at Work; Letters; Reminders
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education and Child Care re Request to Increase Program Funding for StrongStart Programs
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Weekly: President's Message; Climate Change Report; School Mental Health Survey' We're Hiring; Save the Dates; BCTF French Coalition; Publication Hiatus; Letters; Reminders
- VISTA Summer News
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Weekly: President's Message; New Learning Guide; Register for BCSTA's Virtual Orientations; HUB to Portal Transition; PC Motion Deadline; Advocacy Day; CSBA and National Updates; ChildCareBC Bulletin; Overdoes Awareness Day and More; Report on the Budget 2024 Consultation; Indigenous School Food; First Nation Communities READ Bundles; ASBA – UofC Trustee Governance Program; Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education; Canada's 2023 Voluntary National Review; Mental Health Research Canada's Impact Report; SIECCAN Issue Brief; National School Boards Association CUBE 2023; Copyright Exceptions are Essential; Teacher Shortages; Letters, AGM Motion Letters; Reminders
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Announcing District and School Leadership Appointments in School District 84!
- BCSTA Weekly: Advocacy Day; Save the Dates; Motion Guide and PC Deadline; Bylaw Review Committee Update; New BCSTA Staff; Key Dates for Boards; #OSD10for10 Campaign; Systemic Racism Survey; Wildfire Supports; Every Drop Counts; OPINIONI – BC's Proficiency Scale; Reminders
- Proposed WorkSafeBC Policy Amendments for Mental Disorder and Chronic Pain
- September Newsletter

2023:R-031 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Rodgers
AND RESOLVED:
"TO receive and file the correspondence."

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Fehr reported that the Board discussed one land and two labour issues.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. **School Reports**

Trustee Rodgers reported that the staff and students are happy to be back to school and working together to build strong relationships. The hot lunch program will be providing meals every day, and Trustee Rodgers has volunteered to help with the school newsletter and looks forward to teaching dance fitness for the community in October. The enrollment is slightly up from June, and it has been a good start-up to the school year!

Trustee Stiglitz reported that Captain Meares has an abundance of teachers this year and is gearing up for an excellent year! There are some new families in Tahsis with school-aged children, and so nice to welcome new students to the school. There was a well-attended pancake breakfast on the first day of school, and the two additional hours/day for the Administrative Assistant is appreciated by all.

Chairperson Fehr reported that Gold River Secondary School is off to a good start, with 11 international students in attendance.

b. Strathcona Accessibility Partner Meeting

School District 84 is one of the partners included in the Strathcona Regional District Accessibility Committee. Trustee Rodgers will represent the District at the advisory committee, and the Director of Instruction (Human Resources) will attend the accessibility partners' meetings and will gather the information from SD84 which will be included in the accessibility plan. The draft accessibility plan will be presented to the partners to review and, once completed, will be presented to the advisory committee for feedback and approval. Trustee Rodgers' governance role on the advisory committee is to ensure that the District's needs are being met in this process.

c. District Policy Review Committee Meeting

The Committee reviewed the Ministry's criteria for school trustee codes of conduct and District staff will work on a draft document to bring forward to the meeting in October.

As Policies and Administrative Procedures are updated with new staff titles, they will be posted on the website.

d. District Earthquake Committee Meeting

The Committee met on September 11, 2023 and reviewed the schools' Emergency Preparedness Plans for 2023-2024, which will be posted on the District's website and sent out to parents by the end of September. The Committee also set the emergency preparedness budget for the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

Mr. Stephen Larre presented the Enhancing Student Learning Report that outlines the Board's efforts to improve achievement in a continuous way. The Report requires annual approval by the Board and is publicly posted by September 30 each year.

The important take-aways from this report shows that the Board's investment and focus on literacy and early learning is paying off. The achievement results over the last five years have been steadily increasing including graduation rates with 61% graduating in five years and another 15% over six years. Although numeracy rates are quite good for Grade 4 students, the results drop significantly by Grade 7, which warrants further inquiry into what is happening for students between primary grades and intermediate. Last thing, the student learning survey results are declining, which will require more information on what is happening with students, school by school. In response to this, new strategies for this year include additional counselling in terms of students' sense of connection and safety, Pathways interviews with individual students, and switching to competency-based IEPs for students with diverse abilities.

Trustee Rodgers asked when parents and students will be included in the collaborative learning sessions. Mr. Larre explained that the collaborative learning teams are a specific strategy to build teachers' understanding and pedagogical knowledge; i.e. 'teachers learning with teachers about teaching'. Parents are included in activities at the District level such as community consultation meetings and equity scans and, at the school level, through outreach efforts by the staff as parent engagement with teachers is critical.

Although there are no plans to include parents in the collaborative learning teams, the teachers will be applying their skills at a future date and as teachers become comfortable.

2023:R-032 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:

“TO approve the Enhancement for Student Learning Report, as presented.”

OPPOSED: Trustee Rodgers

Trustee Rodgers stated that she was uncomfortable with the lack of parent and student involvement in the collaborative learning teams.

b. District Scholarship Recipients for 2022-20223

The Board expressed its pleasure to recognize the following students in the School District willing to dedicate their time and abilities to the pursuit of excellence:

- Citizenship and Service – Brody Eldridge, CMESS; Kyle Smith, ZESS; Megan Lloyd, KESS; Zander Corfield-Jack, GRSS
- Future Education Workers – Alexa James-Thomas, GRSS
- Raj Jaswal – Braelene Leo, KESS; Emmalee Gartner Sereda, GRSS
- Vocational and Technical – Daylin George, KESS; Danica Mack, KESS; Summer Sutherland, KESS; Carson Chisholm, GRSS; Brody Hemsworth, GRSS; Jesse McRae, GRSS; Tessa Ward, GRSS
- District/Authority – Braelene Leo, KESS; Damon McCool, GRSS
- Judith Anderson Memorial – Emmalee Gartner Sereda, GRSS

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Thank You to Maintenance and Custodial Staff

It has been a very busy summer for the maintenance and custodial staff, as there were many projects underway including the upgrade of Kyuquot School including the gym addition. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer expressed appreciation for the work completed by the staff, to ensure that the schools were ready for the new school year.

b. School Calendar Amendments

The calendar requires two amendments: one to reflect Monday, October 2 as the statutory holiday in lieu of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Saturday, September 30; and the other to change the Curriculum Implementation Day from September 22, 2023 to May 3, 2024.

2023-033 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:

“TO amend the School Calendar for 2023-2024, as presented.”

c. Audited Financial Statements

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer presented the Audited Financial Statements, noting that it was a clean audit with everything completed properly. He expressed appreciation to the staff – Natalie Lowe, Ellena Gjesdal and Lynne Unger – who spent much time organizing and preparing for the auditors, and to the auditors themselves who have been working for years with the Board. The good news is that there is a surplus and, with Board approval of the Statements, will include the movement of \$1.5 million from local to operating capital for larger capital projects not funded by the Ministry; e.g. the Kyuquot School gym, replacing aging teacherages and District vehicles, a boat in Kyuquot, and other things of that nature.

2023:R-034 MOVED: Trustee Rodgers, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
“TO accept the Audited Financial Statements for 2022-2023, as presented.”

2023:R-035 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
“TO move \$1.5 million from the operating fund to the local capital fund.”

d. **Management Discussion and Analysis**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer presented the report, which was included in the agenda package. The District is doing well, with enough funds available to move to local capital to meet those needs as already reported.

2023:R-036 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
“TO accept the Management Discussion and Analysis Report, to be published on the District’s website.”

e. **Amendment to AP 530, Travel, Meals and Other Expenses**

Administrative Procedure 530, *Travel, Meals and Other Expenses*, has been adjusted to the amounts reflected in the new Collective Agreement, and has been posted on the District’s website.

f. **Amendment to AP 240, Indigenous Education Committee**

This Committee used to be the “First Nations Education Liaison Committee”, now renamed to align with committees throughout the Province.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER’S REPORT:

a. **Welcome to the New School Year!**

This is gearing up to be an exciting school year! The International Program is up and running, with 11 students at Gold River Secondary School. The Nootka Sound Outdoor Program has already taken students on a field trip, with at least three more trips in the near future. GRSS is taking a large group of students to Bella Bella to perform their singing, dancing and drumming – and thanks to Jeff Rockwell, Marsha Maquinna, Joni Johnson, and the large number of people who have worked hard to get this organized. The District welcomes back so many of our teachers who are returning, and this stability really helps the students. A special welcome to Ryan Brennan, Director of Instruction (Human Resources), and to the new ZESS Vice-Principal, Timothy Romyn. Mr. Ben Anderson has stayed on as Vice-Principal for Captain Meares School, and a big welcome to the new teachers at CMES – Jeremy Payne, Chrystal Payne, Janice Potter, and Kyla Huckerby – and to Jerrod Kraul and Rane Love at Kyuquot School. District staff have been to each of the schools to connect with staff, and there will be an orientation for new teachers in conjunction with the VIWTU as soon as possible.

There are exciting things happening in the District in terms of reconciliation: the teacher education program is well underway and finishing up in December for many; the equity scan work with communities is continuing; local support staff training towards Education Assistant and Social Development Worker certifications is underway with five people from Kyuquot School already accepted into the NIC program; plus, there is work underway to return the District’s land to the Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h’ Nation with a signing date hopefully known by next Board meeting. The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report also includes much information on what is going on for students.

b. **Enrollment Report**

The enrollment decreased slightly to 346 students including homeschoolers, continuing education and international students – but still up by 20 students from the projected enrollment.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Trustee Rodgers asked what to do with the feedback she has received from parents regarding accessibility problems in the District, and this will become known once the SRD Accessibility Committee completes its plan.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

None.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 10, 2023, 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 lcharlton@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 5:15 pm:

2023:R-037 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."