



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023,
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, GOLD RIVER, BC**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer
Ryan Brennan, Director of Instruction (Human Resources)
Stephen Larre, Director of Instruction (Student Learning)
Annie McDowell, Associate Director of Human Resources
Philip Parkes, Principal (Outdoor and International Education)
Luke Charlton, Executive Assistant
23 Students from Gold River Secondary School

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, acknowledged and gave thanks that the meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2023:R-046 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2023:R-047 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of October 10, 2023."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. Philip Parkes, Principal, Outdoor and International Education

Principal Parkes introduced the local and international students present at the Board meeting and provided an overview of the International Student Program at Gold River Secondary School.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council	Local Education Agreement
Pacific Rim School District	Residential School Survivor Flag
Ray Watkins Elementary School	Monthly Newsletter
British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)	Daily Headlines (October 20, 2023)
BCSTA	Daily Headlines (October 30, 2023)

BCSTA	Daily Headlines (November 1, 2023)
BCSTA	Weekly Headlines (November 2, 2023)
BCSTA	Daily Headlines (November 2, 2023)
BCSTA	Daily Headlines (November 3, 2023)
BCSTA	Daily Headlines (November 6, 2023)

2023:R-048 MOVED: Trustee Hanson, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
 AND RESOLVED:
 "TO receive and file the correspondence."

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff noted that he has been engaging with staff at the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council and they are in the process of working out the details for a new agreement. The Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council has agreed to continue paying their normal fees to the School District throughout this process even though there isn't a signed agreement in place.

The Board also directed staff to provide a thank you letter to the Pacific Rim School District in response to them sending Residential School Survivor flags to our School District. The flags will also be turned over to the Operations Department and mounted at each school.

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Fehr reported that the Board discussed one land, one legal, and one labour. The land item was the Kyuquot land transfer which has been announced and will be finalized early 2024. The labour item was to approve the spending of \$50.00 per employee in attendance at Christmas staff functions.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

CMESS

The School held a Remembrance Day ceremony and a volleyball tournament.

GRSS

New Reporting Order

Student Self-Assessment information for Term 1 coming home end of next week (in addition to ministry info packages sent out in September).

Updated Reporting Dates:

November 22 to 29 - Term 1 Catch Up Days

November 29 – Term 1 Cut Off

December 8 – Term 1 Reports Out

At Risk Grads

Youth and Childcare Worker/Nuuchahnulth Education Worker will be connecting with families starting next week

Enrollment: 95 (including 13 International students)

Staffing:

EA position filled – starting March 2, 2024 (temp posting out until then)

Vacant 1.0 FTE – Interviewing an applicant on Nov 8

Ongoing coverage challenges

Programs:

Languages (Rosetta Stone) – multiple languages being studied by 25 students using the education platform
ASL (Lingvano) – one student studying ASL using Lingvano

Proposed Parent/Family Dinner with PAC:

Early Dismissal - Afternoon check in times for families who cannot attend the dinner
Core Competencies / Student Self Assessments
Grad Program (grades 10 -12)
Date TBD

Upcoming:

November 6 – 8 (2pm +) – Addictions workshops hosted by MMFN at HOU (Tsaxana)
November 17 - Pro-D Day
November 9 - Proposed dinner
November 10 - Remembrance Day Ceremony
November 13 - Holiday Day in Lieu November 11

RWES

New teacher, Kelly Isbister, has been hired and is a great addition to the team. Ms. Toth attended the Compassionate Systems Leadership four-day workshop at the beginning of October. Ms. Toth, Ms. Collins, and Chantelle Knighton are now working with a youth leader on a project with our Student Council on inter-generational racism or how climate change has affected the community. Four of our younger classes went on a field trip to enjoy the harvest festival at Coastal Black. The students all had a great time. We held our first monthly assembly, and all the classes did a great job making a short presentation (poem, song, etc.) with the rest of the school. Everyone is looking forward to the next assembly. The Open House on October 12th had a decent parent turn out, but we are still trying to brainstorm ways to get parents into the building for these events. The Student Council held a Halloween parade followed by a dance to celebrate the festive occasion.

ZESS

Students and Staffing

ZESS currently has 45 students. Mr. Christall is teaching the K-2 class with 15 students (4 Kindergarten), Mr. Vanden Ham continues on in the Intermediate 3-6 class with 15 students. Mr. Rolle teaches the high school, science, junior social studies and electives. Our Vice Principal, Tim Romyn teaches the high school language arts, senior social studies, PHE and electives.

Mr. Gledhill continues on as LART and Ms. Tootill is our First Call TTOC.

Most of the CUPE positions remain the same: Ms. Manalad as Admin Assistant. Mr. Hlagy as our Bus Driver and Custodian 1. Ms. Miller and Ms. Hansen are both Special Needs Education Assistants. Ms. Callow is our one new staff member for the year as Youth and Childcare Worker, Ms. Annie John is custodian 3, and Ms. Sheila John is the Nu-chah-nulth Education Worker. Mr. Vince Smith is our elder in residence.

We have added to the Social/Emotional support in the school. This was the most asked for addition to ZESS by the community last year. Mr. Anderson, District VP and now certified counsellor has been working at ZESS every other week. Ms. Natalie Goodall, who is working towards, and will be soon as certified counsellor, has been contracted to work at ZESS, also every other week for student support. So, Ben and Natalie form a powerful team, one being here all the time.

Ms. Heather Goodall has been joining the ZESS team every other week for Literacy Support and Core Competency planning and assessment support.

In addition to this, the District has added to the NTC contract for an Occupational Therapist, to visit ZESS at least monthly.

Also, we are fortunate to have two student teachers! Celena Charleston and Nich Vander Mullen have been doing their practicums in the primary and intermediate classes.

On-Going Programs

Every morning there is a breakfast program. Many students access the morning offerings including cereals, fruit, pancakes, home make toast, French toast, waffles and eggs.

We have continued with our morning exercise and meeting. This runs for about 15 minutes at the start of each school day. Students and staff do a variety of physical activities including calisthenics, dance, yoga, stretching, and then circle up for a quick lesson or activity on Social Emotional Learning, and/or the goal of the week. The goal of this is to use a brief physical activity to get students ready for learning and then introduce SEL topics or weekly school goals based on the core competencies to the students.

This year, we have started a daily hot lunch program. In partnership with Nuchatlaht and Ehatis, two hot lunch cooks were hired through the Nations. Using the Feeding the Futures money, ZESS is providing the food.

We have a weekly school cultural practice attended by community members to help provide signing and dance instruction.

School Operation Improvements

The outside lighting installation is now complete with replacement of two new LED light poles in the parking lot.

ZESS has also now has a full generator powerful enough to run the school (and likely surrounding North Island). So, no more pesky power-outage days!

Our sensory room is being used with more additions to come. Mr. Vince Smith, our Elder-in-residence and artist who carved the panels in front of the school, has agreed to paint artwork for the sensory room.

October Events

Canoeing with the Nootka Sound Education Program – it was a great day on the water.

Joint Field Trip with KESS – ZESS junior high students joined KESS students of a field trip to the Cumberland Waste Management centre. This was a culminating activity after waste audits that both schools participated in last year.

Parent Teacher Meetings with Pizza – a well-attended evening

Tahsis Volleyball Tournament – We didn't win any games, but students had fun!

Upcoming Events

Nov 8/9 - Reclaiming Sacred Belongings after fire or flood - Workshop for High school students

Nov 10 - Remembrance Day Assembly

Nov 30 - Celebrate Us Assembly

b. **Indigenous Education Committee Meeting**

Trustee Stiglitz noted that it was a good meeting. Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff provided an overview of this item. There were some budget discussions that took place, and it was discussed that there would be less targeted funding and more unrestricted funding. They also discussed equity in action, the next agreement, along with the pilot program for education assistants. November 27 will be the next meeting in person.

c. **Vancouver Island School Trustee Association (VISTA) 2023**

Chairperson Fehr highlighted some aspects of the business meeting.

d. **Advocacy Day**

Chairperson Fehr provided an overview of her time at the advocacy day and noted that some key ministers she was hoping to connect with were not present.

e. **BCSTA Provincial Council**

Chairperson Fehr provided an overview of her time at this meeting. She highlighted the new reporting and classroom statistics available at studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Nil.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **SOFI Report**

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff noted that the Board could ignore this item as there were some errors found. The SOFI report will be resubmitted for the next agenda.

b. **Policy 4: Trustee Code of Ethics**

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff provided an overview of this policy and highlighted the feedback submitted from employees. In response he agreed that the policy was indeed vague, but that it contains the recommended language given by the Province.

2023:R-049 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"THAT the Board adopt Policy 4: Trustee Code of Ethics."

c. **Strategic Plan**

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff provided an overview of the plan to create a new strategic plan. The Board agreed with the plan, and it will be carried out as presented.

d. **Motion to Close Board Office**

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff noted that the Board typically approves the closure of the Board Office to the public during the Christmas break period.

2023:R-050 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"THAT the Board approves the closure of the School Board Office to the public from
December 18 to 29, 2023."

e. Motion to Purchase Textbooks

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff noted that the textbooks are available online for VIU students. Trustee Rodgers noted that they have had to buy their own textbooks. Refunds are available to those available, but it would be easier if it was already available for students. The Board resolved to ensure that there would be a copy of each textbook in all our schools to loan out to staff.

2023:R-051 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"THAT the Board approves the purchase of copies of Potlatch as Pedagogy and
Indigenous Pedagogies to ensure there is a copy available in each school."

f. Invitation to MLA to visit School District 84

Chairperson Fehr noted that she talked to MLA Babchuk in person and that she is interested in coming to visit SD84. The Board noted that they would like to send a formal invitation with dates for her to attend. Dates will include upcoming Board meeting days as well as the upcoming cultural event and the GRSS graduation ceremony. It was also noted that a Board meeting day would be preferred so that the Board could sit down and chat with her.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. District Update

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff noted that things are going well for the School District and highlighted the Kyuquot land ceremony and all the school improvements happening at KESS.

b. Finance Warrants

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff provided an overview of this item and noted that the School District is right on track for the budget.

c. Enrollment Report

Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer Tarasoff provided an overview of this item.

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 11, 2023, at 4:00pm, at the School Board Office in Gold River. 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 sd84.bc.ca/about-sd84/board-meetings/.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:34 pm:

2023:R-052 **MOVED:** Trustee Unger, **SECONDED:** Trustee Hansen
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."