



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 13, 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) (Zoom)
- TRUSTEE ABSENT:** Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot) (Zoom)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
Annie McDowell, Associate Director of Human Resources

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm and acknowledged and gave thanks that we work, play and live on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples, specifically the Ehattesaht, Ka:'yu:'k't'h/Che:k'tles7et'h', Mowachah/Muchalait, and Nuchatlait Nations. We honour our relationship with these Nations and with all other First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples who reside in the territories we serve.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2023:R-014 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2023:R-015 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2023."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. **Actions for Learning Report** – Connie Chan, Gold River Secondary School

Ms. Chan presented on last year's Actions for Learning project which focussed on allowing students an opportunity to share out, through a personal medium of choice, a hardship that they overcame. Ms. Chan's presentation is attached and forms part of these minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Minister of Education and Child Care
- Minister of Education and Child Care
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Copy of Letter to the President, BC School Trustees Association, re Inflationary Pressures in the K-12 Sector and Funding for Negotiated Settlement Costs
- Copy of Letter to President, BCSTA, re Ministry's Goals and Commitments
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Weekly: AGM 2023, DM's Bulletin Update; Anti-Racism Resource; Mental Health Improvements; Can AI Help Challenge Students; Letters; Reminders

- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Zeballos School
- Chair, SD 5
(Southeast Kootenay)
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Minister of State for
Child Care
- Vancouver Island School
Trustees' Association
- Ray Watkins Elementary
School
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Update: Preparing for Provincial Council
- ZESS Newsletter
- Copies of Letters to Minister of Education and Child Care re Gender-
Neutral Washrooms and Universal Food Program
- BCSTA Weekly: AGM Nomination Kit; Candidate Questions;
We're Hiring; Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards; School
Boards Study; Translated Mental Health Resources; ChildCareBC
Bulletin; SOGI Guide Survey; CSBA National Gathering; Death to
Homework; Reminders
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- BCSTA Update: Media Release – Provincial Budget Doesn't Address
the Needs of K-12 Students
- Copy of Letter to BCSTA President re New Role to Implement
ChildCareBC's Ten-Year Plan
- Revised Agenda for Spring VISTA Branch Meeting – March 3-4
- March Newsletter

2023:R-016 **MOVED:** Trustee Unger, **SECONDED:** Trustee Stiglitz
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 at the February meeting, and one legal and labour issue at the March meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. School Reports

Trustee Rodgers reported that everything at Zeballos School seems to be going well. The students have been doing quite a bit of travelling, which has been really enjoyed by all. She applauded the staff at ZESS for the incredible job that they are doing, and noted that they were all invited out to Oclucje for an appreciation dinner and were presented with beautiful hoodies. The Indigenous people's nature of sharing is very much appreciated.

Trustee Stiglitz reported that the Captain Meares students were very excited to attend the District Basketball Jamboree last week and represented their school very well. The Breakfast Program is going strong, and lunch is prepared every Wednesday by the highschool students. There have been frequent visits from the speech therapist, physiotherapist and others, and the Early Learning Principal, Heather Goodall, has been setting up play learning stations for the students. One student was doing work experience last month with the Coast Guard, with a chance that this exciting adventure might continue into the future. The CMESS Grad is set for June 24.

Trustee Unger reported that the Friday fun sessions at Ray Watkins Elementary School have been a hit, with students enjoying activities such as ice skating, escape room and sign language. Mr. Cooper has taken students out snowshoeing as part of the Outdoor Program. A guest instructor from Science World taught the Grades 2-7 students about coding and using robots. Mrs. Goodall offered a night session for parents on the joys of reading, and it has been nice to see the dorms being used by other schools so that they can attend events. The PAC hosted a really nice Spring Fling on the March 9, which was enjoyed by all.

On behalf of Trustee Hanson, Kyuquot School provided a report to highlight the following Winter activities:

- Intermediate Clam Digging with KCFN Witwaak
- Story Work Workshops
- Hands-on Learning and Creating in Life Sciences 11
- Gift Creation for Upcoming Feasts
- Buddy Reading in Primary Classes
- KCFN Winter Leadership Trip to Mt. Washington
- "Strength and Pain" Music Video Launch
- Secondary Girls to Victoria for Basketball
- Gold River Jamboree Participation
- Secondary Completed ICBC Learner's Licensing and Pleasure Craft Boating Licences
- Launched At-Home Reading Program
- RCMP Water Safety Training

Upcoming events include the Spring Island camp and learn with Pearson College, and university tours with KCFN.

Chairperson Fehr attended the Science Fair at Gold River Secondary School on March 2 and Mrs. Kornlyo had many activities underway in the afternoon and many people booked to present. The Regional Science Fair is on March 15 in Port McNeil and approximately six students from the District will be attending. Chairperson Fehr also attended the Basketball Jamboree and reported that all of the students were having a great time and displaying good sportsmanship. GRSS has had one more international student recently arrive, and Chairperson Fehr was told that the international students enjoy coming not only for the Nootka Sound Outdoor Program, but for the Shop and Foods Programs as well.

b. Enhancement Agreement/Local Education Agreement Meeting

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported on the last two meetings, both of which addressed the equity in action work that is underway between the District and the communities, the VIU courses, the student teacher program, NTC's work on organizing support staff training, the upcoming student-hosted cultural event on May 18 from 9 am to 3 pm at Gold River Secondary, and then a discussion of community and school items. The additional item for today's meeting was the joint transportation plans to ensure that students on reserve have transportation so that they can take part in school and school activities.

c. BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

Chairperson Fehr attended the Provincial Council meeting which was held on February 24-25. Elections were held with Tracy Loffler elected as Vice-President and Allison Watson as Director. The regular business meeting was held and the 2023/2024 draft budget passed. There was a discussion about whether or not future PC meetings could become virtual when weather conditions restrict travel.

There were two motions passed: (1) To continue the Student and Family Affordability Fund as an annual targeted fund provided to school districts; and, (2) To request the provincial government to fully fund exempt staff compensation based on the new salary grids published by BCPSEA.

The "Issues Forum" with Deputy Minister Christina Zachanuk and Assistant Deputy Minister of Child Care Patti Boyle addressed child care affordability and the expanded \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program to 12,700 spaces in February 2023. The ECE Education Support Fund enhanced and expanded in partnership with ECEBC and almost \$14,000 ECEs received the \$4/hour wage enhancement across 3400+ facilities by December 2022. There is now 40% higher enrollment in public post-secondary ECE programs, and ECE dual credit courses are being created for secondary school students.

d. **Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association Spring Meeting**

The Spring Branch meeting was held on March 3-4 in Courtenay, opening with the traditional welcome and blessing by Ramona Johnson of the K'omoks First Nation, followed by a keynote address by Hereditary Chief Rob Everson. Trustees Pam Craig (SD70), Eve Flyn (SD69) and Tim Dunford (SD61) presented on 'The Role of the Board Chair'. BCSTA Vice-President, Tracy Loffler, provided an update on the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning with the key components being: (1) setting direction – strategic plan; (2) providing oversight – working plan; and, (3) monitoring student outcomes – what does data tell us, is it working, what are we doing about it?

Day Two included a Motion Building Advocacy Workshop with Carmen Batista (BCSTA):

- Identify the issue and need an action
- Motion needs to bring student progress to the forefront
- Is the motion doable?

A VISTA Branch roundtable discussion and branch meeting followed, with questions sent out to Board Chairs for consideration and discussion.

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

The District OH&S Committee met on February 28. The agenda included a quick synopsis of the District's Administrative Procedure 420, 'Health and Safety', a brief roundtable discussion on successes and challenges this year and a goal for next, accident/incident/investigation reports (causes and prevention), trends and statistics, the Asbestos Exposure Control Program, an update to the 'Right to Refuse Unsafe Work' Program, reporting of work-related injury or illness including immediately reportable injuries, annual training from July 1, 2022 to present, the 'Violence in the Workplace' Program and a quick look at what's to come, and tasks to complete before June 30. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023.

f. **Working Relations Committee Meeting**

Chairperson Fehr reported on the meeting of March 6 which addressed ongoing follow-up to working together on recruitment, retention and resignation, WorkSafeBC and teacherages, LGBTQ relations in SD84, District accommodation for travelling teaching staff, and the positive response to the call for volunteer mentor/sponsor teachers for the Remote Rural Teacher Education Program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **School Calendars**

The school calendars were circulated with only one piece of feedback with no rationale provided.

2023:R-017 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Rodgers

AND RESOLVED:

"TO approve the school calendars for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, as circulated."

b. **Community Consultations**

Over 60 people attended in person and 10 written submissions were received and provided to the Board, which will form part of the consultation around the budget over the next few months.

c. **Preliminary Budget 2023-2024**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that enrollment and funding for next year will be approximately the same as this year. As 75% of costs are directly for salaries, the District will have approximately \$2 million with some form of flexibility; however, in that \$2 million are things like bus runs, photocopiers, schools' expectations for their budgets, etc., leaving about \$500,000 being

flexible. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer asked the Board for direction for building the budget; i.e. an aggressive approach assuming everything will be the way it is and pre-spend the money, a conservative and careful approach, or a moderate approach to have approximately \$500,000 as a buffer to cover unexpected costs or revenue losses. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer noted that, although he will be bringing more information in April followed by the actual budget in May for approval, he stressed the importance of keeping the staff intact.

The Board agreed to a moderately aggressive approach to budgeting, with retention of staff being the main goal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nil.

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. **District Update**

The school reports provided much of the District update; i.e. much local travel for sports, many guests into the schools, and bigger trips happening as the weather improves. ZESS students are just back from a trip to Nelson and they had a great time. The French exchange is still planned but perhaps not for this year.

b. **Enrollment Report**

The enrollment continues to hold steady with 335 students registered including homeschoolers, continuing education and international students.

c. **Finance Warrants**

The finance warrants were reviewed and the District remains on track with its spending.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Trustee Unger reported that the Garden Club in Gold River is trying to get the community garden going to provide fresh fruit and vegetables for the schools, and inquired if the schools are in need of food for students. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer noted that \$250,000 was provided to schools before Christmas so there is food money in the schools this year. An announcement is coming out soon about additional funds to come, with potentially some of the funding being available for staffing to help coordinate food at the schools. More information will be available after March 15th.

Trustee Stiglitz stated that Tahsis also has a community garden and has requested for more support. The community garden goes towards the Food Program at Captain Meares School as well.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 4 pm in Zeballos Elementary Secondary School. 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 5:05 pm:

2023:R-018 MOVED: Trustee Rodgers, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."



Actions for Learning



Presentation title

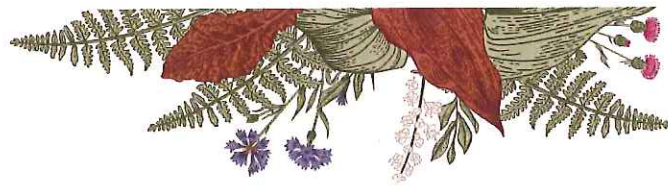
Details

Where: Gold River Secondary

Who: Selena Coutts, Evangeline James, Jillian Fox, Elizabeth Young, Connie Chan, Sean Broderick

Areas of growth: Storytelling

Timeline: Beginning of May to June 17th, 2023



Purpose

Allowing students an opportunity to share out, through a personal medium of choice a hardship that overcame.

We wanted to anchor the purpose in First Peoples' Principles of Learning specifically: **Learning is embedded in memory, history and story. Learning is reflective...**





"OVERCOMING"

GRSS STORYTELLING CONTEST
DEADLINE: JUNE 17th, 2022



Share a time where you overcame a tough moment.

Your submission must include:

1. The challenge/hardship
2. Describe how you handled the adverse situation
3. How have these challenges shaped who you are today!

WAYS TO SUBMIT:



Written (Short Story, Essay, Poem)




Visual (Movie Skit, Comic, Collage, Picture Book)



Web (Podcast interview, Interview, Song)



Top 3 from each
category receives a
VISA Gift Card!



ALL SUBMISSIONS GO TO MS. CHAN
OR MRS. COUTTS

GRSS Storytelling Contest 2022

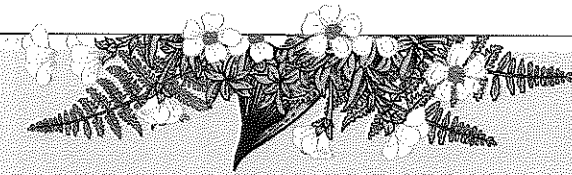


Stretches

- More time for student submissions
- Many folks away for illness during the initial planning

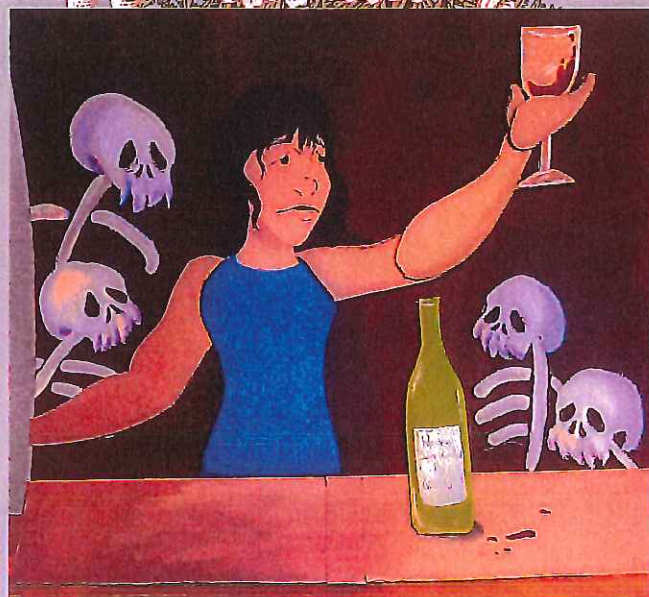


Strengths



- Many submissions
- Students were interested in the diversity of submission mediums
- While many students didn't have an official submission, conversations were initiated around what overcoming hardships meant and its value
 - Addressed victim mindsets
 - How to empower yourself with strategies
- In-class activity opportunities

Winning Submission



Presentation title

7

The winning submission includes
We Are Surrounded By Ghosts
by Marquizha Rabinitas, currently a
Grade 10 student at GRSS.

We Are Surrounded By Ghosts

Many people have their speculations about ghosts, whether one believes in them or not; however, one could argue that there are ghosts haunting us all the time.

Ofcourse, there are the ghosts of our loved ones, ones that are no longer among the living. However, the ghosts that I am speaking of are people who are still in the living world. People who we know and perhaps used to love but they are no longer a major role in our lives. People who you have cut contact with because sometimes having them in your life was burdening or quite frankly, toxic. People who you used to be friends with but now are just strangers, passing each other occasionally in life. We have many ghosts that just follow us. Sometimes they don't haunt you anymore. Sometimes they follow and taunt you relentlessly, no matter how hard you try to push them away. Sometimes you never even noticed they were ghosts until they were gone. The feeling that these

people leave behind, it's almost like they are dead. They leave a void in our hearts and empty spaces they used to take up in life. One almost has to mourn these "ghosts". Sometimes you just think about the 'good ol' days' and suddenly they are back to haunt you. One just has to accept that some people don't need to continue being in their life. Whether they stayed for countless years or maybe even a month. It is a lesson we all need to learn, no matter how hard it is. To mourn and let go.

In this piece of artwork I've created, It is one raising a toast. To symbolise a send off and a thank you. To all the ghosts that led up to this point, for shaping me into the person I was today. For making me strong. For making me resilient. For showing me that my past does not completely define me. That I could let go.

-MR



What's next?

Ensuring that elements of self-expression are valued in AFL projects.

