



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024,
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)

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer
Ryan Brennan, Director of Instruction (Human Resources)
Stephen Larre, Director of Instruction (Student Learning)
Deane Johnson, Director of Instruction (Operations)
Ellena Gjesdal, Executive Assistant
Public Present – 2

CALL TO ORDER:

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

2024:R-05 MOVED: UNGER , SECONDED: STIGLITZ
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2024:R-06 MOVED A STIGLITZ , SECONDED: K UNGER
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 8, 2023."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation by Brenda Lenahan – Tahsis

Ms Lenahan presented information around the new playground project at CMES. Her presentation is attached and will be considered by the Board at the next meeting.

Presentation by Sean Broderick – GRSS

Please see attached report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

NIL

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Trustee Fehr Reported there were three labour items discussed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

School Reports

CMESS:

Captain Meares School has been a hub of activity with our academic foods program integrated into our school lunch/breakfast program. Our new lunch lady Cheryl O'Donnell has extensive professional restaurant management experience. Our students assist in preparing food for the entire school population as well as their normal food studies. Senior Students working towards their Provincial Food Safe Certification. Music program Kyla Huckerby joining the staff and specializing in music skills for the Primary Section centering on choral work and musical notation, Jim working with the Intermediate section and the Senior Sections on performance skills. Kyla is responsible for art and decorations for our Christmas Concert in December. Senior Student Chaim Payne runs a lunch hour media club. Designing three dimensional objects with 3D printer, teaching how to use Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and 3D Designer. Jeremy Payne involved with Philip Parkes in getting students to NSOP trips Mount Washington, riding horses, and hiking. Working with Joni Johnson preparing for the cultural sharing event at Kyuquot in May. Janice Potter and Kim Anderson have at least three field trips planned for the Primary Section this year – swimming & skating. A positive change has been the ability to divide our school into three developmentally appropriate learning groups: the Primary Section, the Intermediate Section, and the Senior Section.

IEC Report

Equity in Action – completing a draft for our third EA, Community feedback working groups to complete appendices.

LEA - NEW program – new ideas, changes, ensuring supports. Student teacher program – recruiting NIC & VIU. Community and school items and Concluding Remarks – Next meeting February 26 in ECFN

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Community Consultation dates:
February 27 and 28 on ZOOM. Please see the attached poster for details

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Amended Annual Budget 2023-2024

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer presented the Amended Annual Budget for 2023-2024 and answered questions.

2024:R-09 MOVED: Trustee UNGER , SECONDED: Trustee STIGLITZ
 "TO have all three readings of the bylaw in one."

2024:R-10 MOVED: Trustee STIGLITZ SECONDED: Trustee UNGER
 AND RESOLVED:
 "That the Board of Education approve the Amended Annual Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$14, 282,370.00, as presented."

b. Enrollment Projections

The Superintendent and S/T shared that the District is expecting an increase of 5.5 students for 2024-24

c. Signing authority changes RBC

- a. Lawrence Tarasoff, Stephen Larre, Ryan Brennan, Deane Johnson, Ellena Gjesdal & Katie Unger

2024:C-11 MOVED: Trustee UNGER , SECONDED: Trustee STIGLITZ
AND RESOLVED:

"TO adopt new signing authority addition of Ellena Gjesdal – Executive Assistant and remove A McDowell and L Charlton from RBC Signing privileges. February 12, 2024"

d. **Updated AP210** – For Board information only.

e. **BCSTA AGM 2026** – Board must complete a survey.

f. **Cellphone use in Schools.** – The Ministry requires the District to have an Administrative Procedure in place for cellphone use in schools by June 30, 2024. Waiting for further direction from the Ministry.

g. **Advocacy Plan Survey** – March Board meeting date change to be sent to MLA, Trustee Fehr to fill out plan and submit.

h. **Partner Liaison meeting.** - For Board information only.

i. Capital Bylaw

2024:C-12

MOVED: Trustee UNGER, SECONDED: Trustee STIGLITZ
AND RESOLVED:

"TO adopt Capital Bylaw No, 023/24-CPSD84 – 01 dated April 2023."

j. March MEETING date

2024:C-13

MOVED: Trustee UNGER , SECONDED: Trustee STIGLITZ
AND RESOLVED:

"To approve Date Change of the Board of Education meeting from March 11 to March 13 2024. "

SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. **District Update** – Superintendent and S/T discussed many exciting things happening in the District.
b. **Finance Warrant** – attached for information
c. **Enrollment Report** – attached for information

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

NIL

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 5:30pm, at the School Board Office in Gold River. The public is invited to attend. Any requests for agenda additions should go to egjesdal@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 5:22 pm:

2024:R-14 MOVED: Trustee UNGER , SECONDED: Trustee STIGLITZ
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adjourn."

Certified:

*Lawrence Tarasoff,
Superintendent & Secretary Treasurer*

*Arlaine Fehr,
Board Chair*

Presentation to SD 84

Re: Proposed Playground for CMES

February 12, 2024





Brenda Lenahan
& son Cole

My background & expertise:

- Founding director of BC Complex Kids Society
- Member of the MCFD Minister's Advisory Council on Children & Youth with Support Needs
- Member of the Inclusive Education Partners Group which includes cross disability organizations and MECC directors
- Tahsis representative on the Strathcona Regional District Accessibility Committee
- Mom to 9 year old with complex disabilities



CONCEPTUAL MODELS OF DISABILITY

MEDICAL MODEL (OLD)	INTERACTIONAL/SOCIO-POLITICAL MODEL (NEW)
Disability is a deficiency or abnormality	Disability is a difference
Being disabled is negative	Having a disability, in itself, is neutral
Disability resides in the individual	Disability derives from the interaction between the individual and society
The remedy for disability-related problems is cure or normalization of the individual	The remedy for disability-related problems is a change in the interaction between the individual and society
The agent of remedy is the professional	The agent of remedy is the individual, an advocate, or anyone who affects the arrangements between the individual and society

Adapted from Carol J. Gill, Chicago Institute of Disability Research

Definitions from Accessible Canada Act

(came into force July 11, 2019)

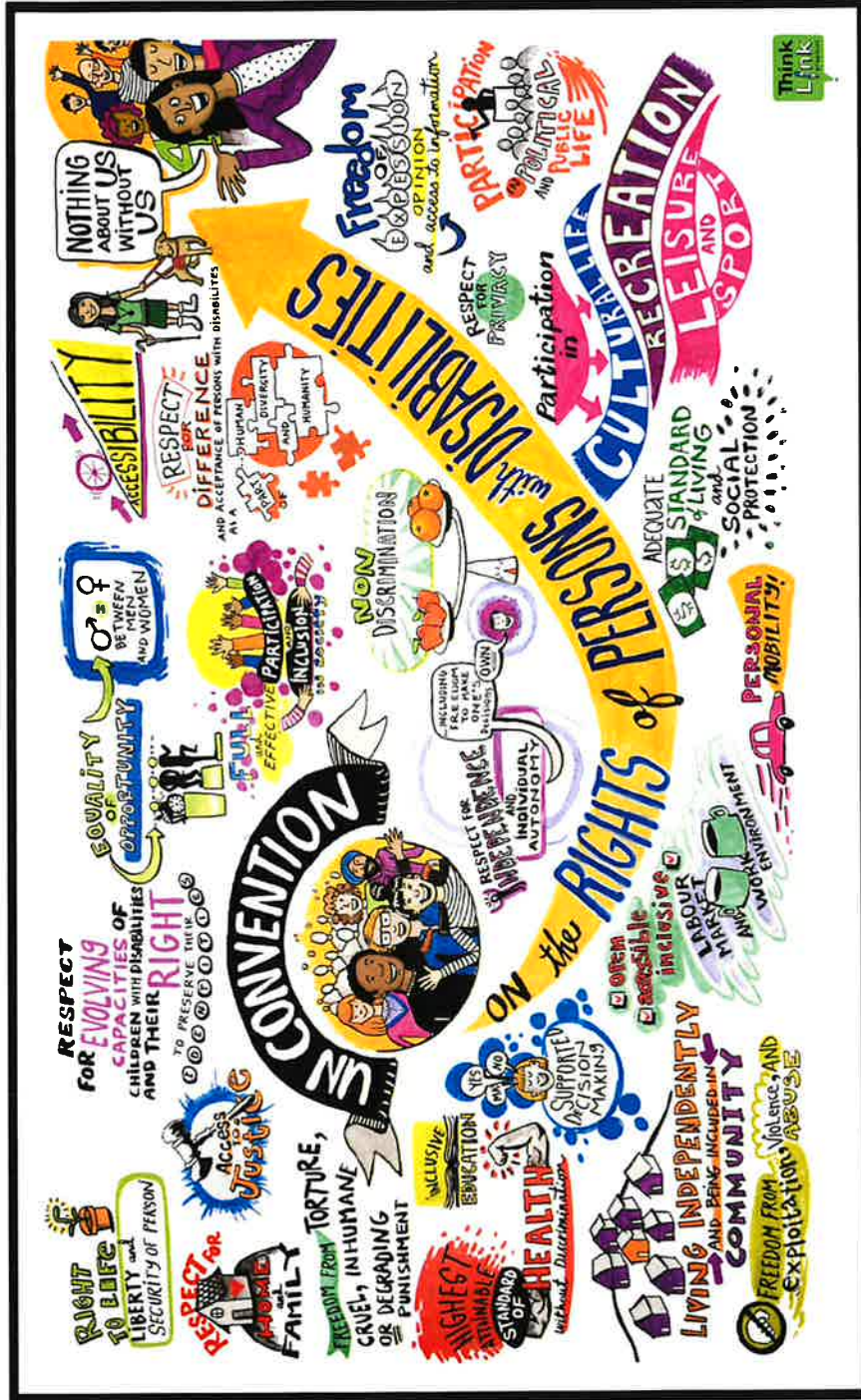
Barrier

Means anything—including anything physical, architectural, technological or attitudinal, anything that is based on information or communications or anything that is the result of a policy or a practice—that hinders the full and equal participation in society of persons with an impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment or a functional limitation.

Disability

Means any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment—or a functional limitation—whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society.

What is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?



Ministry of Education & Child Care - Playground Equipment Program (PEP)

Supporting inclusion and accessibility for all children, the PEP is available to provide specific funding to purchase and install new or replacement playground equipment that is universal in design, and in compliance with accessibility measures as defined through the [Canadian Standards Association CAN/CSA-Z614-14 \(R2019\): Children's Playspaces and Equipment](#).

Universal design aims to create environments that can be used by as many people as possible without special adaptations or modifications, and projects should include equipment and appropriate surfacing which create an inclusive and accessible playground concept.

Universally designed playground spaces include adventure-style playground equipment that is designed to include all elementary-aged students regardless of ability.

To meet the range of students' needs in designing playgrounds to include every child, **school districts should consider** all physical, mental, intellectual, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or functional limitations – whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, that in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full an equal participation in society.

This equipment is to be permanently fixed on a school site and **include appropriate ground cover for fall protection, improved access, and increased mobility.**

Universal Design

DEFINITION OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

“the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without need for adaptation or specialized design.”

(Ronald Mace, Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University)

The Ask: “Nothing About Us, Without Us”

Create a forum for consultation and engagement with families, parents, and children with lived experience and include the representatives from the Strathcona Accessibility & Inclusion Advisory Committee.

The health, wellness, safety, and educational experiences of all current & future students and staff should be considered essential and valuable in the design process.

A Proposed Motion:

“Motion to strike a committee specifically for engagement and consultation of people with lived experience of disability, and with SRD accessibility committee representation, to inform the design and implementation of the playground project at Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School in Tahsis. School District 84 has secured a 2023/2024 Playground Equipment Program (PEP) \$195,000 grant that provides specific funding to purchase and install new or replacement playground equipment. In order to ensure this grant results in an accessible and universally designed playground, a committee will directly inform the playground from the design stage through to implementation and construction.”

Questions and Discussion?



Presentation to SD 84 re: Proposed Playground at CMESS Summary Notes & Key Points

Presenter: Brenda Lenahan

I am mom to a kiddo with complex disabilities and mobility impairments as well as an advocate municipally, provincially and federally. I am a Tahsis resident and a member of the new SRD Accessibility Committee. My aim is to educate, collaborate and elevate the needs of children with disabilities so they have equitable access and are meaningfully included in society including schools.

Children with disabilities are rights holders under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of Children and disability is a normal part of human diversity.

Federal and Provincial governments are moving towards new approaches to disability that recognize that society is responsible for not creating barriers for people with disabilities and removing ones that were built historically.

“Government dollars should never be used to build barriers for anyone.”

Universal design is the design of products and environments that something can be usable to the greatest extent possible for the most people possible. It is slowly being embedded in building code and at the policy level for systems and programs.

We are seeing more and more, the practice of including the voices of people with lived experience of disability in policy making as a means to reach the end goal of a more inclusive society. It is difficult to design for disability without these voices and it is the reason that the province mandated that school districts and other organizations, to create committees of people with lived experience to begin the process of implementing provincial Accessibility Legislation.

*I had a conversation with Michael Nyikes at MECC-Capital Projects. He has agreed that there is a problem with design and implementation of playgrounds across BC and agreed to include the idea of committees of lived experience in the package for next years' granting cycle. He also pointed out that the CSA Accessible Playground Standards themselves are inadequate in areas as we also see with building codes.

Link to current language on universal design and Playground Equipment Program funding is on this page:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/capital/programs>

The Ask:

Short term

For SD 84 to create a small committee of people with lived experience of disability that includes parents and SRD Accessibility Committee members, to inform the design of the CMES playground.

Long term

For SD 84 to engage with people with lived experience of disability, including parents and SRD Accessibility Committee members on capital projects on a regular basis going forward.

Proposed Motion

I proposed this motion in hopes that the board might see the value of embedding this need in the work of the district. I also had suggested that one of the trustees might take a similar motion to the BC School Trustees Association AGM in order to have a broader impact in the province.

Edit and adopt as you like.

“Motion to strike a committee specifically for engagement and consultation of people with lived experience of disability, and with SRD accessibility committee representation, to inform the design and implementation of the playground project at Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School in Tahsis. School District 84 has secured a 2023/2024 Playground Equipment Program (PEP) \$195,000 grant that provides specific funding to purchase and install new or replacement playground equipment. In order to ensure this grant results in an accessible and universally designed playground, a committee will directly inform the playground from the design stage through to implementation and construction.”

Thank you for the opportunity to present and I appreciate that Deane has already started a conversation at the school level and included me in the correspondence.

Brenda Lenahan
brendalenahan@gmail.com

GRSS Board Principal Report

Monday, February 12, 2024

Land Recognition

Thanks to those who support us:

Board of Education:

- Ongoing support
- Bella Bella
- Track and Field
- Grad Trip (Comparative Cultures presentations – post trip)

MMFN:

- Access to Language Department and Cultural Experts
- Funds towards Bella Bella
- Working to establish partnerships for projects
- Beginning of Collaboration with Warriors Program

Village:

- Continued agreement and access to the playing fields
- School access to recreational facilities
- Partnering with us for big events such as last year's Cultural Event

Senior Management

- Support in all areas as we work together to improve education programs, opportunities, services and equity for all our students and their families

Staffing:

- NEW – Marsha Maquinna resigned – Temp posted – waiting for update from NTC
- EA – Danielle Kennedy starting February
- 1.0 FTE – position was finally filled in November – David Butler (0.5 classroom support to replace 0.5 leave by LART) – welcome addition
- Covering leaves and completing Remedy continue to be a challenge
- New Cook position filled – waiting to start

District / School Assessments:

- Mid-Year DARTS completed
- Student Self-Assessment – Term 2 Personal/Social
- Student Goal Setting – Communication and Personal/Social (short/mid/year goals)
- Term 2 Report Cards to go out March 15th

Programs:

Culture

- Bella Bella Trip
- Culture Room
- Support – NEW change / Elders
- Growing program
- MMFN support
- Prepping for Culture Event in Kyuquot
- Yuquot Trip

Athletics

- Volleyball – Co-Ed / Jamboree
- Basketball – Boys and Girls / N. Islands
- Track and Field – thanks for ongoing district support with equipment and Provincials
- Gratitude to Coaches Connie and Garrett with assistance from Stephen Larre

NSOP

- Thanks to District Principal Philip Parkes
- Ongoing trips
- Snowshoe this week
- Support with PAL/CORE/Bronze Medallion and other certificate courses
- Partner on Yuquot Trip in June

Food Futures

- Fieldtrips/School Events
- Snack Program
- Hot Lunches
- New Cook position
 - Breakfast/AM Snack/Food Prep/Lunch
- Xmas/Easter/Summer Hampers – Backpack Buddies Add On
- On track to spend budget by year end

Foods Courses

- Mr. Graves and Mr. Butler
- Baking & Cooking
- Eg. Traditional fish smoking at Tsaxana, Sourdough, scratch cooking, broths, sauces, hot lunches for school – upcoming: butchering, smoking, charcuteries, fishing

International

- Continues to broaden horizons of local students
- Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, Spain, Germany, Austria
- French Exchange this Spring Break
- 11 Full time students with us until the end of the year
- Several short term students between now and June
- Cost-Share Rosetta Stone (ELL/Second Language)

Science Fair

- Building year towards expanded program next year

Grads/Graduation

- June 8th
- 15 potential 5 year Dogwoods + 1 Adult Dogwood (Year 6)
- 6 who identify as First Nations
- 15/15 have identified as post-graduation path (gap/post-sec/apprenticeship)
- 13/15 have done work towards post-secondary path (BC Services App / BCeID-STS / Education Planner BC – registration / accommodations) – Feb/March – Scholarship Applications
- Grad Fundraisers - bake sales / bingos / Purdy's / veggies / raffle
- Grad Trip – Spring Break

Continuing Education

- Update – Jeff Rockwell

Operations:

- Mouse issue ongoing but moving forward
- Interior painting
- Water leaks – replacing valves and joints
- Tech order in
- LART move to NEW office / NEW move to Culture Room
- LART office reno (added to Literacy Room) -> creation of “Quiet” room
- End hall to be closed and converted to storage
- Appliances requested via grant for upgrading food room and resourcing Culture Room for Cook position
- On deck: cleaning up NSOP storage / cleaning out 103, 100, and above gym storage
- Big thanks for the gym floor redo