



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84
HELD ON MONDAY APRIL 14, 2025
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, GOLD RIVER, BC**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent
Deane Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
Jason Corday, Assistant Superintendent
Stephen Larre, Deputy Superintendent
Gillian Leask, Secretary Treasurer
Ellena Gjesdal, Executive Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT: 7

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Trustee Rodgers acknowledged that we were gathered on the traditional territory of the Ehattesaht and Nuchatlaht Nations and gave thanks for the opportunity to work, play, and learn in these beautiful lands.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2025:R-012 MOVED: Trustee Rodgers **SECONDED:** Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda"

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2025:R-013 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz **SECONDED:** Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting March 10, 2025."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.



PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

a. Principal Adam Barber - ZESS

Actions for Learning Project – We are adding to our school garden project from last year. The aim is to more than double our growing beds and increase the size of the deer fence so that we can produce food for the lunch program. The seeds that Mrs. Curtis's 6/7s planted before Spring break have sprouted and are almost ready to go into the greenhouse we made last year. High school students have started building planters. We are expecting to get a dump truck worth of soil soon, to fill the beds.

Clearing up forest space - Chris Seaby has been working to clear much of the underbrush that was beginning to encroach on the school field. We aim to set up disc golf baskets along the edges of our property to add to the physical activities we can do outside.

Breakfast Lunch Program – Partnership with Ehattesaht and Nuchatlaht for staffing and money from Breakfast Program of Canada and Feeding Futures means that breakfast and lunch are being served every day.

Dreams take Flight – Last October, we were able to take four students from ZESS to Disneyland. It was a whirlwind tour. Next October we be taking three ZESS students and one KESS student to Disneyland.

Potlatch invitation trips to CMESS, RWES, GRSS – High school Students did a tour of CMESS, RWES, and GRSS to invite students to our Potlatch. Intermediate Students are headed to KESS tomorrow to finish the district invitations. Date: May 22, 9:00 Start. Feature a Naming Ceremony, guests from Ahousaht, and of course the students of SD84. Leaders - Celina, with Kyle, Annie, and Chuck have been teaching singing, drumming and dance on Wednesday afternoons to the whole school. Maggie and Celina helping students prepare gifts and regalia.

Other Upcoming Planned Activities: Fishing Trip – ZESS received a \$1000 Farm to School grant – To be used to send Sr. Students fishing to food gather for cultural gathering and to purchase Salmon.

June 5th Bike Rodeo – will go with Ehat's bike grant – more bikes for students – looking to increase number of bike racks at ZESS. Grad, June 20th There will be two graduates from grade 12 this year.

Learning Teams: Building Thinking Classrooms - District FSA results have shown that student numeracy historically below a provincial average. The older students become, the lower numeracy skills become, on average. To help change this trend, the district has contracted Judy Larsen, a math guru who works with Building Thinking Classrooms, to run in-service for the Intermediate Math Learning Team that has been working together since September. We are practicing teaching numeracy in a different way, using open ended questions, small randomly selected groups and non-permanent vertical surfaces. The project is district wide and Lee and I, here at Zeballos Elementary Secondary School, have been combining our classes once a week and working apart the rest of the week. One of the great parts of Building Thinking Classrooms is that the tasks can be adapted quickly for different math skills.

Assistant Superintendent Johnson thanked Principal Barber for taking on a leadership role for district Numeracy.

Deputy Superintendent Larre thanked Principal, Adam Barber and Teacher, Lee Vanden Ham for their time in bringing numeracy to life. He also thanked the staff at Zeballos Elementary Secondary School for the noticeable difference in the school culture and the positive, calm environment for students.

Trustee Fehr thanked the school for displaying items in the showcase.

Teacher Lee Vanden Ham spoke about how he appreciates the cultural addition to school learning and noted that the atmosphere is positive for staff and students.

CORRESPONDENCE

a. Vista advocacy Plan



2025:R-014 **MOVED:** Trustee Stiglitz **SECONDED:** Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
“TO accept the correspondence as presented”

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING

Nil – to be reported at next Regular Meeting, May 12, 2025

TRUSTEE REPORTS

a. School Reports:

- i. CMESS: May 10th, 2025, CMESS and Tahsis are hosting the Spring Bizarre.
- ii. KESS: Nil
- iii. GRSS: Wrestler is going to Nationals. Final day of the BB Tournament GRSS team wins vs KESS/ZESS team at the final second.
- iv. RWES: Nil
- v. ZESS: Reported

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

Superintendent Tarasoff shared that the IEC has completed its terms of reference with 8 voting members and 4 non-voting members, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, Indigenous Education Committee lead, and trustee from the Board of Education. The Indigenous Education Committee has requested that the Board of Education select a Trustee and alternate to attend meetings moving forward. The Board has selected Arlaine Fehr, with Jennifer Hanson to be the alternate. The Indigenous Education Committee has requested an invitation from the Board to attend Regular Board meetings. All trustees agreed that Superintendent Tarasoff would write the letter, with Trustee Fehr delivering the letter in person at the next IEC Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Strategic Plan

Deputy Superintendent Larre spoke on the Plan as follows:

Purpose of the Strategic Plan:

The new Strategic Plan will guide the direction of Vancouver Island West SD84 for the next five years (from September 2025 to June 2030). The Strategic Plan will clarify our goals and identify our priorities for student learning. These priorities will guide our decision-making and allow us to align our resources to support the goals. Each year, our Operational Plans will set priorities for action and progress will be evaluated and reported through our FESL report.

Development of the Strategic Plan:

In developing the new Strategic Plan, we have engaged in a series of consultations of our communities, as well as targeted consultations with various stakeholder groups. Feedback from these consultations, combined with our knowledge of what is happening for our learners, will shape the priorities of the new Strategic Plan.

Trends in Student Learning in SD84:

- Children enter Kindergarten vulnerable
- Positive achievement and equitable results in early literacy
- Sustained improvement in early literacy over course of previous strategic plan
- Declining achievement in literacy and numeracy in intermediate and middle years
- Increasing inequity in results as students get older
- Graduation rates gradually rising, with some inequity
- High student absenteeism



- Most students feel connected to adults who care about them
- Slight decline in students' sense of belonging and safety
- Inequitable results for Indigenous students, students with disabilities and diverse abilities, children and youth in care; inequity increases in higher grades

Summary of feedback from consultations:

Previous community feedback that has been shared with the Board had the following themes:

- Value of the staff in schools and support for increasing staffing
- Support our focus on early literacy and student engagement in current strategic plan
- Support for foods programs
- Support for current extracurricular activities
- Support for Indigenous language and culture programs
- Need for increased attention to improving attendance
- Need for more support for students with disabilities and diverse abilities
- Need for increased numeracy support
- Need for increased access to mental health and counselling
- Need for greater attention to post-secondary transitions
- Need for childcare support on days not in session
- Desire to increase opportunities for experiential / outdoor learning
- Desire to improve connection and communication between school and community
- Importance of staff recruitment and retention

Recent targeted consultation with staff groups, through staff meetings and individual staff surveys, has yielded the following trends:

- Support for continued focus on early literacy
- Support for increased attention to numeracy
- Support for district professional learning supports and training
- Support for the district's use of data to inform decision making
- Need for greater mental health and well-being support
- Need to increase attention to literacy and numeracy in the intermediate and secondary grades
- Need to address student absenteeism
- Need for greater attention to preparing students for life after school (post-secondary / careers)
- Need for more student ownership, agency, and goal setting in their learning
- Need for early childhood support and certified ECE's
- Desire for more parent connection and involvement with school
- Desire for increased staffing, particularly support staff
- Desire for greater innovation in partnerships with communities to support learners of all ages, including adults

Strategic Plan Development Progress:

Staff are using the evidence of what's happening for student learning, along with feedback from consultations with community, students, staff, and the Indigenous Education Council, to draft the new Strategic Plan. Staff are anticipating a final draft of the new Strategic Plan for the June 9, 2025, board meeting.

b. 2025-26 Preliminary Budget

Secretary Treasurer Gillian Leask, with board direction, is indeed working on a moderate budget approach. The focus of funding will be on numeracy supports and inclusive education. There will be no layoffs, and temporary postings will be reviewed and posted in May once the budget is approved. However, the District finances are becoming tighter as our funding does not match our expenses. Currently, we are in a good spot, but this situation is not expected to remain in the future 1 2. The board has chosen a moderate approach to the preliminary budget for next year, staying status quo



with no additions or deletions of staffing funds at this time.. Temporary positions and positions affected by retirements or resignations are subject to review.

NEW BUSINESS

a. PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance)

Trustee Rodgers explained that DSM (Diagnostic Statistical Manual) number five is being rewritten in to DSM (Diagnostic Statistical Manual) number 6. Explanation on what students with PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance) experience in the school environment and how we can better understand and provide support.

b. 2025-26 Capital Plan

There are no new Major Capital Projects currently. The Minor Capital Projects: School Enhancement Program, Food Infrastructure Program, Carbon Neutral Program and Building Envelope Program for the following projects: Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School exterior wall upgrades, Electrical upgrades to all school, Food gathering and preparation equipment and infrastructure.

CAPITAL BYLAW NO. 2025/26-CPSD84-01

2025:R-015 MOVED: Trustee Rodgers SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
 "TO do all three readings in one reading."

CAPITAL BYLAW NO. 2025/26-CPSD84-01

2025:R-016 MOVED: Trustee Rodgers SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
 "To accept the Capital Plan as read."

STAFF REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report

Following spring break things become very busy in the district, traveling is a high priority and staffing time. Administrative position allocation is taking place, we are unable to address temporary positions now, until the Budget is passed by the Board of Education. After June postings, there will be recall postings available. May to June will be graduations for all four schools and Nuuchah Nulth Tribal Council, scholarships and graduations, student potlatch and district travel. Gold River Secondary Student, Solomon Pearson has qualified nationally for wrestling.

b. Secretary Treasurer's Report

We are currently underspent as of now, more costs coming in by year end. Vendors to be communicated to supply invoices to be paid so funds are not carried over to next year's budgets.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

Trustee Rodgers asked about the water supply in Kyuquot.

Assistant Superintendent Johnson explained that over spring break there was no water for approximately a week. A slow leak was then located on school property. Kyuquot/Cheklesahht First Nation located the leak and were confirmed they could fix it in a day but also stated it could be up to a week for repairs. The nation said if the water will be out for over for some time, they will supply water for sanitary issues with the offer of hotel accommodations for showering. There was approximately eight hours of water loss at the school. Island Health recommended no use of water for cooking and drinking until adequate testing is done. There is a boil water advisory at this time, it should be corrected soon.



PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on May 12, 2025 at 4:00 pm, at Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School. 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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Certified Correct:

*Chairperson
Arlaine Fehr*

*Secretary-Treasurer
Gillian Leask*