



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84
HELD ON MONDAY MAY 12, 2025
KYUQUOT ELEMENTARY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KYUQUOT, BC**

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

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: 2

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chairperson Fehr acknowledged and gave thanks to be on the beautiful territory of the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h First Nations.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

2025:R-017 MOVED: Trustee Unger SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda"

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2025:R-018 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 14, 2025."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS



Principal Natalie Dickson KESS lead the board through a passionate information session on what is happening at KESS. Attached

CORRESPONDENCE

Nourish Nootka Sound Neighborhood Necessities Society (NNS)

2025:R-019 MOVED: Trustee SECONDED: Trustee
AND RESOLVED:
"TO receive the correspondence as presented"

Trustee Stiglitz declared a conflict of interest due to her role on the NNSNNS Board. The remaining Trustees asked her to answer questions on behalf of NNS.

Board Chair Fehr asked the total cost of the vehicle and about liability insurance. Trustee Stiglitz responded that vehicles are priced between \$20,000 and \$46,000 and confirmed that appropriate liability insurance and driver licensing will be obtained by NNS.

Board Chair Fehr asked about costs to those taking part and whether any other community stakeholders have committed to funding yet. Trustee Stiglitz responded that there may be mileage charges for some organizations such as VIHA or food organizations. There has been interest from VIHA and the Seniors' Centre but no firm commitment yet. There have been less grants available than previously anticipated, but an application has been submitted to United Way.

Superintendent Tarasoff inquired about the possibility of leasing a vehicle if NNS were not able to raise enough funds for the purchase. Trustee Stiglitz confirmed that this is an option being considered, with research being done to investigate leasing opportunities for nonprofits.

Trustee Rodgers asked whether it is normal practice for school districts to donate to non-profits.

Superintendent Tarasoff stated that it has been done before and that this would result in savings for the district.

There were questions and discussions about operating costs and volunteer availability. It was concluded that the main concerns about donating were around viability and therefore the Board wants more assurance that the funds will go to use supporting food security in the community as intended.

2025:R-020 MOVED: Trustee Rodgers SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"The Board of Education approves the \$10,000 donation to the Nourish Nootka Sound Neighborhood Necessities Society, subject to review and approval of an Operational Business Plan by the Secretary Treasurer"

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING

Chairperson Fehr noted that there were two labour, no land, and two legal items from April 14, 2025.

Chairperson Fehr noted that there were one labour, no land, and no legal items from May 12, 2025.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

a. School Reports:

- i. GRSS: Scholarship packages were completed and submitted. Culture groups from Gold River Secondary School & Ray Watkins Elementary have been practicing together for the Zeballos cultural sharing event on May 22. The Graduation class are planning a trip to Edmonton. Track and Field are off to their first meet with the school hosting a BBQ/singing/pep rally send off. The school live-streamed the Wrestling Nationals to watch a fellow student compete. Cultural students opened the floor for the Early Years conference at Ray Watkins Elementary School. Goals for next year are to make more allowances for diverse schedule/learning needs of students. Art Starts and Road safe events were held. Gold River Secondary School is working on engagement with parents & community to support student attendance and targeted literacy intervention for specific students.
- ii. KESS: reported by Principal Natalie Dickson



- iii. CMESS: Nil.
- iv. RWES: Nil.
- v. ZESS: Nil

b. BC School Trustee Association AGM BCSTA AGM – Board Chair Fehr

April 24 -26

Thursday - Student Success

Presentations by Merritt, Haida-Gwaii, and Sunshine Coast. Diploma Verification Model to track if students are registered in courses to graduate on time, Structure for student trustees for the district.

Data and Evidence for Decision Making - [www. Studentsuccess.bc.cov.ca](http://www.Studentsuccess.bc.cov.ca) for datastatscan.gc.ca

Friday - Communications, Advocacy, and Community Engagement

Presentations by Richmond, Saanich, and Okanagan/Skawha

First Nations territory maps in schools, Need strategic goals and long-range facility planning, Generate public confidence and trust, 4 pillars posted everywhere (school, classrooms, board office)

Reward staff for taking risks, trying new things

Indigenous Education - Presentations by Chilliwack, Sea to Sky, and French school district
Relationship is a 2-way street, 4 paddles – government to government, Indigenous voice and advocacy, Board learning sessions, Community and district working together, Decolonize a colonial system, Bill 40 – key is to paddle in the same direction, understand local culture, All cultures carry trauma, 4 Rs – Relationship, Respect, Reciprocity, Relevance

Business Meeting: Friday afternoon and Saturday

Reports from committees, Pass Budget, Present motions and pass or defeat, Elect new Executive and Board of Directors

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

Superintendent Tarasoff shared the report attached.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Strategic Plan

Deputy Superintendent Larre presented the draft of the Strategic Plan which received unanimous support from the Board.

b. 2025-26 Preliminary Budget

Secretary Treasurer Leask presented the 2025-26 Annual Budget which rolls forward services from the 2024-25 Amended Annual Budget with some small changes to temporary and non-enrolling staffing, decreased spending on senior leadership due to succession, and the addition of inclusive education supports.

2025:R-21 MOVED: Trustee Hanson, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
“To have all three readings done in one.”

2025:R-22 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Rodgers
AND RESOLVED:
“To approve the annual budget bylaw as read “



c. School Calendar

Superintendent Tarasoff presented the finalized school calendar approved by both VIWTU and the Ministry.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Graduation Dates

KESS Grad was moved to June 4, 2025.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tarasoff shared his excitement about the cultural gathering coming soon in ZESS, noting how the students are working hard on the preparation for event, sharing and taking pride in the beauty of NTC Culture.

b. Secretary Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Leask spoke on the attached reports. She projects that budget will be underspent this year, meaning surplus will remain similar to last year.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

Trustee Rodgers recommended the book *Autism Feels....: An Earthling's Guide* by Orion Kelly as an excellent resource for working with children with autism.

Superintendent Tarasoff's retirement event is Sunday June 8th at the School Board Office 3:00-6:00pm. There will be a public invitation extended.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on June 9, 2025 at 4:00 pm, at the House of Unity, Tsaxana, BC. 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*