



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84
HELD ON MONDAY APRIL 13, 2026
ZEBALLOS ELEMENTARY SECONDARY SCHOOL, ZEBALLOS, BC**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Stephen Larre, Superintendent
Gillian Leask, Secretary Treasurer
Ellena Gjesdal, Executive Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT: 3

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chairperson Fehr acknowledged and gave thanks that we work, play and live on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples, Ehattesaht-Chinehkint, Nuchatlaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h First Nations.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2026:R-012 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda"

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2026:R-013 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the amended minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 9, 2026."



BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 2026:R-014** MOVED: Trustee Unger SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“TO accept the resignation of Trustee Rodgers dated March 31, 2026.”

Trustee Stiglitz will serve as a representative on the District Earthquake Safety Committee for the remainder of the term.

- 2026:R-015** MOVED: Trustee Unger SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“THAT Trustee Fehr will cover the trustee duties for Zeballos as designate for the remainder of the term in 2026.”

- 2026:R-016** MOVED: Trustee Hanson SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
“TO hold the Zeballos vacancy open until the 2026 election.”

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

a. Tim Romyn – Vice Principal, Zeballos Elementary Secondary School

Vice Principal Romyn reported that students have participated in multiple off-site learning and group activities, including trips to Tahsis and Gold River. The annual pre-holiday trip to Port McNeill for skating and a movie was held and was well received. Students completed a food preservation activity involving the processing of berries harvested the previous year to make jam. The jam was used in the school breakfast program, and students also took jars home to share with family members. The school received a donation of 100 sockeye salmon from the Ehattesaht Nation. All students from kindergarten to Grade 10 participated in processing the salmon. A disc golf course was established on the school grounds, with four baskets and a nine-hole layout. The course is listed on UDisc and is noted as the northern-most disc golf course on Vancouver Island. Cultural and language programming continues, with daily lessons provided for 30–60 minutes and weekly singing and dance lessons. Students also participated in bear hide tanning. The Real Acts of Caring Club organized a walk-a-thon on March 5th and raised \$600 for the BC Cancer Foundation. Students completed between 128 and 150 laps each around the school. The Breakfast and Lunch Program continues with support from the Breakfast Club of Canada, Ehattesaht staff, school staff, and the Feeding Futures Grant. Students participated in the Dreams Take Flight program. Building Thinking Classrooms was implemented in senior classes, aligning with the Strategic Plan. The approach resulted in full student participation.

b. ZESS Actions for Learning – Food Preservation and ADST

Teacher Lee Vandenharn provided an update on Actions for Learning initiatives related to food preservation and Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST). Students are engaged in hands-on small engine repair using three non-functioning engines removed from the old school. AFL funding supported the purchase of a two-stroke bicycle adapter and a go-kart for student assembly and repair, with safety procedures in place. The program plans to seek additional community repair projects. AFL funding will also support assistance from Chris Seaby to provide more in-depth instruction in engine repair.

Ashleigh Curtis reported on the AFL School Garden Project. Planned work includes installing a border outside the fence to support pollinators, adding a watering system, and planting additional plants. Students are learning about food science, food systems, and plant growth through this project.



An update was provided on the Building Thinking Classrooms numeracy initiative, which has been positively received by students and supports active, hands-on learning aligned with the Strategic Plan. Appreciation was expressed to the Board for its ongoing support of initiatives that improve student success.

Trustee Stiglitz commented that the projects are encouraging and provide meaningful real-world learning opportunities.

c. Retirement of Lawrence Tarasoff

Chairperson Fehr announced the retirement of Superintendent Lawrence Tarasoff, whose vacation ends next month. Chairperson Fehr thanked him for his years of service and wished him well as he moves into retirement.

CORRESPONDENCE

2026:R-017 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
“TO accept the correspondence as received.”

2026:R-018 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
“TO do all three readings of Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD84-01 at this meeting.”

2026:R-019 MOVED: Trustee Hanson SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz
AND RESOLVED:
“TO adopt Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD84-01.”

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING

Chairperson Fehr reported that there was one labour, one land, and no legal items discussed in the closed meeting February 9, 2026.

Chairperson Fehr reported that there was one labour item discussed in the special closed meeting February 17, 2026.

Chairperson Fehr reported that there was one labour item discussed in the special closed meeting February 23, 2026.

Chairperson Fehr reported that there were three labour, one land and no legal items discussed in the closed meeting April 13, 2026.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

a. School Reports:

- I. CMESS: February 2026 - In February, CMESS focused on the Core Competency of Personal Awareness and Social Responsibility through the theme of “Kindness.” Students contributed to our hallway Kindness Tree and completed a collaborative “Belonging” art project, culminating in a Pink Shirt Day presentation on February 25th. We welcomed GRSS to Tahsis to share a traditional invite for the May Cultural Gathering and hosted our 2nd Annual Community vs. CMESS Basketball Game with students, staff, and parents. The month wrapped up with an Exhibition of Learning celebrating student highlights from the term.
March 2026 - In March, our Belonging inquiry transitioned into its next phase — “Grow.” Students have begun adding green goal-setting leaves to our hallway tree, moving from kindness toward others into personal responsibility and self-directed goal setting. CMESS also welcomed an ICBC Road Safe presentation and began a phase of school renovations over



Spring Break as part of a potential future collaboration with the Village of Tahsis. Unfortunately, students were unable to attend the District Basketball Jamboree and Mental Health Fair due to unsafe transportation in inclement weather; the school continues to advocate for equitable access to district events. Community consultations for the 2025–2026 School Growth Plan are now underway, with a presentation to the Village of Tahsis Council on April 7th and a scheduled appearance at the Tahsis Literary Society on April 13th. Students are also hoping — budget permitting — to participate in a Spring Sports Day with Zeballos School to make up for the missed Jamboree. Spring Bizarre May 9th

- II. KESS: Graduation is June 12, 2026. Grads are finalizing doing a trip to Ottawa for the Indigenous Cross Country celebration and are busy raising funds for travel. All students are slated to go to alert bay June 16th for a year end celebration.
- III. ZESS: see above

b. Provincial Council Report

Chairperson Fehr reported on the virtual meeting held February 20, 2026. All business reports passed. BCSTA continues their advocacy on behalf of all boards. BCSTA presented a balanced budget for 2026 which will be voted on at the AGM. Boards were reminded to review their “How Are We Doing” report.

c. Board Chair Call

Chairperson Fehr reported on the recent Provincial budget from Ministers Beare and MLA. Topics discussed as follows: Make sure schools are safe and have a safety coordinator for your district; No change to Provincial and Federal funding for food programs; All currently approved major capital projects will go ahead and no new ones will be approved at this time; Districts will still receive their annual facilities grants; Review and modernize policies.

d. Working Relations Committee

No meeting was held.

e. BCSTA Annual General Meeting

Deferred to June meeting.

f. Policy Review Committee Report

Recommendation to add “accountability” to the list of values.

2026:R-020 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“TO propose and circulate amendments to Policy 1 – Values Statement as recommended by the policy review committee”

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

Superintendent Larre provided an update as attached.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Community Consultations

Superintendent Larre and Secretary Treasurer Leask reported back from community consultations held in February and March as attached. A large amount of feedback on the district’s values and budget was received.



b. 2026-27 Annual Budget

Secretary Treasurer Leask reported that the 2026-27 budget development process is underway. As per the Board's direction towards a moderate approach, a draft budget was prepared, including all 2025-26 budgeted positions and excluding one-time additions from appropriated surplus. The Board reviewed the draft, all stakeholder feedback collected through the community consultations process, and staff recommendations. Recommendations will be incorporated into the next draft presented for reading at the May Board meeting in Kyuquot.

c. Succession Planning

Superintendent Larre announced that Dillon Kennedy has been hired as Operations Supervisor to fill one of the gaps resulting from Assistant Superintendent Johnson's retirement.

NEW BUSINESS

a. AP 530 – Travel, Meals, and Other Expenses

Secretary Treasurer Leask reported that this AP has been updated with increases to mileage rates and meal per diems. In line with the new BCTF Collective Agreement, mileage rates will now follow the CRA rates so this AP will be updated annually.

b. FESL Report Feedback

Superintendent Larre reported that the student achievement report was reviewed by the Ministry and reported back to the district. This year the Ministry stated there was clear evidence of improvement, actions, and success, with further work to be done on support on diversity, disability and Children and Youth in Care.

c. 2026 School Trustee Elections

The election is scheduled for October 17, 2026, with nomination period from September 1 to September 11.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Superintendent's Report – as attached

b. Secretary Treasurer's Report – as attached

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

Nil.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on May 11, 2026, at 4:00 pm, at Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School, Kyuquot. 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 5:00 pm

Certified Correct:

*Chairperson
Arlaine Fehr*

*Secretary-Treasurer
Gillian Leask*