



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District #64 (Gulf Islands)
LION'S HALL, SALT SPRING ISLAND
September 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Present:	May McKenzie	Chairperson
	Rob Pingle	Vice Chairperson
	Kathy Page	Trustee
	Pete Williams	Trustee
	Katharine Byers	Trustee
	Bonnie MacGillivray	Trustee
	Susanne Middleditch	Trustee
	Lisa Halstead	Superintendent of Schools
	Rod Scotvold	Secretary Treasurer
	Linda Underwood	Director of Instruction, Human Resources
	Doug Livingston	Director of Instruction, Learning Services
	Cindy Rodgers	Manager of Finance
	Dawne Fennell	Executive Assistant
	Elizabeth Nolan	Driftwood Representative
Regrets:	--	GIPVPA Representative
	--	DPAC Representative

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. This meeting is held at the Lion's Hall, Salt Spring Island, due to the teachers' strike and picket lines at the School Board Office today.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2014 09 10, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 64/14

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2014 06 11, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 65/14

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2014 06 25, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 66/14

3. BUSINESS ARISING

4. DELEGATIONS

GITA Members:

Deborah Nostdal (GITA President), Rose Kilmer, Ian Mitchell, Jack Braak, Jason Donaldson, Carol Arnold, Sonia Langer, Linda Lee

CUPE Members:

Larry Melious (CUPE President), Chip Chipman, Janice Shields, Bob Campsall

Deborah Nostdal (GITA President) presented Chair McKenzie with a letter urging "...the Board of Education to speak out in support of the BCTF's call for arbitration." Ms. McKenzie stated the Board is in support of BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan* received July 30, 2014 and the BCSTA's position as stated in the *Advocacy Update* received September 9, 2014, which she read to the delegates.

Chair McKenzie opened the floor for discussion.

A synopsis of comments made by the GITA and CUPE delegates:

- More Board support/statements/letters through the local media, be more vocal
- Letters to Government in support of teachers and full funding for public education
- Physical presence on the picket lines
- Individual trustees to share their opinion other than the unified stance of the Board as a whole
- Getting schools open is important and it appears as though binding arbitration is the fastest way for that to happen
- Boards should push back as this is when there is the most support. Help educate people about how districts are being affected. Not hearing any anger from trustees and wants to
- Negotiating is not happening – has been exhausted. If binding arbitration is not fair, what is?
- Fundamental flaw in Government's funding of education. We are also on the same page. One voice, individual statements don't have as much power
- The public is not hearing the Board. Hear consensus about speaking with one voice, looking for a public statement
- Appreciate the relationship we have

A synopsis of comments made by trustees:

- Up to July Board members had a voice, i.e., BCPSEA. In July Government dismissed the BCPSEA Board of Directors. BCTF wanted to bargain directly with Government, not BCPSEA. Two parties are now negotiating – Government and BCTF. A negotiated settlement is the best for everyone; we're hearing rhetoric from both parties. We are subject to the same information as the general public is. We are no longer privy to anything else. We keep hoping there is a negotiated settlement.
- BCSTA advocacy and we do support collectively through our organization. Appreciate the right for teachers to bargain. Government has decided trustees should not be involved in negotiations, work through BCSTA, can't through BCPSEA. Believe that negotiated settlement is the best way. Any trustee can say what they want as also some teachers don't want to say what they want. We will continue to advocate for public education and continue to ask for it to be fully funded as we always have done.
- Letter of support sent to each teacher from Chair McKenzie at the end of the school year, letters to the Government, collective voice at conferences, absolutely support our teachers
- Trustees have made several appearances on the picket lines; however, a number of them have jobs that prevent a continuous presence
- It's about relationships – have good relationships with district staff and administration and Ministry staff – it's a balancing act to maintain all relationships – they are all just people who believe strongly in what they are doing
- You need to know we support you, but not binding arbitration
- Regarding binding arbitration – we are part of the equation too, we are the employer. We want to see things happen. Want to see progression, not a decision made by one person
- Message is restoration of funding. Needs to be continually reiterated and it is through BCSTA

Following discussion, Chair McKenzie called for a motion.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education urge the BC government to get our students back into the schools and call for restoration of funding for public education.

The amendment to the main motion was adopted as follows:

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion: removing the words, "call for restoration of funding for public education" and adding, "to fully fund the calculated cost of the settlement with the BCTF and, provide robust funding to public education".

CARRIED 67/14

The main motion as amended with the final wording was adopted as follows:

It is moved and seconded that the Board of Education urge the BC Government to get our students back into the schools, to fully fund the calculated cost of the settlement with the BCTF and, provide robust funding to public education.

CARRIED 68/14

Ms. McKenzie will write a letter of support, which will include this motion, to Premier Christy Clark, Minister of Education Peter Fassbender and Minister of Finance Michael De Jong. Copies will also be sent to Elizabeth Nolan at the Driftwood, GITA President Deborah Nostdal, CUPE President Larry Melious, MLA Gary Holman and, the BCSTA for distribution to all Boards of Education.

5. TRUSTEE'S SCHOOL REPORTS

Due to the labour dispute there are no school reports at this time.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(a) Welcome Back

Ms. McKenzie welcomed everyone present to the first Board meeting of the year. However, due to the labour dispute school has not commenced for the 2014/2015 as yet.

(b) Notice of Motion – Local School Calendar

Trustee Pingle presented the following Notice of Motion:

It was moved that the Board of Education adopts a Local School Calendar for the 2015/2016 school year that reduces the number of instructional days by approximately 25 to 30 resulting in a four-day school week. The instructional time from these days will be added to the remaining days of instruction. The resulting savings will allow the district to preserve programs and options for our students. The motion will be tabled at the regular Public Board meeting on March 11, 2015.

(c) Staffing Update

Ms. McKenzie welcomed staff new to the district: Leslie Davis (English and ELL at GISS), and Jacob MacLean and Allisha Ochs, Information Technology Technicians. Congratulations to Matti Girardi as the Acting Principal at Mayne School; former Principal Donna Kirkpatrick will be returning to the classroom.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

(a) Learning in School District No. 64 – MYED BC and International Education

Principal of Special Projects, Judy Smith, spoke to Board members about the new student information system, My Education BC. MyED BC will replace BCeSIS, which will be decommissioned in the spring of 2016 and all schools using BCeSIS must transition to the new service or another solution by that time. Ms. Smith has been training staff in the new system since mid August. She stated the new system is quite user friendly, customizable and flexible and most of the school administrative assistants can use it well by this point. Ms. Nostdal reminded Board members that the teachers are not always provided with technology and Ms. Smith confirmed that teachers will not be engaging with the system at present.

Discussion on International Education is tabled for further discussion until September 12. The link to their new video is: video (<http://www.studyinbc.ca>).

9. **CORPORATE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

(a) **Summer Work**

Acting Facilities Manager and OH & S Supervisor, Tom Graham, stated the summer program was very productive. With picket lines up in June and September, some projects have been put on hold.

He reported out on the summer projects:

- Flooring upgrades and replacements at GISS and SIMS
- Seismic upgrade to SSE gym roof
- Fernwood School heating system upgrade
- Window film applied at SIMS and GISS
- Sprinkler system upgrades at various locations
- Parking lot upgrade at SSE/Mahon Hall parking lot
- Heating and hot water project at SEEC
- Painting at multiple locations
- Working on alternate ramp at SIMS for physically impaired student
- Cleaning of schools at all locations
- Team cleaning at SSI locations

Mr. Graham thanked the Board of Education and district administration and expressed his appreciation for their continued support of the work done to maintain the district facilities.

Chair McKenzie thanked Mr. Graham and Mr. Henshall and their crews for all their work in keeping district buildings and work areas safe and in great shape.

(b) **2013/2014 Financial Audit Statements**

Ms. Rodgers presented and explained in detail the revenue and expenditures of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2014. She stated the audit process at the end of July was excellent and very positive. There is an operating surplus for the 2013/2014 school year of \$59,612, and with a carry forward surplus of \$757,337 from previous years, there is a total accumulated surplus of \$816,949 as of June 30, 2014. Ms. Rodgers feels this amount puts the district in a good position for the year. Ms. Rodgers encouraged anyone with questions to contact her any time during her office hours.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education accepts the Audited Financial Statements for the 2013/2014 school year as presented.

CARRIED 69/14

(c) **Community Use of Facilities**

There has been considerable pressure to use school facilities for study and sports programs and playing fields during the teachers' strike. Mr. Scotvold reported the district does not have the capacity to provide adequate supervision or to look after the gyms and playing fields to make sure they are clean and safe during the current labour dispute. At the same time it is important to be mindful of picket lines and maintain respectful relationships. This item is tabled for further discussion on September 12.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

12. **QUESTION PERIOD**

13. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Committee Day Meeting – September 24, 2014 at the School Board Office or Lion's Hall if the labour dispute continues.
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – October 08, 2014 at Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

CARRIED 70/14

Date: October 8, 2014

May McKenzie
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold
Secretary Treasurer