



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
March 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Present:	May McKenzie	Chairperson
	Rob Pingle	Vice Chairperson
	Nancy Macdonald	Trustee
	John Wakefield	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
	Shelly Johnson	GIPVPA Representative
	Deborah Nostdal	GITA President
	Tisha Boulter	DPAC Representative
	Gail Sujberg	Driftwood Representative
Regrets:	Susanne Middleditch	Trustee
	Shelley Lawson	Trustee
	Anna Herlitz	Trustee
	Larry Melious	CUPE President

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., recessed at 9:31 a.m. and reconvened at 1:04 p.m. Chair McKenzie acknowledged this meeting is taking place on the territory of the Coast Salish people. She also informed everyone that due to high wind conditions, the water taxis departed Ganges at 1:00 p.m. Trustees Lawson and Herlitz left on the water taxis in order to attend meetings this evening on their home islands.

Teacher Linda Burgess's grades 1/2 class sang a song about friends and sharing that they have been practicing in class.

Students McKenna Jason, Kai Stenstrom, Elvin Shoolbraid, and Camryn Jackman from Mr. McPhee's grade 5 class took everyone on a tour inside and outside the school. They showed us the mural in the entrance hallway that all students participated in painting with the help of Quentin Harris and woodcarvings some students are working on. We then toured the nature park area, the outside garden, greenhouse and potting area, the chickens and chicken coop, and their classroom.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2016 03 09, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 29/16

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2016 02 10, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 30/16

3. BUSINESS ARISING

(a) Local School Calendar for 2016/2017

The trustees reviewed all feedback received regarding the 2016/2017 four-day instructional week calendar. Nine comments were received and Chair McKenzie responded to each one.

Vice Chair Rob Pingle introduced the following Notice of Motion that was presented at the September 23, 2015 Board meeting:

It was moved that the Board of Education adopts a Local School Calendar for the 2016/2017 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 09, 2016.

Discussion:

Superintendent Halstead shared that information came forward from the recent VISTA Conference regarding the Ministry's mandating of one non-instructional day to be set aside for curriculum. This day does not have to be replaced by a day of instruction. Ms. Halstead recommends Friday, January 6, 2017. It will be a day of work for teachers and a non-instructional day for students. The PVP group and GITA President Deborah Nostdal were consulted and are in favour.

An email was submitted by GITA President Deborah Nostdal noting that three and five day weeks are not very productive and that five day weeks are not in compliance with Article D.23.2 of the GITA Collective Agreement (Instructional Time and School Day). Ms. Nostdal proposes that April 21, 2017 and May 26, 2017 become days of instruction and January 23, 2017 and June 19, 2017 be removed as days of instruction. These changes will support compliance with Article D.23.2 while amending these weeks to four days of instruction.

It was moved and seconded the Board of Education adopts a change to the local school calendar resulting in 156 days of instruction for the 2016/2017 school year.

***Rationale:** The implementation of an altered school calendar enables the Board to retain educational programs and options for our students.*

CARRIED 31/16

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education approves the 2016/2017 local school calendar be altered to include a non-instructional day on January 6, 2017 and to remove January 23, 2017 and June 19, 2017 as instructional days and include April 21, 2017 and May 26, 2017 as instructional days as per the GITA Collective Agreement.

CARRIED 32/16

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Galiano Child Care Proposal – Emma Davis (9:00 a.m. – via teleconference)

Emma Davis, as Fundraising Coordinator and on behalf of the Galiano Preschool Society has submitted a request to the Board regarding the establishment of a community child care facility in partnership with School District No. 64 at Galiano Community School. She informed Board members that in February 2016 the Galiano Preschool Society, in partnership with the Galiano Club, initiated a Child Care Needs Assessment for Galiano Island. This report demonstrated a need for child care. The survey results showed that there is "dissatisfaction with the lack of child care services and an inability to afford child care due to the financial constraints of families surveyed." There are upcoming funding opportunities through the Ministry of Children and Family Development's *Child Care Major Capital Funding Program* and in order to take advantage of these opportunities, the preschool society must first achieve support from the Board before creating and submitting a business plan.

This request will be forwarded to the Programs Committee first then the Operations Committee for further review and discussion.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education supports in principle the development of a business plan by the Galiano Preschool Society for the establishment of a school based licensed child care facility at Galiano Community School.

Following discussion and clarification the main motion was adopted with the final wording as follows:

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education agrees to support in principle the Galiano Preschool Society in exploring options for a licensed childcare facility at Galiano Community School.

CARRIED 33/16

Ms. Davis departed the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

5. TRUSTEE'S SCHOOL REPORTS

- ***Fernwood Elementary School***
The FUEL program ran for 5 consecutive Tuesdays in conjunction with SS Literacy; crunch and go cards – crunch = fruits and vegetables are eaten on regular basis and go = when there is physical activity; garden starting to take shape, growing and planting schedule very comprehensive; working on setting up a farm stand at front of school to sell eggs and starter plants; outdoor classroom plans are being developed, it will be located next to nature play area and seat 30+ students
- ***Fulford Community Elementary School***
Focus is on communicating student learning; all students are participating with student-led conferences and e-portfolios; grades 3/4 class will receive regular report card this term; students learning to self-assess; lots of field trips; seaquaria set up in school, had “touch tank” workshop; basketball tournaments coming up
- ***Galiano Community School***
No report. Trustee Lawson absent.
- ***Gulf Islands Secondary School***
Biology 126, dual credit program with Camosun is offered this semester; parent-teacher interviews coming up; climate change presentation March 26; planning school based Pro D on Mayne Island; spring break trip to Italy
- ***Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School***
POMS (Parents of Mayne School) program set up by Principal Cullen, workshops offered to parents and students on reading, writing, math; new PAC, constantly evolving, planning an outdoor carnival on the long weekend in May; last Monday, OIMY students were on Mayne, students divided into groups to explore the Japanese garden and the history of when 42 kids were taken off island, another group went up into the forest to study trees, artwork and disc golf groups, all groups had community members involved
- ***Pender Islands Elem./Sec. School***
No report. Trustee Herlitz absent.
- ***Phoenix Elementary School***
Student-led conferences occurring; active PAC and parents are working toward planning a presentation with theatre, dance and music involvement, discussion regarding criminal record checks and integrating students, staff and parents in learning; sex education and games night – Tiffany Wightman and Jenny Redpath spoke about sex education with parents and kids were entertained with games
- ***Saltspring Island Middle School***
Naming of the circus – Tsunami Circus was the chosen name, big performance last week, everyone was invited, the circus is a bridge between sports and the arts; Ivan Coyote was a presenter at District Pro D on February 26 and the circus performed before their presentation; an invitation has been sent out by Principal Taylor to attend a ceremony to bless the log that will be carved into a welcoming pole that will find its home at SIMS; basketball; Quebec exchange; skiing field trip

➤ ***Salt Spring Elementary School***

In February Trustee Pingle was part of Reading Blitz, and he received a full-page thank you card, wonderful to participate; attended meeting about report cards; basketball tournament; Principal Shelly Johnson reported that SSE feels like a community school with many visits from community members, such as Arthur Black, Trustee Pingle, Superintendent Halstead, reading tutors, Girl Guides; Reading Blitz – first challenge, read every night, second challenge, read every night and no TV – 54 students completed the full challenge and 47 completed the reading challenge; parent putting together a video about the 75th anniversary; grade 5 class doing a mural project with seniors

➤ ***Saturna Elementary School/SEEC***

No report. Trustee Middleditch absent.

➤ ***Windsor House School***

No report. Trustee Middleditch absent.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **Strategic Plan**

Ms. McKenzie stated trustees are continuing their work on the Strategic Plan.

(b) **BCSTA AGM – Provincial Council Report**

There is no report as Trustee Herlitz is absent. Trustees will be attending the BCSTA AGM in April. At this meeting all trustees in the province gather to advocate for students and lobby the government for changes.

(c) **Report out on Emails Received**

Chair McKenzie reported out on two emails received by the Board:

1. A Phoenix Elementary parent received a letter from the Ministry of Justice requesting him to provide his fingerprints to confirm his identity in response to his Criminal Records Check application to volunteer at school. This type of request occurs when the person in question happens to have “a similar combination of name and/or date of birth and/or gender” of someone who has a criminal record. The Board received an email from the parent stating his concerns about this request, that he is willing to prove his identity through a “wide variety of documentation”; however, not through providing his fingerprints. He has met with Principal Beardsmore and Superintendent Halstead to discuss his concerns. Response from the Board was that the Board must be in compliance with the national RCMP policy and the Ministry of Justice’s request for further screening under the Vulnerable Sector Check.

The DPAC representative raised questions regarding the necessity of volunteers to have Criminal Record Checks. Conversation ensued and it was suggested that without an approved Criminal Records Check the parent in question is unable to work alone with students unless a teacher is present. Chair McKenzie will respond to the parent.

2. An email received from a Pender parent regarding an allegation that there will be an ecological program offered on Pender Island for Kindergarten to Grade 3. There was an ecological program introduced for Grades 4-8 for the 2015/2016 school year. There is concern that the addition of a new K-3 ecological program will create a 2-tier system. Ms. McKenzie and Ms. Halstead spoke to the parent who sent the email and responded to these concerns with an informational and clarifying letter which was sent to the Pender community on March 3.

8. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

(a) **Learning in School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)**

Doug Livingston, Director of Instruction, Learning Services presented his report on T4L – *Tech 4 Learning – Enhancing Learning Assistive Technology*. The report highlights included information on:

- The nature of learning and the approaches to learning
- The 7 principles of learning
- Far reaching technological change
- Tech 4 learning in SD64:
 - Schools investing in technology to support learning
 - Keep the focus on learning first
 - Planning for tech enabled learning – an inquiry approach
 - Checklist for tech purchases
 - Thinking about learning assisted by technology – SAMR – substitution, augmentation, modification, redefinition
 - The pedagogy wheel V4.1
 - Enhancing learning through technology

(b) **Curriculum and Assessment**

March 30, 31 and April 1 are the days set aside to engage senior administration, teachers, EAs and CEAs from all islands to look at redesigning the curriculum and the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning; how it will benefit students for them to be engaged and have ownership of their learning. There are eighteen members on the planning committee with GITA President Deborah Nostdal as Chair.

(c) **K-12 Innovation Partnership**

Ms. Halstead attended the second K-12 Innovation Partnership Provincial Session on March 8. Shelly Johnson, Jessica Willows and Rachel FitzZaland also attended. It was a day filled with positive collaboration, learning and networking.

(d) **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning**

The Vancouver Island Regional Forum for exploring new frameworks for enhancing student learning was held in Nanaimo on March 4. Approximately 70 participants from 11 districts (out of a total of 13) attended the forum. This new framework will replace the Accountability Contract and the Superintendents' Report on Achievement. The deadline for districts to report their timelines to the Ministry is the end of March. The annual District Planning Day for 2016/2017 has been replaced by a Framework Day on September 23.

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

(a) **Monthly Expenditure Report**

The monthly expenditure report, as at February 29, 2016, indicates that with 0.6667 of the year completed, 0.6316 of the budget has been expended. We are 3.56% below budget at this time. Mr. Scotvold stated the district is in good shape for this time of year. Based on current financial information, he remains optimistic the district may finish the year with a balanced budget. out by Principal Taylor to attend a ceremony to bless the log that will be carved into a welcoming pole that will find its home at SIMS; basketball; Quebec exchange; skiing field trip

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Policy Committee**

- (i) Policy 975, *Alcohol – Buildings, Grounds and Functions* (for approval)

The Policy Committee members felt Policy 975 needed to be reviewed again keeping in mind the language of the newly developed procedure.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education approves the revision to Policy 975, *Alcohol – Buildings, Grounds and Functions*.

(b) Programs Committee

Trustee Nancy Macdonald, Chair of the Programs Committee reported out on the concerns that were brought forward by a delegation to the Board on February 10 regarding the GISPA program. On Committee Day February 24, trustees reviewed the program. The trustees support the teaching staff and the existence and continuation of GISPA. They believe the program has a great deal of value and offers outstanding opportunities for students. There are also many other district programs that are supportive of student involvement and learning. The Board feels that healthy discourse leads to continuous improvements and that these are timely motions for learning in SD64.

1. It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education support the continuation of the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts, recognizing its full compliance with legislative requirements pertaining to school academies including the fee, its provision of outstanding personalized learning opportunities for GISS students, and strong community interest.

CARRIED 35/16

2. It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education encourage the GISS administrative staff to continue working with GISPA staff on the clarification of processes related to auditions, facility use and finances with a goal of full transparency and clarity for parents and the larger community.

CARRIED 36/16

3. It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education request of its Community Relations Committee to host a discussion of ways to highlight all district programs that provide opportunities for students in the district (examples including dual-credit, trades, academic, arts, nature-based, etc.) with the view of emphasizing the balance of diverse interests that the Board has continued to support over the years.

CARRIED 37/16

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms McKenzie informed everyone of a motion passed at the morning meeting affirming the Board would report out at the April meeting with a general statement of what occurred in the In-Camera meeting held March 9. She also reported that Trustee Wakefield declared himself in conflict of interest on an issue at the December meeting and withdrew from that portion of the meeting.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Committee Day – There is no Committee Day in March due to Spring Break
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – April 13, 2016 at Pender Islands School

14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

CARRIED 38/16

Date: April 13, 2016

May McKenzie
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold
Secretary Treasurer