



**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION – SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (GULF ISLANDS)
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2009 AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**

Present:	May McKenzie	Chairperson
	Pete Williams	Trustee
	Susanne Middleditch	Trustee
	Bonnie MacGillivray	Trustee
	Charles Hingston	Trustee
	Rob Pingle	Trustee
	Jeff Hopkins	Superintendent of Schools
	Rod Scotvold	Secretary Treasurer
	Linda Underwood	Director of Human Resources
	Sheila Miller	Director of Instruction Executive Assistant
John Nicolson	GITA President	
Shelley Lawson	PAC Representative	
Amy Geddes	Driftwood Reporter	
Regrets:	Mike Krayenhoff	Vice Chairperson
	Mike Bath	CUPE President

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2009 09 09, be adopted as amended with the following additions:

7 (c) Paperless Meetings

CARRIED 67/09

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2009 06 10, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 68/09

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2009 06 24, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 69/09

3. BUSINESS ARISING

4. DELEGATIONS

5. TRUSTEE'S SCHOOL REPORTS

- ***Fernwood Elementary School***
No report.
- ***Fulford Community Elementary School***
No report.
- ***Galiano Community School***
School is in, lots of students
- ***Gulf Islands Secondary School***
No report.
- ***Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School***
Staff meeting next week
- ***Pender Islands Elem./Sec. School***
School is in, lots of students

- **Phoenix Elementary School**
No report.
- **Salt Spring Island Middle School**
Seismic upgrading almost complete; social responsibility is the focus
- **Salt Spring Elementary School**
Lots of students excited to be back; ELF program running; great start
- **Saturna Elementary School/SEEC**
16 students, 3 more to come; K to 9 buddy tables, tables have 4 students at different grade levels at each table

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter of Request

Letter received from GISS teacher and senior girls' volleyball coach, Tony Mason, requesting Board approval for an athletic/cultural extra-curricular trip to Hawaii from October 7 to 17, 2010. More information will be forthcoming closer to the departure date.

(b) Letter from Minister

Letter received from Minister of Education Margaret MacDiarmid acknowledging Chair McKenzie's letter of June 12, 2009 welcoming her to her new position.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(a) Welcome Back

Chair McKenzie welcomed everyone to the 2009/2010 school year. She stated that the Board is not looking at any cuts due to the Ministry's decrease in funding and she is looking forward to the year ahead.

(b) Notice of Motion – Local School Calendar

It was moved that the Board of Education adopts a Local School Calendar for the 2010/2011 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 April 14, 2010.

It was moved and seconded that in order to give ample time for public input and discussion, be it resolved the Board of Education will consult with the community in accordance with the School Act and the School Calendar Regulation to seek input and feedback regarding the proposed Local School Calendar. Written submissions may be made to the Board throughout the school year until April 14, 2010. Additionally, time will be allotted for public input on each island community immediately following the Regular Public Board meeting held on each island. Proper notice will be given in each community as to the time and date of these meetings.

CARRIED 70/09

The comment form will be reactivated on the website to allow parents, students, staff and community members a forum to express their views about any local school calendar issues.

(c) Paperless Meetings

Chair McKenzie stated that the Board's goal is to implement paperless meetings and eliminate Board packages. All agendas and minutes will be sent out to trustees and the partners electronically. Documents that are usually attached will be scanned and sent out as well. The next meeting is on Galiano and will be the first paperless endeavor.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

(a) Enrollment Update

We have currently 1455 students enrolled and this is just above our projected enrollment for 2009/2010. The Ministry funds students in Grade 10 to 12 who have more than 1.0 FTE if they are carrying more than 8 courses.

Many students are taking more than 8 courses, which provides more funding. There are no negative surprises and everything is looking positive for enrollment and how classes are configured.

(b) Staffing Update

There are new teachers on staff this year and a few postings are out that will fill leave requests. Donna Kirkpatrick is the Acting Principal on Mayne for the 2009/2010 school year as Ty Binfet is taking a partial leave to dedicate more time to his academic studies at UBC. He will continue to teach 0.5 FTE at Mayne School for the year.

(c) Radio Station

After eleven years of effort, a radio station on Salt Spring Island is finally a reality – CFSI-FM, 107.9. The station provides the district with an opportunity to communicate with the community as a whole on urgent matters in a timely manner, e.g. snow days and school closures. Many staff members are volunteers and students have been encouraged to become involved. Information and the program schedule can be found on their website at <http://www.cfsi-fm.com/>. Email contact is info@cfsi.com.

(d) Computer Technology Update

Infrastructure has been upgraded with fiber optics and a wider bandwidth. Schools were bogging down in the afternoons and now there will be less jamming. There has been a change of servers in this corridor and maintenance will be able to be done from one location rather than having to travel to that location. *BlueCurl* is new technology that has been introduced into the district. Multi user access kits enable one PC to be shared by 5 users. By using this system schools greatly reduce their energy consumption and carbon output resulting from computer use. It is working very well and its use has been expanded throughout the district.

(e) Achievement Contract

Most of the data has been received, but Mr. Hopkins is still waiting for more information. The process for developing the contract is to incorporate each school's plan into it. Mr. Hopkins will present the achievement contract at the next Board meeting.

(f) H1N1 – Swine Flu

Mr. Hopkins has been involved in many conference calls with regard to the H1N1 virus. Health officials are anticipating a pandemic. They are optimistic, but treating it very carefully and preparing for the worst. The Ministry mandates a response plan and Mr. Hopkins is developing that plan now. Washing your hands with soap and water is still the best way to deal with the virus; however, hand sanitizers have been placed in computer labs where soap and water are not available. A link to BC government information on the H1N1 flu virus can be found at: <http://www.sd64.bc.ca/>.

(g) Graduation Results

The Ministry of Education has made writing Grade 12 exams optional with a few exceptions. Students write five Graduation Program exams: Language Arts 10, Science 10, Mathematics 10, a Social Studies 11/12, and a Language Arts 12. Other Grade 12 exams are optional. Most universities are not requiring students to write provincial exams and more and more students are opting out of writing them unless they want to qualify for the \$1,000 provincial scholarship. Mr. Hopkins is still awaiting final confirmation of Provincial Scholarship winners. There are 5 known, but there could be more. Students achieving a minimum of 86% on three or more Grade 12 exams receive a scholarship. Our students in Grades 10 to 12 did extremely well again this year, with a number of them achieving above the provincial average.

Trustee Pete Williams excused himself from the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

9. CORPORATE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

(a) Summer Work Program – Dave Henshall and Tom Graham

Dave Henshall, Manager of Facilities and Tom Graham, Supervisor of Building Service and OH & S Departments each presented a synopsis of work done by Plant Service crews over the summer months.

Mr. Henshall reported the main focus this summer was the seismic upgrading at Saltspring Island Middle School, which has gone very well and is near completion. Significant changes have been made to the building. Most schools have had a fresh coat of paint in the classrooms, there have been some minor roof repairs and Mayne School received a new septic field.

Mr. Graham stated the *Health and Safety* program has been proactive in addressing student health over the past 3 years. A keyboard-cleaning program has been implemented and the focus also includes all contact surfaces. He remarked, “the staff is well trained, the district is well equipped and continuity is important.” The summer cleaning program crews continue to be highly effective and efficient at focusing on specific needs at each school.

Sheila Miller Director of Instruction, Student Support Services, expressed thanks to Mr. Graham and Mr. Henshall for their support for students and promptness in responding to her concerns. Trustee MacGillivray stated the Building Service Workers take personal pride in their schools. Mr. Scotvold extended his thanks to Mr. Graham and Mr. Henshall and their crews for all the work that continues to keep the schools safe and clean.

(b) Audited Financial Statement

Secretary Treasurer Rod Scotvold presented and explained in detail the Audited Financial Statements for the 2008/2009 Fiscal Year, year ended June 30, 2009.

On behalf of the Board, Chair McKenzie thanked Connie Moulton for her work and congratulated her on another successful audit. Superintendent Hopkins thanked Ms. Moulton for her help at the school level as well.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education approves the 2008/2009 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

CARRIED 71/09

(c) Water Taxi Contract – 2009 to 2011

The water taxi tender closed on August 28, 2009 and the district received only one tender, which was from Gulf Islands Water Taxi Ltd. The price submitted for service is \$511,000 per year, which is up \$47,000 from the last contract. The benchmark for fuel as at August 15, 2009 was \$1.26/litre at the Ganges fuel dock, which is up from \$1.14/litre from the last contract benchmark in 2007. Mr. Scotvold feels the increase in the contract is driven mainly by the increase in the cost of fuel. He also stipulated the Ministry stills covers most of the cost of this contract.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education accepts the contract proposal of \$1,073,100.00, which includes GST, received from Gulf Islands Water Taxi Ltd. for the two-year period from September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

CARRIED 72/09

John Nicolson, President of GITA, commented on the crew's professionalism and feels the safety of students is their primary focus.

(d) Funding Update

The Ministry has canceled the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) funding this year; however, block funding is still intact. Also, the district will still receive the Community Link funding, which is

\$160,000 and up from last year. There are currently 1455 students, which is slightly above our projected enrollment for the 2009/2010 school year.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

12. **QUESTION PERIOD**

13. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Committee Day – September 23, 2009 at the School Board Office
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – October 14, 2009 at Galiano Community School

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

CARRIED 73/09

Date: October 14, 2009

Mike Krayenhoff
Vice Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold
Secretary Treasurer