



**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (GULF ISLANDS)  
HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 09, 2011 AT PENDER ISLANDS SCHOOL**

|                 |                     |                             |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | May McKenzie        | Chairperson                 |
|                 | Pete Williams       | Trustee                     |
|                 | Susanne Middleditch | Trustee                     |
|                 | Charles Hingston    | Trustee                     |
|                 | Jeff Hopkins        | Superintendent of Schools   |
|                 | Rod Scotvold        | Secretary Treasurer         |
|                 | Linda Underwood     | Director of Human Resources |
|                 | Dawne Fennell       | Executive Assistant         |
|                 | Jack Braak          | GITA President              |
|                 | Lyall Ruehlen       | GIPVPA                      |
| <b>Regrets:</b> | Bonnie MacGillivray | Vice Chairperson            |
|                 | Mike Krayenhoff     | Trustee                     |
|                 | Rob Pingle          | Trustee                     |
|                 | Sheila Miller       | Director of Instruction     |
|                 | Andy McNish         | CUPE President              |
|                 | Shelley Lawson      | DPAC Representative         |
|                 | Eva Olynyk          | GISS Student Representative |

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

Chair McKenzie acknowledged the recent loss of Bruce Creswick, Music teacher at SIMS and the effect this has had on staff, students and community members. On behalf of the Board, Ms McKenzie sends sincere sympathy to his family at this time of great sorrow.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2011 03 09, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 22/11

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2011 02 09, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 23/11

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2011 02 23, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 24/11

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

**5. TRUSTEE'S SCHOOL REPORTS**

➤ ***Fernwood Elementary School***

K registration; fundraising; softball registration; Author Richard Van Camp coming to read to students

➤ ***Fulford Community Elementary School***

Field trips; basketball; Spring Showcase – students' artwork; outdoor classroom being built by Neil Kerrigan and his construction class; GICEL summer camps; K registration

➤ ***Galiano Community School***

No report. Trustee MacGillivray absent.

- ***Gulf Islands Secondary School***  
No report. Trustee Krayenhoff absent.
- ***Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School***  
Fabulous photography display; one of the pods participated in an art project – went to recycling depot and created artwork from recycled articles – theme of recycling while using recycled items; lots of discussion about personalized learning; wonderful ski trip; looking forward to Spring Break
- ***Pender Islands Elem./Sec. School***  
Lots of field trips; Grade 4-5 class connecting with SSI schools to play basketball; Grade 2-3 class at Sidney museum; Jump Rope for Heart organized by Grade 4-5 class; 15 K registered; staff goes above and beyond class room teaching, i.e. one teacher looking at adding solar panels to the roof of the school; new initiative – Pursuing Passions on Pender – student works with facilitator to learn more about their particular passion, ties in with personalized learning initiative; ski trip went well, 2 days of skiing and boarding – Trustee Pete Williams went on trip with students, meals prepared by parents, all kids either skied or boarded
- ***Phoenix Elementary School***  
No report. Trustee Krayenhoff absent.
- ***Salt Spring Island Middle School***  
No report. Trustee Pingle absent.
- ***Salt Spring Elementary School***  
No report. Trustee Pingle absent.
- ***Saturna Elementary School/SEEC***  
200 chum have arrived at school; made heart shaped cake for Valentine’s Day; last field trip of the year was at IMAX, then went to museum; finished West Coast Aboriginal village

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

7. **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

(a) **Water Taxi Transportation**

Mike Dine, a Pender parent, came earlier today to talk to Board members. He would like to be the parent representative on the committee to discuss Policy 530 (Attendance Areas – K to 8), and water taxi transportation. Enrollment numbers won’t be available until after Spring Break; however, in all likelihood, the water taxis, particularly the Graduate, will be running at capacity with high school students for the 2011/2012 school year. High school students have priority – all other students, staff, trustees and parents travel as courtesy riders if there is space. Policy 530 is being reviewed and will be revised. There is a formal process in place regards cross boundary transfer requests. A letter is to be sent to the Superintendent for approval, copied to the Principals of the schools involved by the March 31 deadline. Mr. Hopkins did not receive any cross boundary transfer requests for the 2010/2011 school year, hence the overload. Financially the district cannot afford to contract another boat; the current water taxi schedules will be reviewed and revised if appropriate.

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

(a) **Retreat Debrief and Next Steps**

Approximately 100 people attended the annual district retreat on March 2, which included staff, students, trustees and community members who were actively engaged for the day. The focus was to look at feedback received over the past few years, have each person gauge his/her readiness in moving forward with personalized learning and discuss/share ideas regards what can occur to help support this move forward. Mr. Hopkins will compile the information and submit a report by the end of March.

(b) **Spring Staffing Overview**

The staffing process has begun for each school individually and is moving forward with the projected enrollment numbers. The enrollment has been declining, but increased slightly this year and is

projected to remain the same for the 2011/2012 school year. Special Education numbers will likely increase. Staffing should be completed early May.

**(c) Full Day Kindergarten**

In the 2010/2011 school year, the Ministry funded only 50% for full day kindergarten. The district implemented full-day kindergarten in the Outer Islands schools first as there are traditionally more multi-age classes, which would facilitate a smoother transition. In 2011/2012 all district elementary schools will have full-day kindergarten, half-day kindergarten will no longer be an option.

**(d) Affordable Housing Next Steps**

Mr. Hopkins received a letter from Minister MacDiarmid giving Ministry approval to dispose of a portion of the district property on Drake Road, which Phoenix Elementary School uses only a small portion of. Work on this venture has been in the process for a number of years and now the district can officially move forward with the affordable housing project that will be developed on a portion of this property. The next step will be consultation letters to neighbours and residents on Drake Road and a media release. Criteria will be developed regards the housing project and forwarded to the developer. The district will work in partnership with CRD and Islands Trust. Both are very supportive of this venture recognizing there is a lack of affordable housing on Salt Spring Island and an urgent need for housing for those who are homeless or living in sub-standard conditions.

**(e) Superintendent of Achievement Visit**

Alison Sidow (from Gold Trail) is the current Superintendent of Achievement for School District #64 (Gulf Islands). She was able to attend the annual district retreat and had many positive comments about the retreat and the district.

**(f) Synaptic Gap Program**

The *Synaptic Gap Program* is the working name of a new program initiative developed by John Abbott. The program would begin when a student finishes secondary school and before they enter a post secondary institute. The proposed period of time would be 2-3 months where youth would spend time as volunteers in early learning centres, environmental/ecological centres and become immersed in other cultures, Aboriginal issues, ethical literacy and moral courage. The program would be inquiry based and also include mentorships with community members and guest lecturers. The time spent on the Gulf Islands would be followed by another 2-3 months in developing countries where people are living in sub-standard areas and where the students could apply what they had previously experienced and learned. Dr. Scott Bergstrom, Director of International Programs for the district has been involved in discussions with Mr. Abbott and Mr. Hopkins. This program would be open to all students and there is already a great deal of interest from students abroad.

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

**(a) Monthly Expenditure Report**

The monthly expenditure report indicates that with 0.6667% of the year completed, 0.6379% of the budget has been expended. We are 2.88% below budget at this time. This year will present a tight budget. The level of sickness has been the highest to date with a small number of staff who have been sick for some time.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Policy Committee**

**(i) Policy #250 – Trustee Stipend**

A Notice of Motion will be sent out to amend the policy to read:

*“The payment of an annual stipend at the level as set by the Board of Education is hereby authorized. Such stipend shall be payable on a monthly basis. One third of the stipend shall be paid as an allowance for expenses incidental to the discharge of trustee duties.*

*The trustee stipend shall be adjusted annually effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. The adjustment shall reflect the Canadian Consumer Price Index established for July of each year.*

*Trustees will be provided with home office internet connection and a portable computer to conduct school district business during the term of office."*

This revised policy will come forward to the next Board meeting for approval.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**12. QUESTION PERIOD**

Parent Leigh Hanson asked if it is possible for a student from an Outer Island school to go to GISS for their electives. Superintendent Hopkins said this would involve cross-enrollment and regular communication with the teacher. The student would likely have to attend every day, as that's when electives are offered; a lot is about course content and how the classes build on each other. Mr. Hopkins will bring this forward to the Education Leadership Team (ELT) for input and discussion.

**13. NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Committee Day – March 30, 2011 at the School Board Office
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – April 13, 2011 at Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

CARRIED 25/11

Date Approved: April 13, 2011

May McKenzie  
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold  
Secretary Treasurer

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**LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR CONSULTATION FOR 2011/2012**

No discussion. (1 community member present).

Parent – Leigh Hanson feels “the 4-day week is a really good thing for high school students”.