



**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (GULF ISLANDS)  
HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011 AT SATURNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/SEEC**

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

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 2011 04 13, be adopted with the following additions:

- 7 (a) Meeting with Ministry Staff
- 8 (c) Tennis

CARRIED 26/11

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2011 03 09, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 27/11

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

**(a) Local School Calendar for 2011/2012**

The trustees have reviewed all feedback received regarding a four-day instructional week calendar. Secretary Treasurer Rod Scotvold spoke to the projected financial projections based on a 4-day instructional week vs. a 5-day instructional week. The projected financial shortfall for 2011/2012 based on the 5-day instructional week would be \$442,850 compared to a projected financial shortfall of \$49,900 based on the 4-day instructional week. The operational implications from the \$442,850 shortfall would result in the reduction of staff, which would have a major impact on educational programs. The operational implications from the \$49,900 shortfall would be a reduction of 0.5 FTE to staff in instruction.

Trustee Rob Pingle read the Notice of Motion that was passed September 8, 2010:

*It was moved that the Board of Education adopts a Local School Calendar for the 2011/2012 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 13, 2011.*

Chair McKenzie opened the floor for discussion.

**Discussion included:**

1. Question from parent put forward to Trustee Hingston regards a surplus of \$400,000 in 2009/2010. Why can't the district return to the 5-day week with this amount of surplus? Mr. Scotvold responded:
  - To maintain educational programs and services, the district would require a surplus of \$500,000 for the next three years. A one-year surplus would only maintain services for that year, and then the district would be in a deficit situation for the next school year. Staff and programs would be cut, which would likely affect enrollment.
  - This year, the district anticipates a net surplus of only \$50,000 to \$100,000 and have had to address numerous cost pressures including a 2% funding increase for teachers, pension funding increase, an extra \$150,000 cost for sick leave and an increase in costs to run the water taxis.
2. Question from parent put forward to Trustee Pingle regards educational impact and independent data. Mr. Hopkins responded the district has more information than it ever has had. The data shows there is no concern. Our students do remarkably well.
3. Question from parent put forward to Trustee Pingle regards why Fridays are chosen as the non-instructional day instead of Mondays? Mr. Hopkins responded there are a number of events occurring on Fridays that a large number of students are involved in, such as sports, theatre and music. Maintaining Fridays as a non-instructional day, students miss less school. They used to be absent on Fridays to maintain their commitments.
4. Question from parent put forward to Chair McKenzie regards do we know how many students leave our district because of the 4-day week? Mr. Hopkins responded that we do have data – only 4 families have mentioned it as a reason. Parental choice to have their child(ren) attend private schools is the number one reason. Students are also migrating in because of the 4-day week and program options, and in some cases, the 4-day week matches the parent's work week. This year 18 students have transferred in to School District #64 (Gulf Islands).
5. Questions from GITA President, Jack Braak – Has there been an increase in demand for tutors and has there been a demand for extra support for students on Fridays? Mr. Hopkins responded there has not been a noticeable demand or increase in tutoring and no requests for extra support on Fridays. Director of Instruction, Sheila Miller also noted there are lots of student requests for tutoring in BC districts that are on the 5-day instructional week, not just from districts who are on the 4-day instructional week.

Chair McKenzie declared the discussion period closed and called for a vote on the motion.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopts a change to the local school calendar resulting in 157 days of instruction for the 2011/2012 school year.

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

CARRIED 28/11

The final version of the calendar will be sent out to all partner groups, schools and uploaded on the district website.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

5. **TRUSTEE'S SCHOOL REPORTS**

➤ ***Fernwood Elementary School***

Pyjama day and pizza day; art projects in foyer; floor hockey; "Vision for Kids" by Lion's Club; ArtSpring concert band with lots of community students in the band; teacher Joyce Weir retiring

➤ ***Fulford Community Elementary School***

Whole school meeting so full of energy; Mary Freeman's class learning about whales; outdoor classroom being built by Neil Kerrigan and his carpentry students; every student in school is doing artwork on the tiles that will be laid in outdoor classroom

➤ ***Galiano Community School***

Bees – 2 hives, Larry Campbell bought second hive; bees are coming later in April; all students are very bee informed; resurgence in community garden – being expanded and students doing cuttings for fund raising; April 29, all grade 5's will visit the school for Aboriginal Day activities, activities will be at Montague Harbour for 120 people, Kuper Island students will be coming; bike rodeo, Cinco de Mayo activities on May 5

➤ ***Gulf Islands Secondary School***

Report sent by email from Student Representative Eva Olynyk:

- GISS is hosting the All Candidates debate featuring Gary Lunn, Elizabeth May, etc. It will be open both to the community and to students, and students have been asked to generate questions for the candidates. A mock election will be held in May.
- The school newspaper will be switching the quality of their paper to newsprint, and since its inception has grown considerably, featuring advertising from across the community, as well as articles, cartoons, and photos from the students of GISS.
- Leadership is organizing an Easter egg hunt as a bonding experience.
- Student government is working with PARCS, and the SSITC to lend student opinion on various subjects they are interested in.
- Students working with Nicola Temmel and John McColl to organize a forum about politics to raise youth awareness.

➤ ***Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School***

Pods are awesome (multi-age groupings of interest) – art show, sculptures, routed signs for over doors of every room, organizing talent show, getting garden ready, playground proposal, organizing "cowboy day" and making chili, redoing mural; working on long-term plans re: personalized learning – wanting to tear down walls to make one big classroom; Phoenix coming to visit; track and field; choir; beach clean up day; fundraiser for laptops for all students to have when they go to GISS; students love PSW Ron Willick, thrilled about him being involved in garden – he has planted clover in the grass, deer will come and eat the clover and fertilize the grass

➤ ***Pender Islands Elem./Sec. School***

No report. Trustee Williams absent.

➤ ***Phoenix Elementary School***

No report. Trustee Krayenhoff absent.

➤ ***Saltspring Island Middle School***

April 5 – SIMS Open House; April 9 – Talent Show hosted by PAC as a fundraiser, staff participated, was very successful; everyone still working through the loss of Bruce Creswick, Wendy Milton has stepped into the role; April 15 – personalized learning workshop; April 29 – Ab. Ed. Day

***Salt Spring Elementary School***

Water project submission to the BC Green Games won an award out of 85 elementary submissions; April 28 & 29 increasing the stream of dreams – fish on the fence – funding in place, works in with water project; seaquarium – changes often

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

Students Carson, Liam, Emerson and Jacob joined Mr. Mason and teacher Helen Mason to entertain Board members with guitar playing and singing; students hiked to Lyall Harbour; bike riding; visit to Campbell Farm – 122 lambs, watched sheep dog practicing; made ice cream; doing unit on light with mirrors; started garden

SEEC – 9 students have expressed interest for next year (all girls); goal is 12 students per semester, can run program with 6-12; outdoor classroom is underway, foundation poured; getting site ready for tours; \$38,000 budget and \$8,000 spent; need another \$100,000 to finish; discussion on how to raise the money to finish site, or where to go to get more money; fire department chief wouldn't sign off on building as there is no sprinkler system, \$7,000 has been donated to put in sprinkler system; Trustee Middleditch will research "CRD Grant in Aid" for more monies

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **Meeting with Ministry Staff**

A half hour meeting has been scheduled at the BCSTA AGM on Friday afternoon, April 15 for School District #64 (Gulf Islands) trustees to meet with Ministry staff.

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

(a) **Planning Day – May 13, 2011**

District Planning Day/Retirement Luncheon will be held Friday, May 13 at GISS. Mr. Hopkins has taken information gleaned from the District Retreat regards "readiness" for personalized learning from groups of teachers, parents and students and developed graphs as a visual means of determining where people are presently. This will form the morning plenary session along with the development of a district action plan regards personalized learning. Breakout sessions will allow schools to focus on their own initiatives. The retirement luncheon will be from 12:00 to 1:30 in the GISS cafeteria. The cost will be \$5.00 per person through pre-paid tickets. The luncheon is also partially funded by the Board, GITA and CUPE.

(b) **Drake Road**

Mr. Hopkins has received approval from the Ministry to dispose of approximately 5 acres of district property on Drake Road, which is adjacent to Phoenix Elementary School. The remaining 7 acres around the school will be retained by the district for "educational programming and environmental conservation purposes." The next step is "to formalize a relationship whereby the school district authorizes the CRD to act as its agent. The focus will then be on surveying the site, continuing to consult the community, and forming a Board of Education-CRD joint advisory body that will craft a set of filtering criteria for the development." Janis Gauthier, consultant for the district and coordinator of the Community Affordable Housing Strategy will continue to work with the district and the CRD to develop a housing plan.

(c) **Tennis**

Marianne Banman, district staff member of Student Support Services and BCeSIS Coordinator has been named the 2010 Tennis BC Community Coach of the Year by Tennis BC. Through Ms. Banman's ongoing hard work and commitment to student and community tennis participants, Salt Spring was chosen as the winner of the Tennis Friendly Community of the Year 2010 award out of 47 "Building Tennis Communities" from across Canada. She thanks the district for their ongoing support in her efforts and for allowing her to "introduce progressive tennis in the Salt Spring Island schools".

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

(a) **Monthly Expenditure Report**

The monthly expenditure report indicates that with 0.75% of the year completed, 0.7293% of the budget has been expended. We are 2.07% below budget at this time.

(b) **2010/2011 Five-Year Capital Plan Summary**

Mr. Scotvold reported out on the 2010/2011 Capital Plan. The district had put forth a request for two replacement buses; however the request was not supported.

(c) **Capital Project Bylaw No. 126321 – Annual Facility Grant**

This grant is allocated to the Operating Fund; however, for 2011/2012 the Ministry will release 2/3 of the funds as Capital Funds. There are different rules in place between the two funds regards to how the funds can be used. What is considered in facility upgrading is not what is allowed under Capital Funding.

It was moved and seconded that there is unanimous agreement to read Capital Project Bylaw No. 126321 in the amount of \$310,133 be read three times in one meeting.

CARRIED 29/11

It was moved and seconded that there is unanimous agreement to read Capital Project Bylaw No. 126321 in the amount of \$310,133 be read a first time and approved.

CARRIED 30/11

It was moved and seconded that there is unanimous agreement to read Capital Project Bylaw No. 126321 in the amount of \$310,133 be read a second time and approved.

CARRIED 31/11

It was moved and seconded that there is unanimous agreement to read Capital Project Bylaw No. 126321 in the amount of \$310,133 be read a third time, passed and adopted.

CARRIED 32/11

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Policy Committee**

(i) **Policy 250 – Trustee Stipend**

Chair Rob Pingle presented the revised version of Policy 250. The revised version was sent out last month as a Notice of Motion; no input was received.

It was moved and seconded that Policy 250, Trustee Stipend, be approved as revised.

CARRIED 33/11

A memo regards the revised policy will be sent out to the PVP group, school secretaries and partner groups and uploaded to the district website.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

12. **QUESTION PERIOD**

13. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

(a) Committee Day – April 27, 2011 at the School Board Office

(b) Regular Board Meeting – May 11, 2011 at Mayne Island School

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

CARRIED 34/11

Date Approved: May 11, 2011

May McKenzie  
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold  
Secretary Treasurer