



**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION**  
**Board of Education, School District #64 (Gulf Islands)**  
**SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**  
**December 4, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.**

<b>Present:</b>	May McKenzie	Chairperson
	Rob Pingle	Vice Chairperson
	Katharine Byers	Trustee
	Bonnie MacGillivray	Trustee
	Susanne Middleditch	Trustee
	Kathy Page	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
	Wendy Vine	Recording Assistant
	Deborah Nostdal	GITA President (1:00 p.m.)

  

<b>Regrets:</b>	Larry Melious	CUPE President (1:30 p.m.)
	Elizabeth Nolan	Driftwood Representative (1:00 p.m.)
	Amy Cousins	TTOC with GISS Delegation (1:00 p.m.)(left at 1:30 p.m.)
	Dawne Fennell	Executive Assistant
	Tania Aguila	DPAC Representative
	Pete Williams	Trustee (1:00 p.m.)
	--	GIPVPA Representative (1:00 p.m.)

  

--	GISS Student Representative
Michelle Spencer	Guest/Gulf Islands Connection

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. for the election of officers.

Superintendent Lisa Halstead took the chair and turned it over to Mr. Scotvold, who called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Board Chairperson. He then distributed nomination ballots. Those nominated were May McKenzie and Rob Pingle. Both accepted the nomination. Ballots were distributed again for the vote. May McKenzie was elected as Chairperson and took the Chair.

The Chairperson called for nominations for Vice Chairperson and ballots were distributed. Those nominated were Rob Pingle and Pete Williams. Both accepted the nomination. Ballots were distributed again for the vote. Rob Pingle was elected as Vice Chairperson.

**BCSTA Provincial Council Representative**

Susanne Middleditch accepted as the BCSTA Provincial Council Representative.

**BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate**

Katharine Byers accepted as the BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate.

**BCPSEA Dual Bargaining Council Representative**

Pete Williams accepted as the BCPSEA DBC Representative.

**BCPSEA Dual Bargaining Council Alternate**

Bonnie MacGillivray accepted as the BCPSEA DBC Alternate.

**VILRC Representative**

Pete Williams accepted as the VILRC Representative.

**VILRC Alternate**

Bonnie MacGillivray accepted as the VILRC Alternate.

**VILRC Staff Representatives**

Rod Scotvold, Linda Underwood and Cindy Rodgers accepted as VILRC Staff Representatives.

It was moved and seconded that the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED 75/13

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

CARRIED 76/13

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 2013 12 04, be adopted with the following addition:

9 (a) Monthly Expenditure Report

CARRIED 77/13

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2013 11 13, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 78/13

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

**(a) Renewable Energy Scholarship Fund Proposal**

Kjell Liem and David Denning from Transition Salt Spring presented a proposal to install photovoltaic panels on the roof of GISS, to tie in with energy sustainability action plans of the community and the carbon-neutrality mandate of the school district. There would be no net capital cost to the school district, and the money saved (projected to be approximately \$1600 per year) would go toward a Solar Scholarship and maintenance of the system.

Comments around the table indicated general approval and excitement, noting the many opportunities this provides for discussion in the community and school district. The process would involve an Agreement in Principle, followed by more research such as electrical and structural surveys, resulting in a final plan to be approved by the School Board. The installation would be followed by a dedication and public opening, which would herald on-going education and development in parallel.

It was moved and seconded that School District #64 (Gulf Islands) enter into an Agreement in Principle with the GISS Solar Scholarship/PV Array Project as presented.

CARRIED 79/13

**5. TRUSTEE'S SCHOOL REPORTS**

➤ ***Fernwood Elementary School***

Decorating Christmas trees/snowmen; Roots of Empathy focus on crying; Gr. 3s student teacher studying space / "awesome astronauts"; Gr. 4/5 research projects (manmade wonders/natural wonders); lots of oral language at Gr. 4/5 level (public speaking, whole class discussions, daily announcements); kindergarten students are improving narrative skills using "reading" groups (sequencing, retelling); popcorn sale to adopt Spirit Bear, connection with native elder Jim Spencer regarding naming it; Daniel Logan coaching volleyball; PAC Christmas raffle and bake sale to fundraise for renovating garden and roofing sandbox

➤ ***Fulford Community Elementary School***

Trustee Pingle handed out service certificates at whole school meeting; fundraising for typhoon relief; field trips to Shaw Discovery Centre, skating, BC Forest Museum; school concert Dec. 17; PAC table at Fulford Craft Fair selling famous black "poop grid" bird shirts; 4 R's (reduce, reuse,

recycle, re-gift) family Christmas shopping event (staff and PAC teamwork); Scholastic Book Fair; outdoor art gallery idea to add to installations at Hastings House; PAC meeting talked about staff using positive behaviour support lens to approach learning

➤ ***Galiano Community School***

Twist on recycle/reuse idea-Trinkets and Treasures, people bring things in to pick for a loonie or toonie and it gets gift-wrapped for you; PAC selling Christmas trees for fundraising; kids decorate the pub windows-whole school event, pancake breakfast; Exploratories for whole school; parental issue with mud on frosty days; Christmas concert adaptation of Hockey Sweater (parents leading this)

➤ ***Gulf Islands Secondary School***

Reports done; basketball is focus now; greenhouse is done; Today I Will Wall; PAC hosted discussion on technology in district; desire for more consistency in terms of athletic uniforms; staff party at Legion 4:30 on Dec. 10, when Trustee Page will give out service certificates

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

Playground progressing; Storytime Theatre presented an environment-themed play last month; PAC doing hot lunch program with students helping in the preparation and are keen to extend school to wider community; microwave and kettle in class to up the ante on nutritious lunches; staff change to accommodate a maternity leave; Cookies and Kindling program for shut ins; lots of courses at SLC

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

No report. Trustee Williams absent.

➤ ***Phoenix Elementary School***

Dogs in school as an experiment; working on independent learning and being responsible for their learning; need volunteer for garden in spring; stream restoration done; fundraising for music program by caroling at Christmas Market Dec. 14; nominating music teacher for an award to pay for her to stay on

➤ ***Saltspring Island Middle School***

Bullying and typhoon disaster relief are themes for student leadership presentation (2 videos, one student-made); Happy Feet went better this time; band and choir concert Dec. 12; won basketball championships; Respectful Relationships starting with grade 7s; Exploratories changed over this week; starting running club with police

➤ ***Salt Spring Elementary School***

Family disco dance party put on successfully by keeping it low-key (parent DJ, no dinner, kids danced and parents watched, raised over \$2000); 4 Rs here as well; seasonal concert Dec. 18

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

Seasonal environmental comedy *The Scrunge* is major focus-going to SSE Dec. 10, Pender Dec. 11, and Saturna Dec. 18

➤ ***Windsor House School***

Forest Beach and nature program at Haywood Park and McKay Creek; building a cob oven (need bricks and hay); Winter Fair a 2 day event (Fri/Sat); field trip to Seymour Dance performance of Nutcracker Dec. 9

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **Board Elections**

Ms. McKenzie reported out on elections held this morning. She returns as Board Chair and Salt Spring Island trustee Rob Pingle is the new Vice Chairperson. She also informed everyone of the provincial and alternate representatives for BCPSEA, BCSTA and VILRC, which remain the same as last year.

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

(a) **Learning in School District #64**

Superintendent Halstead presented the ten recommendations being worked on by the Time and Learning Task Force, which arose from the research study last year by Martin Blakesley.

The recommendations are:

- 1) Investigate two four-day week considerations: the impact on student achievement (note: there is no evidence yet of an overall negative impact) and the financial considerations (Mr. Scotvold recommends that, in order to afford to return to the 5-day week, the district would need to show a \$600,000 structural surplus for 2 to 3 years running. For 2013-2014, we project a break-even situation {0 net structural surplus}).
- 2) Regional calendar coordination: that the district maintain close contact with surrounding districts, so as to inform its consultation process with information concerning calendars being considered by them.
- 3) That the district further investigate ways in which calendar choices impact families with vulnerable, at-risk students, and consider their needs as a lens when making calendar and resource decisions.
- 4) a) That the district look at the summer as an opportunity to offer programs for students, especially vulnerable students. (Ideas for getting grants, offering camps, Friday programs, reaching out to work with the community, e.g., Early Learning initiatives and connecting with SS Literacy/library, connection with library on Galiano, etc. were suggested as examples.)  
b) That more focus be placed on the early primary years to address learning or opportunity loss.
- 5) That the district continues to promote instructional delivery focused on higher order teaching, learning, and assessment.
- 6) That teachers engage in dialogue with parents regarding homework, and focus on appropriateness of homework, especially at the elementary level, in relation to the length of the day.
- 7) a) That the Board intensify efforts to help the public understand calendar complexity.  
b) That the Board promotes greater understanding and appreciation in the public about the impact of transportation complexities in the district.
- 8) a) Look more closely at the effectiveness of GISS Work Zones and Flex Block concepts to align intended purpose and student achievement.  
b) Ascertain the impact of current schedule organization on the International Program.
- 9) That the district continues with the “essentially traditional” calendar approach currently being used.
- 10) That a steering committee be formed (note: the Time and Learning Task Force was formed as a response to this recommendation).

*Rob Pingle took over as Chair at 2:45 p.m.; Trustee MacGillivray and Chairperson McKenzie left at 2:45 p.m.*

**(b) Education LINKS Report**

The last meeting was held on November 28. Highlights included an active discussion on transforming assessment.

**(c) Student Information System**

It was moved and seconded that the Board give notice that School District #64 (Gulf Islands) will be changing to a new information system, either by April 2014 or April 2015.

CARRIED 80/13

**(d) Research Request**

Windsor House School Principal Meghan Carrico is supportive of this request for Masters level research about instructional methods at alternative high schools, conducted by Masters in Education student Xylem Larla Dey from California State University, Chico.

It was moved and seconded that Xylem Larla Dey’s research request be granted as presented.

CARRIED 81/13

*Larry Melious left at 3:00 p.m.*

**(e) Ratification of CUPE Collective Agreement**

Ms. Underwood thanked the current CUPE Executive and the 2013 bargaining team for their dedication. She presented the Memorandum of Settlement for ratification.

It was moved and seconded that the Board ratify the CUPE Memorandum of Settlement, subject to Ministry approval of the Board's "Saving Plan".

CARRIED 82/13

**(f) Wi-Fi in Schools – Doug Livingston**

Approximately a dozen parents attended the Technology Update provided by Doug Livingston at the November GISS PAC meeting. In response to the concerns of some parents about the health effects of Wi-Fi, Mr. Livingston recalled the advice from Provincial Health Officer Kendall that, "...there is no convincing evidence of adverse health effects from these exposures." The district will continue to monitor this issue.

In light of the Health Officer's advice, the district will not be employing a device to ascertain the radio frequency emissions from the GISS Wi-Fi system as it is unlikely that there will be agreement on a benchmark of acceptable emissions. It may also be difficult to differentiate between signals emitted by the school Wi-Fi system and that emitted by Shaw's community and other private Wi-Fi signals. Similarly, the costly option of re-wiring our schools to replace Wi-Fi is not currently under consideration.

The district looks forward to collaboratively developing and promoting information to students and parents about the healthy use of portable devices such as "laptops", tablets, cellular phones, and other digital devices.

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

**(a) Monthly Expenditure Report**

The monthly expenditure report, as at November 30, 2013, indicates that with 0.4167 of the year completed, 0.3718 of the budget has been expended. We are 4.49% below budget at this time.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**12. QUESTION PERIOD**

**13. NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Committee Day – December 18, 2013 at the School Board Office
- (b) Committee Day – January 8, 2014 at the School Board Office (subject to confirmation)
- (c) Regular Board Meeting – January 22, 2014 at Saltspring Island Middle School

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

CARRIED 83/13

Date: January 22, 2014

May McKenzie  
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold  
Secretary Treasurer