



**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION**  
**Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)**  
**SALTSPRING ISLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**March 11, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.**

<b>Present:</b>	May McKenzie	Chairperson
	Rob Pingle	Vice Chairperson
	Nancy Macdonald	Trustee
	Shelley Lawson	Trustee
	Susanne Middleditch	Trustee
	Anna Herlitz	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
	Keiko Taylor	GIPVPA Representative
Larry Melious	CUPE President	
Deborah Nostdal	GITA President	
Elizabeth Nolan	Driftwood Representative	
<b>Guests:</b>	Lyall Ruehlen	Principal, GISS
	Michael Contardi / Jenny St. Germaine / Carleen Mutch	
	Leanna Boyer	
	Natasha Kong	
	Jamie Ferguson	
	Karen Parker / Roz Kempe	

Chair McKenzie acknowledged this meeting is taking place on the territory of the Coast Salish people. Principal Keiko Taylor and Vice Principal Jude Shugar welcomed everyone to SIMS.

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

SIMS student, Isabella Sokolosky-Topfer Isabella from Pender performed on the piano and sang.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2015 03 11, be adopted with the following addition:

3(b) Provincial Council

CARRIED 21/15

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2015 02 11, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 22/15

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

**(a) Local School Calendar for 2015/2016**

The trustees reviewed all feedback received regarding the 2015/2016 four-day instructional week calendar. Thirty-seven comments were received and Ms. McKenzie responded to each one. On March 5, 2015 the 2015/2016 local school calendar draft was revised and circulated. It was revised to provide alignment with the Collective Agreement and the Ministry of Education's Provincial Exam Schedule for June 2016. Ms. Halstead received correspondence/instructions regarding this change from BCPSEA on February 27.

Two more draft calendars were prepared after taking into consideration the following items while still retaining 156 days of instruction:

1. Provincial exams on June 27 and 28,
2. Article D22, item 2 of the Collective Agreement, which speaks to the “Regular Work Year” and days in session, and
3. Article D22, item 5, which speaks to Spring Break days.

Superintendent Halstead presented and explained the four templates – the original sent out in January, the revised one after the February 27 information was received from the Ministry and the two that were developed earlier today after consideration of the Collective Agreement language and further community input.

Vice Chair Rob Pingle presented the following Notice of Motion that was presented at the September 10, 2014 Board meeting:

It was moved that the Board of Education adopts a Local School Calendar for the 2015/2016 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 11, 2015.

Chair McKenzie opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion included:

- Acknowledgment that in the revised template of March 5, three instructional Fridays in a row in June is not productive
- Acknowledgment of trying to balance semesters for GISS
- Template 3 takes into consideration the Collective Agreement language of Article D22, items 2 and 5
- Regarding template 3 – will families return from holidays for children to attend school March 30, 31 and April 1 following the scheduled Spring Break?
- The district has a responsibility to provide educational programs and parents have the right to choose regarding vacations. Some families are taking vacation already even before our scheduled break. Template 3 comes as close to meeting the needs of everyone while being mindful of the Collective Agreement language.
- Some families will not be taking Spring Break vacations, so the shorter time off might be positive for many families.
- Shorter time off for Spring Break means a longer time until the end of June without another break – could result in more sick time.
- Trustee Wakefield – not in favour of voting for these revised calendars. In favour of the first template sent out in January, then amending the calendar and re-distributing it for further consultation. Chair McKenzie responded that we are not changing the intent of the original motion. We have tweaked the calendar every year and she believes we are in compliance.
- Template 3 is the calendar of choice.

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 2015/2016 school year.

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

4. **DELEGATIONS**

(a) **Pender Proposal**

Pender delegates Karen Parker and Roz Kempe shared their presentation outlining their concept of an alternative program at Pender School for Grades 4-8 students with the intention of keeping students on their home island and hopefully attracting new students and families to Pender Island and the school. The program would be nature-based, with strong foundations in literacy and numeracy and a focus on: ecology of the surrounding environment; hands-on experiential learning; independent study options; community mentoring; and Coast Salish cross-cultural learning. They see the program as a blend of home and at school learning, accessible to part-time home-based and full time students and with parent involvement.

Discussion included:

- The continuation of the Spring Leaves K to 8 program
- Principal involvement with regard to development and implementation of program
- The need to consider the “whole school” environment and the impact on all learners in the school and their needs
- The need to observe Collective Agreement language

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education accepts the Program committee recommendation that the Board direct the Superintendent to explore middle years opportunities for flexible learning on Pender Island, with the intent to begin in September 2015.

CARRIED 24/15

5. **TRUSTEE’S SCHOOL REPORTS**

➤ ***Fernwood Elementary School***

Anti-bullying day and pink T-shirts; field trip to estuary; drainage system is being upgraded, with grant from SS Foundation; mural happening in lobby; garden club has been working hard, thanks to Windsor Plywood for supplying wood for boxes; students building rockets; skating field trip

➤ ***Fulford Community Elementary School***

Girls’ basketball game; SSE boys coming next; reading challenge; early dismissal on Thursday; class working on water project with Cate McEwen; Talent Show on April 23; students going out to prepare garden area soon

➤ ***Galiano Community School***

First Nations focus, students working on medicine wheels, traditional tea tasting; PAC has been very busy with fundraising for Camp Thunderbird; inter-island connection discussions with parents; student led conferences; teachers talking about assessments; Math inquiry student groups

➤ ***Gulf Islands Secondary School***

Spirit Week; rowing teams active; field trips; 25 students going to Europe during Spring Break; GISS students hosting Youth Parliament; course selections underway; Improv team earned a wild card berth into nationals in Ottawa

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

Primary class has finished mapping the solar system; maturation talks in grades 4 to 8 classes; boating and beach studies field trip coming up; FSA results came back, principal is pleased with results; OIMY at Mayne last week; 6 Mayne students are going to Europe at Spring Break with GISS; Mayne graduate student Skye Lozier got a job as an intern through Elizabeth May and going to Ottawa; digital story telling

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

K/1 class on field trip to Victoria; transition to high school talks with Nia Williams; grades 2/3 writing about Salish Sea; SWOVA coming next week; grades 5-8 students leading student conferences; OIMY students on Mayne last week; Winter Carnival successful for fundraising

➤ ***Phoenix Elementary School***

Thank you to community for wood chips and art supplies; students participating in sewing and cooking, making stone soup; Grade 4-8 class participated in land development discussion with Janice Gauthier

- ***Saltspring Island Middle School***  
Transitions, grade 5's coming in, grade 8's heading to GISS, focusing on how transitions happen, grade 5 teachers find that parents are often more nervous than students, Principal Taylor offered to go to PAC meetings, meeting with GISS teachers to help make transitions for grade 8 students easier; invited principals and teachers from other schools re: profiles on students, what their needs are, build in activities to help them, ended up talking about parent needs and programming as well; SPIN night – showcased programs to parents, very good turnout – MYSEEC, French Immersion, Exploratories, student baked goodies available; grade 5 students acting as ambassadors
- ***Salt Spring Elementary School***  
Choir led by music teacher Whitney Walker performed at Harbour House Hotel; Ms. Davidson's grade 2 class received \$100 for 100% participation in Christmas writing for the Driftwood newspaper and the students donated the money to SSI Wildlife Centre
- ***Saturna Elementary School/SEEC***  
Phoenix Elementary Nature Pod visited; extending connections to the East Coast and England, formed pen pals; aligned themselves with SEEC students  
***SEEC***  
Hikes, made soup, star gazing; planned upcoming year-end trip; working on yard work
- ***Windsor House School***  
Gearing up for move, making connections in new neighbourhood; receiving 10-15 inquiries per week about WH programs; big trip planned to NY in May, lots of fund raising; theme night, Supperware party – everyone gathered up all Tupperware to sell, made \$400; conversations about connections with Mayne and Saturna Schools

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **Pro D Day**

February 27 was a district Pro D day and the GITA Pro D Committee invited keynote speaker Dr. Gordon Neufeld, "child developmental psychologist and author of the international bestseller with Gabor Mate *Hold on to Your Kids*" to present. Chair McKenzie stated it was an inspirational day. She thanked GITA for organizing it and the partner groups who each donated \$2,000 to cover the attendance of district stakeholders who wished to attend.

(b) **Provincial Council**

Trustee and BCSTA Provincial Council Representative Susanne Middleditch updated Board members on the recent events of Provincial Council held February 19-21, 2015.

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

(a) **Programs**

Ms. Halstead stated conversations regarding district programs have been somewhat delayed this year due to the late start of the 2015/2016 school year followed by November Board elections and the first meeting of the new Board on December 10. The Programs Committee had their first meeting with the new Board committee representatives on February 10. The main topic of discussion was with regard to the unprecedented number of presentations lately from groups focused on alternative methods of education who want to partner with the district. Ms. Halstead stated the Programs Committee looked at all program proposals through a lens of core elements, which included fitting with Transforming Curriculum and Assessment requirements, financial viability, Collective Agreements, staffing ratio and class size, inclusivity (learning for all students), secular programming, and impacts elsewhere in the district.

The recommendation proposed by the Programs Committee is to open “multiage classes at each of Fulford and Fernwood Elementary Schools in September 2015, provided that the overall enrolment in the school makes a full- or part time program financially viable”. The classes will focus on ecological place-based and play-based experiential learning.

Discussion included:

- Financial viability and sustainability. Need minimum number of new students to run program full-time, if less numbers, may have to go to part-time program.
- Potential loss of district students if new, alternative programs aren’t considered. Want to prevent loss of students and add students to increase enrollment.
- Need to take into consideration Collective Agreement language.
- Who will shape the programs at Fernwood and Fulford? Ms. Halstead has begun discussions with principals.
- Excited to support this initiative, visioning and the passion. This is a journey, it doesn’t happen suddenly, happens developmentally, what is the potential? Can learn from each other and grow together.
- Recognition of the dynamic, innovative and creative programs and teachers in the district already. Lots of wonderful things are happening at our schools and in our classrooms. Nature-based programs and involvement with conservancies on all islands and GICEL
- The district has always been on the cutting edge with programming – SEEC, MYSEEC, OIMY, GISPA, Phoenix Place, Spring Leaves, Phoenix Elementary.
- Will the program have a name? Steering away from a specific program and the fact that kids not in a “named” program are not important. Want to be inclusive.
- Not meeting needs of all parents and not following a format or specifics of program proposals presented to the district, i.e., Waldorf, Hearth, Pender farm school, but a program that encompasses and meets the needs of all students within the constraints of the district rather than implementing a program that has specifics that need to be addressed.
- Parent feels this motion is watered down and will not meet the needs of most people. Trustee Macdonald spoke to compromises and trying to meet the needs of the majority without specifics.
- Will the programs be the same or will there be flexibility? Probably programs will take on their own flavor, but retain core values. Will likely make changes year after year. The start of “let’s build it together”, common elements.
- Commonalities of proposals from parents. When it’s broken down it’s about involvement and how kids are “held”. Would like to be part of the creation of the program as a parent with the known constraints of the district.
- Parent feared that they wouldn’t be heard or supported. Less fear now that she realizes the support that has been offered.
- Pender is ready to work together and recognize it’s a process – want to move together with the district.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education accepts the Program committee recommendation that a primary multi-age class be opened at each of Fulford and Fernwood Schools in September 2015, provided that the overall enrolment in the school makes a full or part time program financially viable. These classes will have the following structure:

- Family Group
- Compliant with the K-9 Transforming Curriculum document
- Class size and staffing in compliance with the collective agreement
- Regular involvement of parents, including additional transportation needs
- A blended model of classroom, outdoor learning, home learning

CARRIED 25/15

**(b) Field Trip Request #75**

An extra-curricular field trip request from staff at SIMS to send 105 Grades 6 to 8 students in the French Immersion program to Camp Homewood on Quadra Island June 1 to 4, 2015, to participate in outdoor activities as part of the year-end French Immersion team building field trip. Principal Taylor stated that students are fundraising to help lower costs.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Education approves extra-curricular field trip #75 for Grades 6 to 8 students in the SIMS French Immersion program to travel to Camp Homewood on Quadra Island June 1 to 4, 2015 to participate in year-end team building activities.

CARRIED 26/15

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

**(a) Monthly Expenditure Report**

The monthly expenditure report, as at February 28, 2015 indicates that with 0.6667 of the year completed, 0.6084 of the budget has been expended. We are 5.8 % below budget at this time, which is positive for this time of year.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Policy Committee (Notices of Motion)**

- (i) Policy 890, *School Fees*
- (ii) Policy 973, *Smoking & Tobacco Restriction*

These revised policies will be shared with all partner groups for input/inquiries. They will come forward to the April 15 Board meeting for approval.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

GITA President Deborah Nostdal asked the Board if they would be responding in any way or writing letters to the Ministry regarding the financial pressures set by them. Chair McKenzie stated the Board will work with their provincial organization to address issues as well as connecting with the local MLA.

Is there a way of getting information out to the community as a whole about the wonderful programs already in place and happening at our schools? Ms. McKenzie said the Community Relations Committee is working on an informational campaign at present.

**12. QUESTION PERIOD**

**13. NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Committee Day – no Committee Day in March due to Spring Break. There may be a Board meeting scheduled before Spring Break if required.
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – April 15, 2015 at Pender Islands School

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

CARRIED 27/15

Date: April 15, 2015

May McKenzie  
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold  
Secretary Treasurer