



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL
January 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Present:	Rob Pingle	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
	Wendy Vine	Recording Assistant
	Deborah Nostdal	GITA President
	Lyall Ruehlen	GIPVPA Representative
	Larry Melious	CUPE President
	Sean McIntyre	Driftwood Representative
Regrets:	Dawne Fennell	Executive Assistant
	May McKenzie	Vice Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Pingle, who acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people. He also acknowledged the recent passing of two important members of the Salt Spring School community – Mitch Howard and Diane Weatherby.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session, held 2017 01 11, be adopted as amended with the following addition:

11 (a) BC Ferries SSI Advisory Committee Report

CARRIED 01/17

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session, held 2016 12 14, be approved as presented.

CARRIED 02/17

3. BUSINESS ARISING

None.

4. DELEGATIONS

GISS principal Lyall Ruehlen introduced a 3-part presentation...

- student Fiona Pirie and her ukulele led off the celebration with a delightful original song about GISS
- teacher Maria Soto introduced student Charlotte Hoskins, who gave an impressive presentation of her e-portfolio, created recently in the REAL 9 course
- teacher Susan Robinson spoke about the “stretches” and challenges facing the teaching staff at this point: assessment, structural challenges around orders from the Ministry, little time or money for collaboration, and a lack of information on core competencies reporting requirements after grade 9. The staff is keen to be innovative, but change comes slowly and regulations often seem to block innovation.

5. TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS

Fernwood Elementary School

As usual there are a lot of fun and inspiring activities going on at Fernwood, including special activity clubs which meet either at lunch or after school. The three lunchtime clubs include the knitting club (for grades 1-5), the art and drawing club (all grades) and the book club (grades 4-5) (who are currently reading *Wind in the Willows*). The ukulele club is also starting up after school for grades three to five and will run until Spring Break. In addition to the clubs, the choir and basketball groups are also in full swing. Across the board the average participation is 15 students per group. It is great to see such keen involvement in extra curricular activities at Fernwood.

Fulford Community Elementary School

Fulford staff is beginning the process of interviewing/surveying students about writing so that they can find out what is going on for children as writers. This is part of Fulford's school goal on writing because staffs know they have too many students who are not "meeting" expectations in writing (not yet meeting or approaching, but not fully meeting, which is our goal) and want to find out why. Teachers have questions about how students feel about writing, what they find easy about writing, and what they find difficult in writing. This data will help staff focus on changing instruction to improve student writing. A session is planned to look at writing instruction through a pro-growth grant submission.

Galiano Community School

Last month the focus was on community partners and this month it is on academics. Coming back after a break always means reviewing and reinforcing schedules, expectations, and goals. This year GCS has set a School Goal around numeracy and literacy, with a focus on writing. Mornings are dedicated to small groups of multi-aged learners working at various levels of learning. Classes are also participating in larger group activities, including a regular trip to the Galiano Public Library for the primary class, where they meet with library volunteer Willow Jewell, who reads to them and helps them select books from all around the library. Primary teacher Brenda Lepine has also included some math activities in her weekly newsletter, including puzzles and word problems, for families to work on together.

Gulf Islands Secondary School

The Robotics Team (composed of students in all grades) is entering a worldwide competition, *First Steamworks*, in Calgary in April. The 22 students on this very successful and enthusiastic team have been fundraising for this event. Led by teacher Rachel FitzZaland and mentored by keen community members, the team is gaining recognition for their superior skills and teamwork at lead-up competitions closer to home. In other news, the intermediate math team won a recent regional competition.

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

No school report this month.

Pender Islands Elem./Sec. School

The Winter/Christmas Concert in December was a huge success; it was led by Middle Years students with wonderful use of comedy and all classes taking part in performances. It was very well attended by families and community members. Yesterday was Grade 8 shadow day at GISS. Pender School Grade 8 students were connected with and shadowed Grade 9 students for their day at the high school to get an idea of what to expect next school year. Our brand new school bus arrived over winter break and is much appreciated by our bus driver and students. The Grade 6/7/8 class is preparing and fundraising for their 3-day ski trip to Mt. Seymour for skiing/snowshoeing/tubing/snowboarding with lessons, visiting the Extreme Air Park in Richmond, also Stanley Park, Science World and staying at Windsor House School. The Grade 4-8 class is starting to prepare for their annual Science Fair.

Phoenix Elementary School

Activities at Phoenix Elementary definitely reflect the unique structures for learning which are a basis of the school's philosophy. Lately there have been many opportunities for whole school multi-age groups to engage in explorations together.

Saltspring Island Middle School

The SIMS teaching staff is busy gearing up for student-led conferences through school-based Pro-D activities. This includes the afternoon session of the most recent Curriculum Day. Led by Principal Taylor and a retired teacher, the whole team worked together on their plans to have all student-led conferences take place this term. On March 9, the student-led conferences will take place after early dismissal. Four students per class will lead conferences for their parents at a time. The conferences will take 20-30 minutes, depending on the child. The teacher will move from group to group during this time and will likely dedicate 5 minutes per group. It is anticipated that most presentations will be hardcopy, and some will be in digital format. The presentations will include a student conference summary sheet. Thanks to the SIMS staff for being proactive in this transition to help the students to be even more proactive about their own learning.

Salt Spring Elementary School

Note is made of the great community spirit and feeling that has built from the beginning of this year at SSE. There is energy being put toward the gardens, with new gardens to be installed at the front of the school using money from a Salt Spring Foundation grant, and the sloped garden at the rear of the school receiving further work. The level of parent involvement is high, with a new focus on food opportunities such as supplying a monthly student breakfast.

Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

No school report this month.

Windsor House School

No school report this month.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(a) Board Committee Structure

The document was updated this morning and will appear on the school district website soon.

(b) Report on In-Camera Meeting

Chair Pingle reported out on the issues presented at the In-Camera meeting this morning, which were:

- registration for 2017-18
- the Supreme Court ruling
- the 2017-18 school calendar
- correspondence
- personnel issues
- Board and staff evaluation

There was discussion about ensuring transparency of committee proceedings for the public, resulting in the following motion, brought forward from the In-Camera meeting this morning:

It was moved and seconded that all standing committee meetings be minuted, and that those minutes be received at the next public Board meeting

CARRIED 03/17

Chair Pingle responded to an inquiry from the floor asking for clarification about standing committees and when they meet.

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

(a) **Learning in School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)**

Superintendent Lisa Halstead reported on the success of the January 6 Curriculum Day, with particular commendation to Deb Nostdal and the 16 member planning committee. The day resulted in a sense of excitement and increased understanding of the new curriculum (as was reflected in today's GISS presentation.) The areas of Aboriginal Education, core competencies, and assessment were highlighted in particular.

(b) **Field Trip Request #79**

The annual SIMS French language cultural exchange to Sherbrooke, Quebec is planned for January 28 to February 5, 2017, involving 23 students in grade 7, under the supervision of teachers Christianne Wiigs and Valeskca San Martin.

Ms. Halstead recommends that this field trip be approved.

It was moved and seconded that field trip #79 to Sherbrooke, Quebec from January 28 to February 5, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED 04/17

(c) **Lieutenant Governor Visit**

Lieutenant Governor The Honourable Judith Guichon will visit 3 schools on Salt Spring Island: Fernwood, SIMS, and GISS, on January 31, 2017.

(d) **2017/2018 Instructional Calendar Template**

The recently issued high school examination schedule impacts the 2017-18 draft school calendar currently posted on the website. The changes necessary are:

- *in January 2018, the exam days will be January 23-26 (no school on Monday, January 22, students attend on Friday, January 26)*
- *June 22 will be a non-instructional day/school not in session*
- *June 25-28 will be exam days*
- *June 29 will be an administrative day*
- *November 9 will be an instructional day*
- *November 17 will be a Pro D day*

The Board is in agreement with having those changes added to the calendar and posted to the website for public consultation.

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

(a) **Funding Announcement Final Operating Grant 2016/2017**

Cindy Rodgers reported that the district has received the final funding grant based on the September enrollment. The news is very positive, with about \$400,000 more allocated than was expected, due to having nearly 12 more students, an increase in unique student needs, and an increase in funding for adjusting teacher salaries.

(b) **Monthly Expenditure Report**

The monthly expenditure report, as at January 6, 2017, indicates that with 0.5 of the year completed, 0.447 of the budget has been expended. We are 5.3% below budget at this time.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Policy Committee**

No December Policy meetings were scheduled. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2017, with bylaws and policies and procedures on the agenda.

(b) Programs Committee

The Programs Committee thanks Mr. Ruehlen and GISS for their presentation today. There was no Programs Committee meeting in December and the next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2017.

(c) Community Relations Committee

This committee is due to meet on January 25, 2017.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) BC Ferries SSI Advisory Committee

Trustee Wakefield reported on an upcoming change in the vessel on the Vesuvius-Crofton run, whereby the Howe Sound Queen will be replaced by the Quinitsa, which has a slightly lower vehicle capacity and a different layout for passengers. There is an opportunity for the public to comment to the BC Ferries Commissioner if there is a concern regarding student transportation and supervision. The Board agreed that there was not sufficient concern at this time.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

There was a question from the floor asking for information about the district's share of the \$50 million from the recent Supreme Court ruling. The money is intended for capacity building and for improving teaching and learning conditions, to benefit students all over the province, and notification has been anticipated for some time. Coincidentally, Superintendent Halstead received an e-mail at that moment announcing that School District 64's share will be \$201,532. Given the good communication and teamwork which exist between the Superintendent and GITA, the Board has confidence that the money will be used well to benefit local students.

13. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Committee Day – January 25, 2017 at the School Board Office
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – February 08, 2017 at Saltspring Island Middle School

14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

CARRIED 05/17

Date: March 8, 2017

Rob Pingle
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Rod Scotvold
Secretary Treasurer