



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL
2020 03 11

Present:	Rob Pingle	Chairperson
	Tisha Boulter	Trustee
	Stefanie Denz	Trustee
	Greg Lucas	Trustee
	Chaya Katrensky	Trustee
	Scott Benwell	Superintendent of Schools
	D'Arcy Deacon	Director of Instruction, HR
	Doug Livingston	Director of Instruction, Learning Services
	Jesse Guy	Secretary Treasurer
	Lori Deacon	Executive Assistant
	Deborah Nostdal	GITA President
	Lyall Ruehlen	District Principal / Principal, GISS
	Boe Beardsmore	Vice-Principal, GISS
	Jude Shugar	Vice-Principal, GISS
	Pat Burkette	Driftwood Representative
	Carla Wilson	DPAC Representative
Regrets:	Shelley Lawson	Vice Chairperson
	Janelle Lawson	Trustee
	Larry Melious	CUPE President

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Pingle. He acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people – huy ch q'u.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Remove 8(d) GISS Hawaii Cultural Field Trip

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2020 03 11 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED 15/20

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2020 02 12 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 16/20

3. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summary of 2020 02 12 as presented.

CARRIED 17/20

4. BUSINESS ARISING

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter from Minister – Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020

Shared a letter from Minister Fleming regarding the Education Statues Amendment Act, 2020.



6. **DELEGATIONS**

(a) **Gulf Islands Secondary School Plan Presentation**

Principal Lyall Ruehlen and Vice-Principals Jude Shugar and Boe Beardsmore presented on initiatives taking place at GISS that align with the Ministry's Policies on Student Success and the Educated Citizen and the District's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. Mr. Ruehlen reported that GISS is ahead of the provincial average on social and career development. He noted intellectual development as an area of challenge.

The school has focused efforts to support the transition from grade 8 to 9, provide early identification and intervention for students at risk, and improve attendance at all grades. Staff use the information gathered through Ipass to identify student needs and adjust/provide supports as appropriate. There has been a noted decline in the number of Indigenous students being referred to school-based team. Staff employ a multi-level approach to determine individual student need and course of action, checking in often to see if efforts are having the anticipated impact and if changes are required. Attendance tracking, including check-ins and long-term absences plans, have seen a marked decrease in absenteeism.

Mr. Ruehlen emphasized that proficiency in foundations skills almost guarantees graduation. Staff are using the literacy and numeracy assessments, as well as school assessments, to better understand where learners are at. The data shows that many students are still emerging or developing numeracy and literacy proficiencies. Administration is pleased to see recent improvement in the six-year completion rate; the goal is for all students to graduate with access to as many opportunities as possible.

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **Draft 2020/2021 School Calendar**

The Board has received and considered feedback for the draft 2020/2021 school calendar.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt a Local School Calendar for the 2020/2021 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.

CARRIED 18/20

(b) **Salt Spring United Football Club – Request to Serve**

SSUFC submitted a request to serve alcohol on district property.

Moved and seconded that, in accordance with Policy 3100 Controlled and Intoxicating Substances, the Board approves the Salt Spring United Football Club's request to serve alcohol at its annual Challenge Cup Soccer Tournament on May 16-18, 2020 at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

CARRIED 19/20

(c) **Committee and Board Meetings – Proposed Changes**

Trustees considered changing the current format of Board and Committee Day schedules. Staff have recommended a reduction of full committee days as well as one less regular scheduled Board Meeting per year. The proposed change to Board meetings would require a change to Board Procedural Bylaw 2.



Moved and seconded that the Board give notice for consideration to change Board Procedural Bylaw 2 clause 2.1 to the following: a board must meet as often as is necessary to transact its business and not less than once every 3 months.

CARRIED 20/20

Discussion regarding the timing of one less scheduled Board meeting.

(d) VISTA

Trustees attended the Spring VISTA Conference in Nanaimo. The conference offered an inspiring session on Truth and Reconciliation and was a valuable networking opportunity.

(e) BCSTA Provincial Council

Trustee Boulter reported that only one motion was brought forward at Provincial Council for the BCSTA to advocate that career and dual-credit courses be funded in addition to per base FTE funding. The first phase of the funding model will be announced this Friday.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(a) Staffing and Enrolment

D'Arcy Deacon reported that that the district is looking at current teacher deployment and projected enrolment as well as anticipated leaves for next year in an effort to reduce the impact of possible layoffs for the 2020-21 school year.

(b) Phoenix Programs

Phoenix School is hosting information sessions as preparations begin for the next school year.

(c) COVID-19

i. Response

The District distributed a letter to families with information from the Ministries of Health and Education and the Provincial Health Officer. Cleaning routines for facilities have been increased. Cross-training is occurring, specifically in operations, to build redundancies in the event of staff being away from work for an extended period. The *Provincial Health Act* and *School Act* govern the response from school districts. The District will be sending out letters to staff and families in advance of Spring Break, reminding everyone to check in with the District website and direct communication before returning to school.

ii. International Field Trips

As of this morning, the District has officially cancelled all international student trips planned for the Spring Break. This follows the World Health Organization's pandemic declaration. School trip cancellations were carefully considered for possible risk as well as the potential for quarantine or inability for groups to return home as planned. Most districts across the province have cancelled international excursions at this time.

District policy amendments are needed to address unanticipated issues, such as pandemic emergency, and include requirements for travel cancellation insurance.

(d) GISS Improv Games Trip Request

Dr. Benwell recommended that the Board approves the GISS field trip request for students to attend the Canadian Improv Games in Ottawa, as the trip is well-planned and travel is within the country.



Moved and seconded that the Board approves the Gulf Islands Secondary School field trip for five students in grades ten and twelve, to attend the National Improv Games in Ottawa, Ontario May 8-16, 2020.

CARRIED 21/20

9. **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

(a) **Financial Report**

Jesse Guy shared the monthly expenditure report for February. The district remains on track with spending and within budget as planned.

(b) **MCFD Childcare Spaces Program**

Ms. Guy reported that MCFD has announced a clear process for receiving proposals for funding of childcare spaces. The first deadline is May 11, 2020. Successful districts will be notified in August 2020.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Committee of the Whole Report**

Committee of the Whole Summary 2020 02 26 received by consensus.

(b) **Human Resources Committee Report**

Committee of the Whole Summary 2020 02 26 received by consensus.

(c) **Finance and Audit Committee Report**

Finance and Audit Committee Summary 2020 02 12 received by consensus.

(d) **Policy Committee Report**

Policy Committee Summary 2020 02 12 received by consensus.

i. Procedure 3060 Emergency School Closure

Procedure 3060 Emergency School Closure was amended to include language that provides clarity for staff and families around operational procedures for school closure. Procedures have been outlined for process categorized by different extremes inclement weather.

Moved and seconded that Procedure 3060 Emergency School Closure be amended to include category determinations for inclement weather.

CARRIED 22/20

11. **TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS**

Trustee School Reports were received.

Topic: Give examples of how your school offers age appropriate Sex Ed curriculum (K-12) that supports students safety and well-being? (Sexual Health Objective 1.1)

Fernwood Elementary School

Fernwood school hosted an 'ask-able adult' workshop for parents funded by PAC. Certified Sex Educators facilitated this talk on how to talk to your child about Sex and consent with the safety in mind of their child. Staff also received a presentation on the new curriculum and are further receiving support as they teach Sexual Education in the classroom. Principal Logan has also offered her support in Sex Ed content curriculum within the



classroom if teachers are feeling uncomfortable. The school utilizes the ‘Care kits’ with Grade 4/5’s to aid in discussing puberty/body changes. Principal Logan also has distributed to teachers a ‘Supporting Student Health’ Ministry document that is a great resource for delivering curriculum. The library has a designated bookshelf for body science, puberty, and sexual health resources.

Fulford Community Elementary School

At Fulford Elementary School, Kindergarten to grade three uses the care kit (which has been in use for many years) to teach children body awareness, safety and care around the body, and the correct terms for sexual body parts. Grade four and fives have some lessons that are coed as well as lessons for girls and boys separately. Topics include gender, different types of families and the growing sexuality of their own bodies. The counsellor at SIMS keeps the school updated with sexual health literature. Most of what Fulford Elementary does is literature-based.

Galiano Community School

K-1 Class – Primary teachers are working with the CARE kit (challenge abuse through respect education), a Canadian Red Cross program that teaches young children about the importance of safety and personal rights. Using puppets and interactive games, the program normalizes conversations about keeping secrets, personal touching, and the tools of WALK/TALK/SQUAWK for our littlest learners.

2-8 Class – Thanks to the PAC for offering a workshop with Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators called IGirl/IGuy. The class was split into grades 2-5 and 6-8, and had age appropriate conversations about reproduction and anatomy, healthy relationships, body image, emotions, sexually transmitted diseases, safety, and smart sexual decision-making. Staff were impressed with the level of comfort the presenters brought to the conversation, and parents enjoyed an evening presentation about the importance of having these ‘awkward’ conversations with pre-teens and teens.

Gulf Islands Secondary School

In fall 2019, staff applied for, and received a grant from the SS foundation to enhance the sexual health program workshops with the public nurse for grades 10 and 12. Sexual health was removed as a mandate of the public health nurse in recent years. The course is built on a student survey to find out what the needs and interests are. All grade 10 students have now taken the one hour session on sexual health as part of the career life education course. The funding covers three years with the goal to build connections between student community, the larger community and with the public health nurse. There is a post feedback survey which will be interesting to read. Real nine covers basics of sexual health such as safety, birth control and STDs. Career life education for grade 10 becomes career life connections in grade 12, and the two run outside of timetable courses such as in flex block, online assignments, and at workshops bringing in outside community. Grade 12 will be taking the program in the spring term. The grade 9s and 10s also complete Sexual Health units in their Physical and Health Education classes

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

For our k-3 students, staff use teaching tools such as books about physical well-being and good feelings/bad feelings. Emphasis is on organic ways of talking about consent such as touching. For example, “Don’t hug if someone doesn’t want a hug” or if a situation makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable. For grades 4-8, students are divided into boy and girl groupings, however staff are conscious in creating inclusive spaces for all students, and groupings are flexible based on student self-identification. Discussion is around hygiene, body changes, age appropriate conversations about the opposite sex and body changes, sexual health in a positive way, puberty, sexuality and sexual identity. 4-8 students are also given the opportunity to ask questions anonymously. Content is set through the curriculum and uses district resources. Group discussions are guided by age appropriate inquiry-based approach.

Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School



Phoenix Elementary School

Salt Spring Elementary School

About five years ago, public health pulled out of Sexual health education support in public education. The teachers are continually updating their resources to align with the new curriculum around Sexual Health. The primary teachers are using the 'care-kit' that helps initiate body talks with poster boards and resource materials. They discuss private vs public 'parts' and the feelings of yes and no (consent). The 4-5 classrooms receive the maturation lessons with mixed gender groupings. The staff room has a few bookshelves dedicated to SOGI resource materials, that teachers can borrow to integrate into regular classroom activities. These books range from primary picture books to tween/teen resources to adult/teacher support around healthy bodies and gender expression and consent. PAC is looking into funding certified sex educators to come in and teach a few of the classroom updated Sex Ed content.

Saltspring Island Middle School

Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

12. **OTHER BUSINESS**

13. **QUESTION PERIOD**

14. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Committee Day – April 22, 2020 at the School Board Office
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – April 8, 2020 at Saturna School

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

CARRIED 23/20

Date: April 8, 2020

Rob Pingle
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Jesse Guy
Secretary Treasurer