



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
ZOOM Virtual Meeting
2020 09 16

Present:

Rob Pingle	Chairperson
Shelley Lawson	Vice Chairperson
Tisha Boulter	Trustee
Janelle Lawson	Trustee
Greg Lucas	Trustee
Chaya Katrensky	Trustee
Stefanie Denz	Trustee
Scott Benwell	Superintendent of Schools
D'Arcy Deacon	Director of Instruction, Human Resources
Doug Livingston	Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Boe Beardsmore	Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Jesse Guy	Secretary Treasurer
Lori Deacon	Executive Assistant
Ian Mitchell	GITA President
Angela Thomas	CUPE President
Shelly Johnson	GIPVPA Representative
Deblekha Guin	DPAC Representative
Sarah Rae	DPAC Representative
Elizabeth Nolan	Driftwood Representative

Regrets:

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Chair Pingle. He acknowledged the privilege of holding this meeting on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people – huy ch q'u.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2020 09 16 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 58/20

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Call to Order: correct pronoun
8(b): correct SD reference

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2020 06 10 be approved as amended.

CARRIED 59/20

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2020 06 24 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 60/20

3. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summary of 2020 06 10 as presented.

CARRIED 61/20



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
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Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Special In-Camera Summary of 2020 07 08 as presented.

CARRIED 62/20

4. BUSINESS ARISING

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Safe Cycling Island Pathways

Letter received by the Board.

(b) CUPE BC Seamless Day

Letter received by the Board.

(c) DPAC letter and Board Response

Letter received by the Board.

6. DELEGATIONS

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(a) Welcome Back

Chair Pingle shared his gratitude for the work of all staff and partner groups in ensuring a smooth start to the school year.

(b) Electronic Board Meetings

As the pandemic continues, there is an ongoing need to conduct virtual meetings in lieu of physical meetings as was published in the Board's Meetings Calendar.

Moved and seconded that School District 64 (Gulf Islands) cannot conduct public in-person meetings at this time because the meeting venues traditionally used have limited access or do not meet the legislated requirements for the protection of the community, trustees and staff; and Therefore in order to meet the principles of openness, transparency, and accessibility, all Regular, Special and Committee meetings of School District 64 (Gulf Islands) will be held electronically until further notice and the public are invited to participate in meetings by connecting to the link or the phone number provided in the meeting notice, in order to observe proceedings and speak when invited by the Chair.

CARRIED 63/20

(c) Trustees School Reports Discussion

Chair Pingle asked trustees to consider how they would like to proceed regarding Trustee monthly school reports. Trustees agreed that they value the reports but also acknowledged the demands on school administration. The item will be brought to the October committee day for further discussion

Moved and seconded that Trustee School Reports discussion be continued at the October 28 Education Committee meeting.

CARRIED 64/20



(d) **VISTA Fall Conference**

The Fall VISTA Conference will be held virtually on October 3rd. The day will focus on anti-racism, with the business meeting scheduled to follow.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

(a) **Learning in School District No. 64 - Configuration**

Scott Benwell reported that staff have worked over the summer months to prepare a financial and operational feasibility study as well as identify relevant policies and procedures that may be impacted by configuration decisions.

Report 3 will be posted today on the district website along with a companion data booklet. Dr. Benwell explained that the report focuses on four areas: the challenge of a \$1.1 M deficit; a data analysis related to enrolment, funding and expenses; possible modeling scenarios; and next steps moving forward. A full presentation of the report will be held during the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17. The report takes an objective view of available options to help inform the Board's decision-making process.

(b) **Staffing and Enrolment Update**

D'Arcy Deacon acknowledged all SD64 staff for the work to ensure a smooth start to the school year. Staffing has been increased to support the current COVID-19 circumstances including increased BSW hours and instruction to help service the 70+ learners who opted for Flexible Return. Staff continue to gather enrolment numbers from school. It is anticipated that enrolment will come close to the Spring projection of 1450 FTE students.

Mr. Deacon reported that a partners' working group met several times in the weeks leading up to school start to problem-solve start-up questions and concerns. The group will continue to meet as needed.

(c) **COVID-19 Response**

Boe Beardsmore reported on the District's restart plan that was submitted and approved by the Ministry. She assured trustees that health and safety protocols procedures align with recommendations laid out by the Ministry of Education, the BCCDC, and Worksafe BC. Protocols will continue to be updated as new information and recommendations are provided to by provincial health authorities.

Ms. Beardsmore clarified that cohorts are created at the school level. Scott Benwell explained that adjustments will likely be made, specifically regarding transportation, to alleviate concerns where possible.

(d) **Framework Day**

Framework Day will take place on September 25 and will focus on anti-racism and equity. Kaleb Child will present in the morning and Dr. Lisa Gunderson will present in the afternoon. Due to COVID-19, staff will gather at their own school and will ZOOM into the presentations. Partner groups are invited to attend. Invitations and agendas will be shared early next week.

(e) **Anti-Racism Terms of Reference**

At its June meeting, the Board requested staff develop a Terms of Reference for the Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group. Senior staff, trustees, and partner groups have met several times with local BIPOC representatives as well as consulted with Dr. Gunderson to help guide the work and engage in necessary conversations to address systemic change.



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
ZOOM Virtual Meeting
2020 09 16

Doug Livingston shared the draft Terms of Reference for the Board's consideration.

Moved and seconded that the Board

- acknowledges racism is endemic in our community and schools,
- commits to create a clear pathway to address racial prejudices and insensitivity within the school district, and
- strives to nurture and expect not only tolerance but appreciation of diversity,

and the Board hereby forms an Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group to review the work already being done in district, share that information with community, and identify opportunities for improved practice.

CARRIED 65/20

Moved and seconded that the Draft Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group Terms of Reference be amended to include three representatives of Salt Spring BIPOC and three student representatives from GISS.

CARRIED 66/20

Moved and seconded that the Terms of Reference be adopted as amended.

CARRIED 67/20

Shelley Lawson and Tisha Boulter will represent the Board on the Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group. A report will be brought to the October Board Meeting.

(f) Compensation Freeze and BCPSEA Excluded Salary Grid Movement

Jesse Guy reported that BCPSEA has instituted a compensation freeze for Superintendents, Secretary-Treasurers, and Assistant Superintendents. Boards will be asked for a motion acknowledging compliance with the freeze. The District took advantage of BCPSEA's grid movement for excluded staff offered for July 1, 2020.

9. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

(a) Facilities – Summer Work

Jesse Guy presented a summary of capital projects undertaken this summer. Major projects included:

Mayne	fire suppression system upgrade
Pender	HVAC upgrade
GISS	roof replacement and HVAC upgrade
SSE	lighting and boiler upgrade, outdoor painting
SBO	parking lot and painting
Plant	painting
Fernwood	playground installation

(b) Skate Park Lease Renewal

Ms. Guy explained that the skate park lease with the CRD is reviewed every five years and updated as needed. The lease has been revised to reflect a shorter day of district oversight and was changed from 5pm to 4pm.

(c) Fernwood Field CRD Capital Upgrade

The CRD is requesting that the Board renew its support, in the form of a letter, for the CRD's grant proposal for improvements to the Fernwood field.



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
ZOOM Virtual Meeting
2020 09 16

Moved and seconded that the Board reconfirms its support for the CRD grant proposal to obtain funding to upgrade the Fernwood field.

CARRIED 68/20

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee**

i. *Summary of Audit Results*

Trustees received the independent financial audit report. Tisha Boulter explained that the audit is mandated each year by the Ministry. She was pleased to report that the KPMG audit team found no issues of concern during the audit.

Moved and seconded that the Board receive the 2019-2020 Auditor's Report.

CARRIED 69/20

ii. *2019-2020 Financial Statements*

Jesse Guy explained how the different schedules come together within the financial statements. She highlighted the accumulated surplus of \$1,750,678, which was greater than budgeted. The increase was largely due to COVID-19 reduction in spending in quarter 4 and non-replacement of staff.

Ms. Guy further explained how funding protection is meant to help the district normalize its expenses over a period of time by slowing reducing funding instead of immediately reducing funding to match the actual declined enrolment. Funding protection allows the district to be thoughtful in its measures to adjust spending accordingly.

Moved and seconded that the Board approves the 2019-2020 School District 64 Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2020.

CARRIED 70/20

iii. *Expense Function Summary (SD Comparisons)*

Jesse shared the independent auditors special report that compares the 2018-2019 operating expense function of SD64 with other districts of comparable size (1000 to 2000 student FTE). Expenses examined include administration, transportation and boarding, facilities and maintenance, and instruction. SD64 compares well for administrative expenses, falling in the mid to low range compared to the other district, and spends more comparatively on transportation and boarding.

(b) **September 16 Committee of the Whole**

The September Committee of the Whole has been rescheduled to September 17 at 6:00 p.m. Chair Pingle clarified policy and procedure for Committee of the Whole. The Board will be seeking input from partner representatives at the Committee of the Whole meeting and will record the meeting with the aim of posting a transcript for the public within two weeks. Trustees will consider feedback at the October Board and Committee Day meetings. The Board will look to make a decision regarding configuration at its November public meeting.

DPAC representative Deblekha Guin requested more time for public input, a Q & A during the Committee of the Whole, the chat feature be enabled for that meeting, and that the meeting be recorded and posted publicly.



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
ZOOM Virtual Meeting
2020 09 16

Trustee Boulter clarified that the formal community consultation process has ended and stated that she is pleased that the timeline for decision making has been extended to November.

11. TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS

No Trustee School Reports

12. OTHER BUSINESS

13. QUESTION PERIOD

Chair Pingle accepted questions from the public.

14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Committee of the Whole – September 17 at 6:00 p.m.
- (b) Regular Board Meeting – October 14, 2020
- (c) Committee Day – October 28, 2020

15. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

CARRIED 71/20

Date: _____

Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Secretary Treasurer