



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
ZOOM Virtual Meeting
2021 01 13

Present:

Tisha Boulter
Chaya Katrensky
Stefanie Denz
Janelle Lawson
Shelley Lawson
Greg Lucas
Rob Pingle

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

Scott Benwell
Jesse Guy
D'Arcy Deacon
Boe Beardsmore
Lori Deacon

Superintendent of Schools
Secretary Treasurer
Director of Instruction, Human Resources
Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Executive Assistant

Ian Mitchell
Janice Shields
Shelly Johnson
Marie Mullen
Adria Kray
Amy Dearden
Kadek Okuda
Megan Cameron
Elizabeth Nolan

GITA President
CUPE Vice-President
GIPVPA Co-Chair
GIPVPA Co-Chair
DPAC Co-Chair
Principal, Mayne Island School
Teacher, Mayne Island School
Teacher, Mayne Island School
Driftwood Representative

Regrets:

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chair Boulter. Trustee Janelle Lawson acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples - huy ch q'u.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No Additions

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2021 01 13 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 04/21

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2020 11 18 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 05/21

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2020 12 09 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 06/21

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2021 01 06 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 07/21



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3. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY**

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summary of 2020 11 18 as presented.

CARRIED 08/21

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Response to Mayne Island Early Childhood Society**

Shared a copy of the letter sent to Mayne Island Early Childhood Society.

(b) **Letter to Ministries RE: BC Ferries and Student Water Transportation**

Shared a copy of the letter sent to Ministers and BC Ferries. Chair Boulter has received a response from BC Ferries and will work to schedule a meeting.

(c) **Seamless Daycare Requests**

Letters received regarding BC Seamless Daycare.

(d) **Federation of Canadian Secondary Schools – Canadian Charter of Learners’ Rights**

A letter of request received from the Federation of Canadian Secondary Schools, asking the Board to adopt the Canadian Charter of Learner’s Rights.

Moved and seconded that the correspondence received from the Federation of Canadian Secondary Schools be forwarded to the Education Committee for consideration.

CARRIED 09/21

6. **DELEGATIONS**

(a) **Mayne Island School Ipass Grant**

Mayne School Principal, Amy Dearden and teachers Kadek Okuda and Megan Cameron, shared a presentation on the school’s team approach to evidence-based assessment and intervention and use of Ipass. A small district grant was used to provide release time to facilitate in-depth examination of Ipass and explore how best to support student learning. Exploration determined a need to focus on writing, specifically writing conventions. Significant improvements in outcomes were noted over the course of the year, as many students moved to meeting expectations. Ipass provides a more meaningful and detailed history of a student’s learning journey and serves as a planning tool, supports conversations with caregivers, and helps target specific and timely intervention.

7. **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

(a) **Draft 2021/2022 School Calendar – Feedback**

The 2021/2020 draft calendar and feedback were shared. Chair Boulter explained that this is the last public board meeting opportunity to offer feedback regarding the draft calendar. The feedback form will be open until February 1, 2020. Due to the lack of regular scheduled meeting in March, the Board will be looking to approve the calendar at the February 10 Public Board Meeting.



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(b) 2021 Board Committees

Chair Boulter shared the 2021 Board Committees document. This information has been updated on the district website. Trustee Shelley Lawson and Board Chair Boulter will be sharing the role of DPAC trustee representative.

(c) Pender Islands Housing Society Request for Support

The Pender Islands Housing Society is looking to expand its Plum Tree Court operations to include eight new affordable housing units. The organization is seeking the Board's support in proceeding with grant applications.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education write a letter of support for the Pender Islands Housing Society's future endeavours.

CARRIED 10/21

Moved and seconded that the Board directs staff to assess all housing support requests and determine the ability of the district to support each request, and that letters and responses be shared with the Board as correspondence.

CARRIED 11/21

(d) SIMS Closure Vote Date

At its Special public meeting on January 6, the Board voted to advance the date to vote on the closure of SIMS. The date has been changed to January 18, 2021 and will begin at 8:30 a.m. via ZOOM. Agenda packages will be shared with partners and posted on the district website.

(e) Timing of Board Meetings (November Notice of Motion)

The Board has considered changing some of its public meeting times to the evening to accommodate those who wish to attend but cannot do so during daytime working hours. GITA and CUPE both support the change, specifically during this time when meetings are being held virtually.

Moved and seconded that the February and May Public Board Meetings be held at 6:30 p.m.

CARRIED 12/21

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(a) EPIC Achievement Grants

Scott Benwell thanked school communities across the district for entertaining focused collaborative work on student learning, supports, and achievement. It is important for us to be aware if/when students fall behind in any areas of their learning, something that is particularly relevant during this time of pandemic response.

D'Arcy Deacon explained that, with some of the accumulated savings due to COVID-19, the district is providing schools with additional funding in the form of EPIC grants, to support collaboration and creativity, and foster a common purpose. The grants are founded in current research and designed to grow team approaches to complex problems that ignite pride and passion in the work.

(b) Consultation Process – SIMS Closure

Scott Benwell acknowledged the date change for the vote on SIMS closure. A timeline was shared outlining the 60-day consultation process. Feedback from consultation meetings will be discussed at the special meeting on the 18th. There has been a thorough review of facilities to plan and prepare for changes needed over the course of the next two years. District staff have been working collaboratively with partner groups to ensure a smooth transition for students and staff impacted by the school closure.



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(c) COVID-19 Response

Dr. Benwell reported on the exposure event that occurred in December that did not result in any further transmission, which he attributed to the safety protocols in place. Staff responded quickly and worked in partnership with the local Health Authority to ensure the safety of students and staff. Upgraded air filters have been installed in all building across the district and classroom windows continue to be left open during the day to provide fresh air.

Dr. Benwell reported decreasing numbers in Flexible Return. There are currently 36 students enrolled, almost half the number of students initially registered. Most students have returned to classroom instruction.

Boe Beardsmore thanked staff and families for ongoing efforts to keep schools safe. Collectively adhering to protocols has allowed our schools to remain open, protecting the health and safety of all those who enter.

Moved and seconded that the meeting be recessed for five minutes and resume at 2:25 p.m.

CARRIED 13/21

The meeting resumed at 2:26 p.m.

9. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

(a) Monthly Financial Report

Jesse Guy shared the monthly expenditure report for October. Spending is consistent and on budget, within 1%.

(b) 2019-2020 Executive Compensation Disclosure

The 2019/20 Executive Compensation Disclosure has been made public, as required under the *Public Sector Employers Act*, and is available on the district and Ministry websites.

(c) COVID-19 Funds Update

Jesse Guy updated the Board on the spending of Federal COVID-19 funds to purchase and construct outdoor classrooms. Funds have also been allocated for technology to support remote learning.

(d) Cayenta Upgrade

Jesse Guy shared a staff report regarding the need for updated district accounting software. Cayenta, the provider of SDS software, is proposing an upgrade and has offered a purchase incentive to districts for early adoption.

Moved and seconded that the Board approves the signing of the Letter of Intent with Cayenta.

CARRIED 14/21

(e) CRD Request for support

The CRD is looking to upgrade the existing trail that runs from Drake Rd. to Bishop's walk.

That the Board support the CRD's grant proposal to upgrade the Drake Road pedestrian trail.

CARRIED 15/21



10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **HR Committee Report**

D'Arcy Deacon summarized today's HR Committee meeting, including the 2021 staffing preparation process and the postponement of the Superintendent's review. The topic LoU4, employment equity will be brought to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

(d) **Finance, Audit, and Facilities Committee Report**

Jesse Guy summarized the Draft Amended 2020/21 budget that was presented at this morning's FAF meeting. She explained that further discussion regarding the Mayne Island School solar panel project, and budgeting considerations for sustained support of green initiative will be brought to the next Climate Action Committee meeting, yet to be scheduled.

Committee Chair Shelley Lawson updated the Board on the CRD's project to undertake a study to assess transportation needs and determine the resources necessary to achieve priorities identified by residents. She was informed, by Galiano CRD Liaison Emma Davis, that the Request for Proposals for a Transportation Service Consultant has now gone out to BC Bid.

(e) **Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group**

The Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group report was received. Board Chair Boulter summarized previous working group meetings. She reported that, although Board policies are strong, the group has noted work needs to be done translating policy into action. There has been an expressed interest in development of a specific Anti-Racism policy.

Boe Beardsmore reported that members are working to develop their own awareness and understanding of systemic racism, individually and as a collective. She noted that work is collaborative with members representing senior staff, trustees, CUPE, GITA, DPAC, GIPVPA, students, the Circle (formerly SWOVA) and the BIPOC collective. The group is looking at ways to improve representation, increase diversity training, and decolonize curriculum. Much of the work centers on engaging in difficult conversations.

11. **TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS**

Trustee School Reports were received as presented.

CARRIED 16/21

Topic: What are you celebrating at your school this month? How are you making it visible? (Publicly celebrate and promote contributions and achievements of our students, staff, schools and community partners Objective 3.2)

Fernwood Elementary School

Although due to the pandemic many of the regular celebrations are on pause the staff and students of Fernwood still seek to celebrate their school environment everyday. They are proud that over 90% of regular enrolled students are attending school daily and that there are new students joining the catchment area since last year. Being outdoors, running, jumping, skipping, dancing and playing warms the hearts of everyone and they look forward to new outdoor seating and shelter spaces coming soon.

The school is also very excited about their EPIC grant and the opportunity it gives them to focus on numeracy. Students will be able to receive additional support to get them up to grade level. Staff will be documenting the work through film and sharing the progress to celebrate their achievements. Such as a recent student who finally understood the concept of regrouping which resulted in student, parent and staff pride.



Fulford Community Elementary School

Given that the month has just begun, Principal Marie Mullen reflected that the success she would most like to celebrate at Fulford elementary at this point occurred in December. This was the early intervention learning she and her staff provided for Grades 12 and 2 in the fall. With the shut-down of in-class learning for March-June 2020, Marie knew k's and grade 1 would be the hardest hit. This meant that in September Grades 1-2 would need extra support in their reading to catch up. Using precise assessment of alphabet and phonological awareness in Ipass, followed by direct, explicit teaching, students were supported in their specific learning needs. Literacy support groups met twice a week from mid-October until the end of December, or whenever they were ready. This short-term intervention closed the gaps for those young learners so they could be exited from literacy support and returned to regular classroom instruction.

Principal Mullen explained that accessing the students at the earliest stages produced the most efficient success. The later intervention beings, the longer it takes to “close the gaps” for learners. She explained that the success of early intervention relied upon accurate assessment and explicit, targeted teaching.

The success of these students, who have fully reintegrated in the classroom, has been shared with staff, the parents of the students involved and the PAC.

Galiano Community School

Celebrations certainly looked different at GCS in December, but students and staff were able to enjoy the holiday spirit together during an outdoor Jingle Bell Run. Costumes, treats and physical activity were combined with fundraising for the Food Bank to send 2020 out in style. As the new year begins, staff at GCS are excited to celebrate LEARNING by creatively using the EPIC grant to target learning loss in the primary classroom. It was established in the fall that the early learners (Gr 1 and 2) were experiencing the greatest gap in learning during the pandemic. Small Math and Literacy groups were established at that time, and the EPIC grant will provide funding to staff those groups until at least April.

Gulf Islands Secondary School

GISS – the Focused Intervention and Transition (FIT) Team are celebrating the successes in bringing 6 out of 15 students that had been identified as failing from the first Quarter to a passing grade. This achievement is the result of targeted EPIC grant funding being utilized to identify and support students who are failing or have failed a class. The school is taking a collaborative approach to catch these vulnerable students early with the knowledge that it will increase their success at school and ultimately see them cross the stage of graduation. Lyall is sharing these stories of celebration with his staff and the board and the January PAC meeting.

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

At Mayne Island School, it is intentional practice to focus on the positive, especially during these uncertain times. Staff and students celebrate each others' learning milestones regularly. Gestures of encouragement and recognition such as an air high five or fist bump when a student moves onto a new reading level or overcomes a challenge are smaller but very meaningful celebrations that happen on a daily basis. These successes might be followed up with a text home to parents. Uploads to Fresh Grade also highlight students' work that can be shared with families.

Next month, the local community magazine will begin featuring articles by students interviewing their peers. The focus will be on the student leadership team and ambassador group, what they are doing, and what their goals are.

As well, at this month's Board of Education Regular Public Meeting, the Mayne School team will be presenting on the Ipass project and EPIC grants. These both centre on student learning achievement and will also recognize the improvement to teacher efficacy as a result of both these initiatives.



Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School

Some of the many ways we communicate student success this month include:

- Class communication, in particular weekly class emails to all parents highlighting what was happening in the class for the week. CBC music contest is a good example. Drama recordings with ptarmigan (community partner) is another good example.
- Using technology to keep a “window to our school” open.
- Showcasing art in the “Enchanted Forest”.
- Using safe outdoor field trips and helping to showcase student work (further “window into the school”).

Phoenix Elementary School

Phoenix-The Phoenix community has utilized their EPIC grant money to focus on skills and capacity in writing which is a school wide focus particularly in Non-fiction. Two of the students had their Christmas stories published in the Driftwood Newspaper, in which they had 100% student participation with submissions. Currently the school is enjoying and celebrating the ‘fruits’ of their labour creating a successful Breakfast program. They received a SS foundation grant, donations from the Anglican Church, Barb’s buns, Country Grocer, The Lions and from a school parent.

Salt Spring Elementary School

The recent creation of the new outdoor dome was a big cause for celebration for the school. Parents worked together with community donations to create a new learning space that even students had a part in building. There is great pride in that work and it has been shared on social media, the newsletter and in the Driftwood. A special indigenous welcoming ceremony was held for each class recently to open the dome as a safe space for learning.

The Owl class has been creating a weekly newspaper distributed every Thursday at the end of the day with articles and interviews about life in the school.

Although regular ceremonies are on pause due to the pandemic the school is very proud to have still managed to host a virtual winter concert to end the year. They are now excited to delve deeper into learning with their EPIC grant that focuses on numeracy. Teachers are sharing strategies and struggles in a collaborative way and creating a math workshop for students to engage with different idea at their own pace. All will be documented in film to allow others to learn and celebrate the achievements the school community makes.

Saltspring Island Middle School

Principal Smith and I (Trustee Denz) discussed how SIMS as a whole needs to be celebrated. Though so little can be done together right now, we recognized how important it is to share within the school community. What has been uppermost on the principal’s and her staff’s minds is the closing of the school and preparation for that. Enrolment changes in September will bring major reorganizing of the school structure and planning celebrations of the school and its history will be a very important part of that transition.

Decades of stories rest not only on students and SIMS staff, but also on individuals, community groups, esteemed guests, special events, student achievement, excellent programming, and a whole lot of fun. This last being a crucial element for the middle school age group, creating a positive atmosphere as they bounce between being a child and a teen.

SIMS has greatly benefitted from the collaborative efforts of the staff which has imbued the school with a strong sense of community from the first days its doors opened. Right now, the school is starting the first steps for preparing, pulling together people and committees, to organize pieces of the celebration.



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Principal Smith also noted that this year SIMS has very kind grade eight students shining in supportive, and fun-loving roles. Each cohort is two classes, with a total of less than 50 students. SIMS implemented three different lunch hours which has reduced discipline issues.

Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

Saturna School is celebrating the fact that we are able to continue operating during these unprecedented times of Covid-19. In both the SEEC and Elementary classes there has been focus on taking time to think about what we are grateful for. This has been done through journal writing and open discussions. Having regular routines, safe social interactions and a learning environment is especially important for our young people right now.

SEEC continues to define and strengthen their relationships with SIMRES and Parks Canada, working on special projects that directly affect community and environment. They have been able to make these efforts visible most recently through an article published in our local newspaper, Driftwood. As we move into 2021 SEEC will also be continuing with Saturna's local publication, The Scribbler, to share learning initiatives and connect with community.

Saturna elementary shares learning celebrations and stays connected utilizing school newsletters to parents and daily communication before and after school.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

13. QUESTION PERIOD

Chair Boulter accepted questions from the public.

14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Special Public Board Meeting: January 18, 2021
- (b) Regular Board Meeting: February 10, 2021
- (c) Committee Day: February 24, 2021

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved that the meeting be adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

CARRIED 17/21

Date: _____

Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Secretary Treasurer