



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
ZOOM Virtual Meeting
2021 02 10

Present:	Tisha Boulter	Chairperson
	Chaya Katrensky	Vice Chairperson
	Janelle Lawson	Trustee
	Shelley Lawson	Trustee
	Greg Lucas	Trustee
	Rob Pingle	Trustee
	Scott Benwell	Superintendent of Schools
	Jesse Guy	Secretary Treasurer
	D'Arcy Deacon	Director of Instruction, Human Resources
	Boe Beardsmore	Director of Instruction, Learning Services
	Lori Deacon	Executive Assistant
	Clare Nuyens	Executive Assistant
	Ian Mitchell	GITA President
	Angela Thomas	CUPE Vice-President
	Shelly Johnson	GIPVPA Co-Chair
	Marie Mullen	GIPVPA Co-Chair
	Adria Kray	DPAC Co-Chair
	Lyall Ruehlen	Principal, GISS
	Ryan Massey	Vice-Principal, GISS
	Jude Shugar	Vice-Principal, GISS
	Elizabeth Nolan	Driftwood Representative
Regrets:	Stefanie Denz	Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Boulter. She 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 02 10 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 25/21

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10(d): replace budget and taxpayer with resources and residents; include Transportation Service Consultant title.

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2021 01 13 be approved as amended.

CARRIED 26/21

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2021 01 18 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 27/21



3. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6. **DELEGATIONS**

(a) **GISS Focused Intervention and Transition (FIT) Team Presentation**

Gulf Islands Secondary School Principal, Lyall Ruehlen and Vice-Principals Jude Shugar and Ryan Massey presented on the implementation of a Focused Intervention and Transitions Team initiative at GISS. In previous years, school staff identified graduation completion and proficiency levels in numeracy and literacy as areas where students were falling behind. Staff have renewed focus on early intervention, grade to grade transitions, and the current challenges students are facing with their learning during COVID-19 and quarterly course delivery. The work is funded through the EPIC Achievement Grant and is grounded in Fullan's Coherence Framework, and The Power of Moments (Heath and Heath). Resources are allocated using the RTI model for intervention, prioritizing efforts that support all learners. Students not meeting academic, behaviour, or attendance expectations are identified early in each course. Credit recovery plays a large part in supporting students with course completion through to graduation. Shifting culture, differentiating instruction, and tailored interventions are key to the program's success.

The group shared a video showcasing the FIT team initiative in action from the perspective of students and staff.

(b) **Student Achievement Data, Clare Nuyens**

Executive Assistant Clare Nuyens presented on the use of district data to identify trends, students at risk, and areas for actionable change. New insights show a continued improvement in our six-year resident completion rate, with SD64 leading island region school districts at 87.9%. Tracking readiness data helps identify those students at risk of not graduating. Ms. Nuyens explained that administrators share and use the data to connect with students, teachers, and families, and identify appropriate supports to get students at risk on non-completion through to graduation. Our use of district data ties directly to the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and supports the alignment of resources and strategic planning (school and district) with policy, goals, and student need.

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **2021/2022 School Calendar Approval**

The 2021/2022 draft calendar and feedback were shared.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt a Local School Calendar for the 2021/2022 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 28/21

(b) **BCPSEA AGM**

Janelle Lawson, Shelley Lawson, and D'Arcy Deacon virtually attended BCPSEA. Provincial measures, such as bargaining structure, prep time, application of best efforts and resolution of outstanding grievances are still being negotiated, with the current agreement set to expire June 2022. Make a Future is now



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connected directly with the TRB certification process. Shelley Lawson noted that Eve Flynn was acclaimed as VISTA rep.

(c) Inter-Island Transportation

Trustees have expressed interest in creating a working group to continue the conversations on inter-island transportation that occurred during the of configuration review process.

Trustees discussed whether the working group would be better placed with the Finance, Audit, and Facilities Committee or as a sub-committee under Committee of the Whole so that all trustees are included.

Moved and seconded that the Board direct staff to create a Terms of Reference for an Inter-Island Transportation Working Group.

CARRIED 29/21

Staff will bring a draft Terms of Reference to the April Board Meeting.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(a) 2019/2020 Six-Year Completion and Grade 12 Graduation Rates

Scott Benwell shared the district's 2019/2020 six-year completion and Grade 12 graduation rates. These are now available to the public on the Ministry website.

(b) 2020/2021 Class Size Report

D'Arcy Deacon shared the 2020/21 Class Size and Composition Report. District class size averages are below the provincial average in all grade categories.

(c) 2021/2022 Projected Enrolment

Jesse Guy shared projected enrolment for the next school year. Preliminary estimates are due to the Ministry next week. In consultation with school principals, current projected numbers see a stable enrolment of approximately 1440 students for the 2021/2022 school year.

(d) Provincial Mental Health Grant

SD 64 has been selected as one of ten school districts across the province to inform the provincial conversation around mental health and wellness initiatives. Boe Beardsmore reported that, with the financial support of the province through the Ministry of BC, the district can continue the work and commitment in supporting students, educators and families in building mental health capacity and well-being.

(e) COVID-19 Response

Scott Benwell reported that, to date, SD64 has only had one exposure event. We must all continue to follow the recommended guidelines and protocols to keep everyone safe in our buildings. Systems are in place to monitor fresh air circulation in classrooms with 100% of buildings outfitted with upgraded MERV filters.

Boe Beardsmore updated the Board on updates to the health and safety guidelines that include mandatory masks for all K-12 staff and middle years and secondary students when in public spaces. Exceptions include when a staff or student is working at their individual workstation, eating or drinking. Safety plans will be updated and posted to the website.



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Moved and seconded that the meeting be recessed briefly for 8 minutes.

CARRIED 30/21

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

9. **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

(a) **Monthly Financial Report**

Jesse Guy shared the monthly expenditure report for January. Spending is consistent and on budget within 2%.

(b) **2020/2021 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw**

Jesse Guy presented the 2020/2021 Amended Annual Budget for the amount of \$27,206,313.

Unanimous agreement that the 2021/2022 Amended Budget Bylaw receive all three readings at this time.

CARRIED 31/21

Ms. Guy read the 2021/2022 Amended Budget Bylaw, prepared in accordance with the *School Act*.

Moved and seconded that the 2021/2022 Amended Budget Bylaw be read a first time and passed.

CARRIED 32/21

Moved and seconded that the 2021/2022 Amended Budget Bylaw be read a second time and passed.

CARRIED 33/21

Moved and seconded that the 2021/2022 Amended Budget Bylaw be read a third time, passed and approved.

CARRIED 34/21

(c) **CRD SSI Parks and Recreation Joint Use Agreement**

Jesse Guy shared the renewal for the joint use agreement between the school district and Salt Spring Island CDR Parks and Recreation. Amendments include waiving regular user fees for students and room rates for CRD use of facilities where practical.

Moved and seconded that the Board direct staff to execute the Joint Use Agreement with the Salt Spring Island CRD Parks and Recreation.

CARRIED 35/21

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **HR Committee Report**

The HR Committee summary 2021 01 13 was received.

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

The Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee summary 2021 01 13 was received.

(e) **Education Committee Report**

The Education Committee met earlier today. Committee Chair Chaya Katrensky summarized items addressed including the request to adopt the Canadian Charter of Learner's Rights, EPIC Achievement Grants, draft calendar feedback, consideration for a three-year school calendar, and the public presentation



of school trustee reports.

11. **TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS**

Trustee School Reports were received as presented.

Topic: How are you connecting people in this COVID isolation? (Goal 3.1 Cultivate connections that enhance intellectual, human & social, and career development for our students.)

Fernwood Elementary School

There are two key elements that Fernwood is turning to for connecting people during the pandemic, the outdoors and video. Their Halloween parade was outdoors, the older students are being fairies making deliveries to the younger students play spaces, Mr. McPhee's garden is getting rolling and everyone is looking forward to Jump Rope for Heart. Whole School Meetings are shared by video as was the Remembrance Day and Holiday Season songs. PAC is having productive online meetings and the staff recently held a numeracy in-service by Zoom which really seemed to connect with everyone. The next big project is a shared art project carving indigenous animals into new cedar benches for their outdoor learning spaces.

Fulford Community Elementary School

At Fulford Elementary, three students are still involved with remote program, the flexible return, and the principal connects regularly with them via Zoom. Besides receiving the newsletter from their classroom teacher once a week, the flex students also get the regular school newsletter. This latter is a big form of sharing for the whole school when connecting face to face especially with parents, is so limited. School events to keep up school spirit, such as pink shirt, pajama or crazy hair day, are celebrated in class, and shared with their cohort which is one other classroom. Students are able to mingle during lunch and recess outside.

Remembrance Day was held by Zoom, with each class seeing each other, but connection can be dicey. The two classes in each cohort share with each other, with activities such as buddy reading or a field trip to Quaquam. The Grade 2/3 class (in the same cohort) was invited to tour his grade 3/4 Halloween house. Marie also showed me the Reading and writing epic program, which uses videos of student's progress. These could possibly be shared as informal report for parents.

Kids see each other outside all the time, so that play time is relatively the same, classes are outside for PE as much as possible. Teachers meet in the staff room for lunch; the room has a max of 10 persons per time.

Galiano Community School

Galiano Community School is working hard to keep the school community connected. Students have been attending zoom presentations and workshops including:

- author Aiden Cassie from SSI for Read Aloud Day on Feb. 3.
- Middle Years students coding with Science World
- Galiano Food Program // School Garden
- Los Angeles man growing food in urban environment
- Man from Africa making instruments with recyclables
- UVIC speaker series on Coast Salish languages

As much as everyone is missing face-to-face student led conferences, Portfolios have been sent home and Zoom/phone conferences with parents are happening.



Gulf Islands Secondary School

GISS admin have added an additional optional staff meeting every month via Zoom to allow for any topic questions and answers during this pandemic year. This open style offers more free forming connection and dialog amongst staff.

PAC has been a very active supportive and engaged group. The Zoom PAC meetings has allowed for a more equitable connection platform for all the gulf Island families attending GISS to meet. There have been increased communications going out from the office to families with regular updates to help with the changing landscape of COVID.

It has been a challenging year to not have physical performances, tournaments and assemblies. However, members of the admin team routinely visit classrooms to speak to small groups of students directly and build those relationships and communicate relevant school information.

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

Since last spring, Mayne School has been using FreshGrade to keep students engaged with their learning. It has also become a fun way for families to see first- hand their students' work and projects. The monthly school newsletter as well as emails and texts help keep families and the community connected. Recently, the school has been using the online learning company LIVE IT, which takes classes virtually into the field of various topics (weather, orca week, Arctic) and participants can also tweet in questions. The school has been able to connect with Mr. Rob, from the MI Conservancy, remotely in the classroom. Thanks to a grant from ArtStarts, beginning next week students will have the pleasure of remotely meeting and listening to Indigenous storytellers. Before the holidays, the school partnered again with the MI Assisted Living Society, to connect with seniors as well as youth in the community by creating gifts and cards and will do so again for Valentines Day. Learners have also enjoyed connecting with Cowichan Elder and Knowledge Keeper Dolly Sylvester (Hwul'hwulenuhwtnaat'), through the SD79 video series 'Hello Dolly' where children can ask questions about Elders and Cowichan culture and have them answered.

Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School

How are we connecting people in a time of COVID?

- Weekly updates on what's happening in the classroom (classroom newsletters in some cases)
- Newsletter with increased representation and pictures to make learning visible
- Phone call conversations connecting at-risk students/families with community supports
- Admin check ins with students in need
- Admin and teacher increased visibility on playground before/after school (connect with parents and community at a distance)
- Close parent/teacher communication with at-risk students
- Parent Night Zoom- Discussed topics of Social Media/Screen time use for young people.
- Using our EPIC grant to develop career skills for our student (electronics exploration and other ADST opportunities)
- Asynchronous work with community artists and students to showcase work in the Enchanted forest. (eg. putting in the ferry doors on South Pender for community to see)
- Connecting with local artists at Hope Bay. (Safe, socially distanced gallery tour and lesson)

Phoenix Elementary School

In response to COVID, SD64 in conjunction with Phoenix Elementary School created the flexible Return, remote learning option for families not yet ready to return to in-school instruction. We have created three distinct learning groups, led by two enthusiastic teaching staff. While our remote learning primarily focuses on numeracy and literacy, there is no shortage of a connection. Daily, our students meet in their learning groups and have a chance



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to check in with their teacher and their peers. These meetings serve to keep the students connected and to set the stage for a day of learning in the remote and home environment. It is our mission to ensure students make academic progress in literacy and numeracy, stay connected to our district and stay engaged in the learning process.

Salt Spring Elementary School

SSE prides itself on giving a welcome to every student at the start of the day. With COVID these greetings have moved outdoors and is creating connections with parents as an off shoot. There is such a need for connection that the school is also doing end of the day farewells. The school is happy that they can continue the one on one readers program through zoom. Cheryl is using the new dome as an outreach for certain student. The ELF program was outdoors this fall and is now moving indoors with two families visiting at a time. The school is also excited to be hosting a French immersion information session online and providing kindergarten enrollment tours after school. There will be a kindergarten orientation outside in the spring with stations and timed arrivals.

Saltspring Island Middle School

SIMS has three rotating lunch periods with two cohorts of two classes, at a time, and one with three cohorts spending time together outside. This is going remarkably well, with much fewer discipline problems, and students enjoying their time together. Students are developing a closeness within their classes as well as with their cohort. Students also see each other when they enter the school in the morning from their respective class lineups at one of the five entrances. Weekly all school meetings are held by Zoom with the 14 classes. At this time, students share with each other from their classroom in a parade formation, and any school spirit activities that may be going on, such as bad hair day or Halloween costumes can be seen. More whole school events are being planned as these have become quite fun with sharing in class and through zoom-opportunities for showcasing students through this medium is gaining popularity. SIMS is always looking for fun things, as students especially need it in this transition period of their lives.

Staff see each other via Zoom or in the hallway. Staff meetings are now once a week, instead of monthly, held for a shorter period, in the play area just outside the gym, where there is enough room for all to stand. Staff is really appreciating this time, as they have always been a tight knit working group and are needing support and feedback at this time.

Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

Saturna School is cultivating connections during Covid isolation mainly through print and virtual platforms. Staff and students recognize that we have temporary lost some of our opportunities to connect in person with reading groups, guest speakers and gatherings such as Christmas Concerts. In order to fill those gaps, the team at Saturna School has taken steps to reach out to parents and community in several different ways.

Over Christmas parents were treated to some videos featuring Elementary and Strong Start students singing Christmas carols and reading a Christmas story. The SEEC group shared a festive radio play.

Into this new year the school continues to share stories and updates of learning activities through regular articles in our local monthly publication, The Scribbler. The staff have also recently set up a structure so that monthly newsletters will be sent out featuring current learning events and school activities, these newsletters will also be available at the General Store for all interested individuals to stay connected.

Different virtual presentations have also been available. Most recently, a Digital Screen time presentation for parents and students and SIMRES Whale Talks on technology integration are available to all staff, parents, students and community at large.



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SEEC students have begun an e-mentorship program with UBC students. This program has our soon to be graduates paired with undergrads from UBC where they get a one on one insight to the post-secondary process. This unique opportunity has targeted rural communities in BC.

Also, the SEEC class has partnered with Galiano conservancy working on a project to track illegal fishing activities. This study includes positioning cameras around Saturna to watch the activity in the water and report on what is being surveyed.

As we move into spring the school has plans to reconnect with our local community garden network and make the school plots a fun, valuable and interesting project for all Saturna students.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

13. QUESTION PERIOD

14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Regular Board Meeting: April 14, 2021
- (b) Committee Day: February 24, 2021

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

CARRIED 36/21

Date: _____

Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Secretary Treasurer