



Present:	Tisha Boulter	Board Chair
	Chaya Katrensky	Vice-Chair
	Jeannine Georgeson	Trustee
	Deborah Luporini	Trustee
	Nancy Macdonald	Trustee
	Rob Pingle	Trustee
	Scott Benwell	Superintendent of Schools/ Acting Secretary
		Treasurer
	D'Arcy Deacon	Deputy Superintendent
	Boe Beardsmore	Associate Superintendent
Lori Deacon	Acting Director of Corporate Services	
Anna Szul	Executive Assistant	
Guests:	Ian Mitchell	GITA President
	Angel Thomas	CUPE Representative
	Kate Martinez	DPAC Representative
	Barb Aust/Rineke Jonker	Presented (former Phoenix Elem. Staff)
Regrets:	Gregory Lucas	Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Scott Benwell.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Secretary Treasurer

With the intention of holding a safe caring and orderly meeting for all, Scott Benwell pledged to do his best to maintain a respectful and inclusive working environment by holding this meeting to the highest standards of civility and appropriate conduct so that we may attend to our business in an effective and productive manner.

2. BOARD ELECTIONS

(a) Board Chair/Vice/Chair

Scott Benwell called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Board Chair. Tisha Boulter and Chaya Katrensky were nominated. Ballots were cast and counted. Tisha Boulter accepted the position of Chair.

Tisha Boulter assumed the chair.

Chair Boulter called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Vice Chair. Chaya Katrensky and Deborah Luporini were nominated. Deborah Luporini declined the nomination. Chaya Katrensky was acclaimed as Vice Chair.



(b) **BCSTA Provincial Council Representative**

Chaya Katrensky accepted as the BCSTA Provincial Council Representative by acclamation.

BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate

Rob Pingle accepted as the BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate by acclamation.

(c) **BCPSEA Representative**

Gregory Lucas accepted as the BCPSEA Representative by acclamation.

BCPSEA Alternate

Jeannine Georgeson accepted as the BCPSEA Alternate by acclamation.

(d) **Indigenous Education Committee Representatives**

Jeannine Georgeson, Tisha Boulter, and Deborah Luporini were nominated for the two positions.

Ballots were cast and counted. Jeannine Georgeson and Deborah Luporini accepted the positions of Indigenous Education Committee Representatives.

Moved and seconded that the election ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED 81/23

Chair Boulter recessed the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

Chair Boulter resumed the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Trustee Luporini welcomed everyone to Mayne Island Elementary School on *SKATAC* (Mayne), *SKÁ,ETEM* (Otter Bay), and Pender Canal. Trustee Luporini expressed gratitude that we gather on the traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num, *SENĆOŦEN*, and *W̱sáneć* speaking peoples – huy tseep q'u.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Add 8 (b) Police Liaison

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2023 11 08 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED 82/23

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2023 10 11 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 83/23

5. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARIES**

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summaries 2023 10 11, 2023 10 26, 2023 11 02 (noon), and 2023 11 03 (3:00 p.m.) by consensus.



CARRIED 84/23

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6. **DELEGATIONS**

(a) **Phoenix Elementary School History – Barb Aust and Rineke Jonker**

As two of the original staff of Phoenix Elementary School, former principal Barb Aust and former teacher Rineke Jonker gave a moving presentation about the history and early years of the school. They shared many personal stories and spoke about the innovative features that made the school a unique educational environment at the time. Ms. Aust and Ms. Jonker expressed deep gratitude to those early parents and staff members for their vision and hard work, to the children who inspired them, and to the Board of the time for believing in them.

7. **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

(a) **Board Election and Committee Representatives**

- Education Committee Membership: Nancy Macdonald (Chair), Jeannine Georgeson, Deborah Luporini
- Finance, Audit & Facilities Committee Membership: Greg Lucas (Chair), Jeannine Georgeson, Rob Pingle
- Policy Committee Membership: Deborah Luporini (Chair), Chaya Katrensky, Rob Pingle
- 64GO School Rep. Rob Pingle
- Fernwood School PAC Rep. Rob Pingle
- Fulford School PAC Rep. Tisha Boulter
- Galiano Island School PAC Rep. Jeannine Georgeson
- Gulf Islands Secondary School PAC Rep. Tisha Boulter
- Mayne Island School PAC Rep. Deborah Luporini
- Pender Islands School PAC Rep. Greg Lucas
- Phoenix School PAC Rep. Tisha Boulter
- Salt Spring Elementary School PAC Rep. Nancy Macdonald
- Saturna Elementary School/ SEEC Chaya Katrensky
- DPAC Rep. Nancy Macdonald

(b) **Superintendent Recruitment**

Jill Jensen has been selected to fill the position of Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Jensen is currently the Superintendent of Nisga’a School District No. 92 and will be officially joining the SD64 team on February 1, 2024. Scott Benwell will be the Acting Superintendent from January 1-31, 2024.



(c) **Draft 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 School Calendars**

The Board presented a School Calendar Consultation Schedule and Notice of Motion to consider the adoption of school calendars for 2025/26 and 2026/2027 as part of the district's 3-year calendar. The motion will be presented at the regular Public Board meeting on February 14, 2024. The Notice of Motion will be added to the website along with the draft calendars and an online comments form for public input.

Notice of Motion: The Board of Education adopt school calendars for the 2025/2026 and 2026/27 school years as part of the local three-year school calendar.

(d) **Civil Meetings (BCSTA Consultation)**

Scott Benwell and Chair Boulter met with representatives from the BCSTA about civil meetings. Disruptive activism has been on the rise in school board meetings across the province.

Scott Benwell stated the School Board delegates authority to a Superintendent and they share the responsibility to staff to have safe and respectful work environments. Districts across the province are developing site-based safety plans, communication protocols for meetings, and egress strategies. We will join these districts in accessing our facilities and looking at available responses. We hold meetings in places where access to a peace officer is not readily available and that should be considered when developing strategies for safe and respectful meetings. Chair Boulter underlined that we have an obligation to students and the public to provide a safe space since our meetings are occasionally held in elementary schools. Trustee Pingle brought up the *Accessibility Act* in considering meetings.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education direct staff to create a report on recommendations for a district meeting safety plan for the April 10, 2024, public meeting.

CARRIED 85/23

(e) **Phoenix Elementary School Closure Consultation**

Chair Boulter spoke to her report on the feedback from the public consultation meeting about the Phoenix Elementary School Closure.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(a) **Staffing**

D'Arcy Deacon gave a routine staffing update. We continue to actively recruit people. We foresee no need for reconfiguration at Winter break. Trustee Pingle expressed gratitude to D'Arcy Deacon for all his work in the district.



(b) **Police Liaison**

Scott Benwell gave background. On Nov 24, 2022, the BC Human Rights Commissioner wrote a letter to the BCSTA CEO. *“Out of respect for the rights of our students, I strongly recommend that all school districts end the use of school liaison officers until the impact of these programs can be established empirically. For school boards who choose not to take this step, it is incumbent on you to produce independent evidence of a need for school liaison officers that cannot be met through civilian alternatives and to explain the actions you are taking to address the concerns raised by Indigenous, Black, and other marginalized communities.”* This was a request to suspend policing, in our case RCMP presence in our schools from a human rights perspective. in schools. As a result, we do not have a formalized officer liaison program. However, we do have informal relationships with our RCMP detachments. RCMP involvement in our schools occurs with discretion and responsible programming guided by caution on a case-by-case basis.

9. SECRETARY TREASURER’S REPORT

(a) **Monthly Financial Report**

Lori Deacon presented the monthly operating expense report indicating expenses are currently within budget.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Education Committee – 2023 10 11 Summary**

The Board of Education received the Education Committee Summary from 2023 02 22.

(b) **Policy Committee – 2023 11 08 Update**

Notice of Motion: The Board of Education repeal policy 3800 and its associated procedure regarding Animals in the Classroom. When it is repealed, it will be replaced with administrative practice.

The next meeting will include the first reading of Bylaw 2.

11. TRUSTEES’ REPORTS

Trustee Luporini participated in an online conversation with the Southern Gulf Island Justice program, whose focus has shifted from a restorative justice perspective to bringing people together. Trustee Luporini attended Sparking Inspiration, an Early Education Conference in Nanaimo partially organized by Amy Dearden and included a presentation by Samantha Creech.

Chair Boulter attended the VISTA Fall Conference and appreciated the impactful presentation by Scott Saywell about the idea of non-indigenous folks spending time landing themselves in their place of origin and reconciling with their own lands. Chair Boulter also attended Advocacy Day at the legislature.



Vice Chair Katrensky enjoyed VISTA and the Provincial Council. Particularly a presentation by the Metis Nations guest speaker. Vice Chair Katrensky gave a summary of the emergent motions put forward by the Provincial Council Committee to the BCSTA AGM.

Trustee Pingle met with the Fernwood PAC. At VISTA Trustee Pingle enjoyed the presentation by Julie McCray, *Governing For Results*. In the day-long BCSTA learning series, Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth the representative for Children and Youth in Care, presented authentic and non-identifying stories of the issues that can affect our students and our schools especially when they are in alternative care. Trustee Pingle connected with the “*How are we Doing*” report by FNEC and the Ministry of Education and Child Care. SD64 is the only school district without children on reserve. Trustee Pingle asked how we can get our heads around the challenges that presents. The recommendation was to read “*Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian Reserve, a White Town, and the Road to Reconciliation*” by Andrew Stobo Sniderman, Douglas Sanderson, et al.

Trustee Macdonald passed.

Trustee Georgeson passed.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

13. QUESTION PERIOD

14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Special Public Meeting – November 13, 2023, at 9:00 am Hybrid Meeting, Zoom and in person at the School Board Office
- (b) Policy Committee Meeting – December 13, 2023, via Zoom
- (c) Regular Board Meeting – January 10, 2024, at the School Board Office

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved to adjourn at 2:47 p.m.

CARRIED 86/23

Date: _____

Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Acting Secretary Treasurer