



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION**  
**Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)**  
**ZOOM Virtual Meeting**  
**2022 04 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  
Clare Nuyens  
Tania Aguila

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

Ian Mitchell  
Angela Thomas  
Shelly Johnson  
Emelie Peacock

GITA President  
CUPE President  
GIPVPA Representative  
Driftwood Representative

**Regrets:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Boulter. Trustee Greg Lucas acknowledged with gratitude that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples. He reflected on a sense of place and perspective and how we acknowledge traditional territories - huy tseep q'u.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

No additions

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2022 04 13 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 17/22

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2022 02 09 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 18/22

**3. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY**

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summary of 2022 02 09 as presented.

CARRIED 19/22

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Special In-Camera Summary of 2022 03 09 as presented.

CARRIED 20/22



4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6. **DELEGATIONS**

(a) **District Data Presentation – Clare Nuyens**

Chare Nuyens presented an annual update focused on the implications and use of the district data. In the past three years, completion rates have continued to improve for all resident students and for Indigenous students. In the past year, the district has implemented use of a variety of dashboards to help view and present data in more accessible ways. Student data is used to inform evidenced-based decisions to best approach learning. This is the first year that the district has participated in the MDI (Middle Development Instrument) and will use results from grades 5 and 8 students to further inform our practice.

(b) **Rus Route Adjustments Fall 2022 – Tania Aguila**

Jesse Guy and Tania Aguila presented on four key items related to student transportation next year.

1. Research and data to optimize busing through reduction of one bus route on Salt Spring Island. Routes will be based on school catchment areas. It is recommended that route 2 is removed with routes 1 and 7 adjusted to accommodate.
2. A bus route and new electric bus is expected for Mayne Island in the fall.
3. Comparison of transportation access and service with other regional school districts.
4. Student transportation registration for next year will open May 15. The deadline for registration is June 15.

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **FESL Review**

A district team will meet with the Ministry Peer Review Team on May 5<sup>th</sup> as part of the FESL review process. This is the next step in the Option 2 process and follows the engagement and feedback sessions undertaken by the Education Committee.

(b) **Meeting Format**

Trustees discussed the logistics of a return to in-person meetings. Health and safety, individual comfort levels, and equitable access were considered.

Moved and seconded that the Board directs staff to investigate holding the May board meeting at Mayne School in person.

CARRIED 21/22

(c) **SSI Challenge Cup \_Request to Serve Alcohol**

Salt Spring Challenge Cup plans to host its annual May Long Weekend Soccer Tournament again this year and wishes to include a licensed beer garden area on GISS grounds.

Moved and seconded that, in accordance with Policy 3100 Controlled and Intoxicating Substances, the Board approves Salt Spring Challenge Cup's request to serve alcohol at the annual May Long Weekend Soccer Tournament on May 20-23, 2022 at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

CARRIED 22/22

A brief recess was called at 2:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:50 p.m.



8. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

(a) **Indigenous Focus Graduation Requirement**

The Ministry of Education, with the support of the First Nations Education Steering Committee, recently announced the addition of an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement to be implanted in the 2023/24 school year. This marks a positive step towards truth, reconciliation, and commitments to anti-racism. Districts will be able to meet this new requirement in a variety of ways.

(b) **Staffing and Enrolment**

Schools have been provided with preliminary staffing figures based on projected enrolment. School administrators will begin to draft configuration scenarios and work with staff committees in alignment with collective language.

9. **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

(a) **Monthly Financial Report**

Jesse Guy shared the monthly financial report for February and March. The district is 0.4% within budget.

Chaya Katrensky left the meeting at approximately 3:10 p.m.

(b) **2022/2023 Capital Plan Bylaw**

Jesse Guy shared an overview of the capital projects approved by the Ministry for 2022/2023. Approved expenses include: interior renovations to the GISS gym, plumbing upgrades at Saturna Elementary, electrical upgrades at Fulford School, and the purchase of two new large passenger electric buses to replace two aged-out diesel buses.

Unanimous agreement that the 2022/2023 Capital Plan Bylaw receive all three readings at this time.

CARRIED 23/22

Tisha Boulter read the 2022/2023 Capital Plan Bylaw, prepared in accordance with the *School Act*. Chaya Katrensky returned to the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Moved and seconded that the 2022/2023 Capital Plan Bylaw be read a first time and passed.

CARRIED 24/22

Moved and seconded that the 2022/2023 Capital Plan Bylaw be read a second time and passed.

CARRIED 25/22

Moved and seconded that the 2022/2023 Capital Plan Bylaw be read a third time, passed and approved.

CARRIED 26/22

(c) **Student Water Taxi Tender**

The invitation to tender for student water transportation service has been published and will be open for approximately six weeks. Tender documents are available on BC BID and the district website.

(d) **South Wing Report**

Jesse Guy shared a report on plans for the SIMS South Wing Annex and the renaming of the space.

Moved and seconded that the Board confirms that 64 Learning Hub is the new building name for the wing of the former Saltspring Middle School area that was commonly referred to as SIMS South Wing Annex.

CARRIED 27/22



(e) **2022/2023 Budget Configuration Alignment**

Jesse Guy shared an overview of the work done over the past two years to accomplish the Board's reconfiguration commitments. Difficult decisions made by the Board regarding reconfiguration have allowed for a sustainable balanced budget and for long-term financial stability.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **HR Committee**

The HR Committee meeting focused on the Provincial Job Evaluation Project and the work being done by districts across the province to normalize the job evaluation and classification process.

(b) **Committee of the Whole**

The Committee of the Whole summary 2022 02 23 was received.

i. *Recycling Report*

On behalf of the Climate Action Working Group, the Committee of the Whole requested the Board consider directing staff to write a recycling report.

Moved and seconded that the Board direct staff to write a recycling report for the Climate Action Working Group.

CARRIED 28/22

ii. *Terms of Reference*

A draft Terms of Reference was shared for the Board's consideration.

Moved and seconded that the Board adopts the Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Working Group.

CARRIED 29/22

(c) **Education Committee**

The Education Committee summaries 2022 02 09 and 2022 02 23 were received.

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

The FAF Committee summary 2022 02 23 was received.

Moved and seconded that the meeting be extended until 4:15 pm.

CARRIED 30/22

(e) **Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee summary 2022 02 23 was received. Trustees discussed how to better engage student voice in feedback and participation. The item will be brought to the next policy meeting.

i. Procedure 650 Public Use of School District Property (and Forms 1, 2, 4, and 5)

This procedure and forms were circulated for feedback January 19, 2022. No feedback was received.

Moved and seconded that the Board approves amendments to Procedure 6850 Public Use of School District Property and adopts procedural forms 6580-1, 6850-2, 9850-4, and 6850-5.

CARRIED 31/22

ii. Policy 6550 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

This policy was circulated for feedback January 19, 2022. Not feedback was received.



Moved and seconded that the Board approved amendments to Policy 6550 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses.  
CARRIED 32/22

11. **TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS**

Trustee reports were received. Greg Lucas shared his report for Pender Islands School.

Topic: What are your school's strengths and best practices around environmental protection? What could we be doing more of or better at? (Goal 2: Integrate Sustainability. Objective 2.1: Encourage connection to and individual responsibility for the natural environment.)

***Fernwood Elementary School***

***Fulford Community Elementary School***

Fulford elementary has a long tradition of nature based learning, encouraging students to form a connection with the land. Working with children's natural inclination for the outdoors the land is an instant teacher for developing respect and better stewardship of the environment. Fulford school has beautiful and diverse grounds and students are outside a-lot to play, and learn. With time they show a real desire to protect. Besides usual curriculum the teacher who takes most of the students during the prep time of her colleagues has them outside for nature lessons, connecting to native plants and their indigenous uses.

The Fulford school garden is experiencing a renaissance with some amazing parents spearheading the efforts. Recently parent Dr. Tara Martin raised indigenous plants from seed and with students help planted them in the school garden. Maintaining continuity with the garden is a dilemma as it relies so heavily on parent involvement, and their individual enthusiasm. However the school is known for its focus on nature and hopes to inspire families to commit to the school's outdoor projects.

Other ways Fulford school protects the environment is no snacks outside, making for less litter. Kids are in general very conscientious about garbage and take care to pick up what they drop. In regards to fuel usage most kids take the bus.

This has been a great question for Fulford School highlighting the long-standing dedication the school has to the environment and the diverse and beautiful property it is on.

An area the school could use help with is in a proper composting system. Over the years the school's efforts has only led to rats. Perhaps the district could take over composting. It's an area that requires vigilance and support for all the schools needing it, and would be beneficial in the numerous ways we are all familiar with. Composting is an important aspect of environmental living especially on our semi rural island with the lifestyles and mandates we hope to follow. At the moment compost is being sent home with kids.

This has been a great question for Fulford School highlighting the long-standing dedication the school has to the environment and the diverse ways the students learn and play on its' beautiful grounds.

***Galiano Community School***

Galiano Community School has always enjoyed the natural environment around the school and the new outdoor classroom is a great extension of that learning. Teachers and staff are working together on expanding the learning opportunities outside. The "Pack-it-in-pack-it-out" practices initiated by BSW Stephan Fedorowich many years ago continue today, as well as composting our food waste and recycling paper. We enjoy a long-standing



relationship with the Galiano Conservancy, who provide fall and spring in-service as well as the salmon enhancement program. The school Garden welcomes a new coordinator, Shauna Anderson, and the children are busy learning how to grow their favorite foods and celebrating NettleFest, AppleFest and other community celebrations.

### ***Gulf Islands Secondary School***

In Consultation with principal Lyall Ruehlen:

GISS has installed solar panels on the Gymnasium roof and any power that is produced is converted into a yearly scholarship that is awarded to a Grad who is attending a post secondary program in environmental studies. The high school participates in a recycling program that is supported by the life skills class. The leadership group teamed up with SSE and planted trees along the edge of the soccer fields for carbon capture, shade, and supporting soil/bank stability with root systems. Some students from the leadership team have formed a climate action group that has attended our district Climate action committee. The grade 11/12 environmental studies science class has produced a calendar of local plants that grow in Mouats park and proceeds from the sale of the calendars is donated to a local sustainability organization. The facilities at GISS have been upgraded to have water bottle filling stations through the building to encourage reusable water containers. There could be more curriculum that specializes in climate change. There could be career fairs that helped students be aware of jobs that they could work towards in the environmental sustainability and climate action field.

### ***Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School***

Mayne School has a strong holistic relationship between learning and the natural environment. Place based learning plays a large role in everyday activities. The school is lucky to have a huge forest on campus, as well as a thriving garden that students help to tend and grow and includes a compost. A long-standing relationship with the local Conservancy gets students out in the field with resident biologists, and recently had students planting trees for a habitat restoration project. Other learning experiences with the Conservancy this year included a bat cave and presentation on these important species, a field trip to a local beach where students observed many cool things including a decomposing octopus, and later this week they will participate in a beach clean up. Currently, the school has a “Pack It In, Pack It Out” approach to recycling, but we see room for improvement with this. If there was better in- school recycling systems it would mean that most likely more materials would be recycled, as well it would create the opportunity for better education around recycling.

### ***Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School***

Strength and Preferred Practice:

- Recycling program
- Composting
- Garden with the support of Arthur
- Beach Clean Ups- sophisticated language advocating in posters
- Hikes and walks- picking up trash, leave as found OR better
- Can and do operate without power
- Teachable moments throughout the year with a focus on citizenship and natural world
- Forage for natural foods and remedies
- Valuing responsible usage of materials
- Connecting with the Conservancy
- Appreciation of outdoors and conservation is embedded in the values of our school
- Taking learning outdoors
- Disc golf, playing and PE (running and games)
- PAC awareness of recyclables and dish use
- Garbage pick up and indoor lunches to avoid litter



- Fairy Door projects with CRD
- Jamming (music outdoors)
- VOC free projects and reclaimed wood in woodworking
- Quentin- storytelling connected with natural world
- Salmon fry tank, stream zone
- Tree appreciation

More of... and Better at...:

- Teaching advocacy to students
- Connecting with the Conservancy
- Island's Trust Conservancy
- Eco artists
- Access to adjacent lands
- Getting the outdoor classroom going
- Exclusion garden
- Rotation of garbage cans outdoors and then taken in
- Bike path to the school
- Greater focus on water conservation
- Activism and letter writing to political leaders
- Focus on single use plastic

***Phoenix Elementary School***

In consultation with principal Dan Sparanese, we are doing a lot of things that add up:

- Students participate in the Salt Spring Island Conservancy "Stewardship in Training Program" and are highly supportive of their initiatives.
- Students all recycle and ensure minimal waste of paper, re-using supplies from year to year rather than needlessly purchasing new items.
- In terms of environment we have added green plants that the students care for, use natural light only when possible, keep windows open and operate a HEPA filtration system throughout the day students also use re-fillable waters and use the water bottle filling station.
- Students and staff use a zero-waste (pack it in pack it out) protocol and we also compost waste.
- We have a garden and have rainwater catchment for watering the garden.
- Explore multiple environmental issues including climate change and agricultural practices as part of the social studies curriculum

***Salt Spring Elementary School***

***Saltspring Island Middle School***

***Saturna Elementary School/SEEC***

Environmental awareness and protection are built into the culture of SEEC. Students live in off-grid, self-sustainable accommodations. They practice water conservation and use clean energy sources. Each year the students start the year off by learning how the composting system works at Haggis farm and the chicken coop. The students also learn about Saturna's detailed recycling centre, and the different systems involved in the collecting and sorting processes. They have also volunteered time to help at the recycling centre which gives them a solid understanding of the operation and a chance to meet and greet with residents and visiting guests. This is a great community connection for all parties and will be able to rejuvenate with Covid-restrictions continuing to lessen. The SEEC students have also arranged a challenge of ZERO TRASH week, where they have tested themselves to go all week without producing any non-recyclable waste. One of the ways the students and educators see there is



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room for reducing their carbon footprint is by decrease their use of the diesel school bus. Also, working with the elementary and strong start classes to mentor the younger students along this learning and implementing process.

In the elementary class there is lower-level recycling happening in the classroom. There is room to create more learning and innovation with our youngest leaders of the future. This question was a good opportunity to recognize the need for this focus and also looking forward to the Climate Action working group and research that is underway to find ways we can align our efforts as a district.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

**13. QUESTION PERIOD**

Chair Boulter opened the floor for questions from the public.

**14. NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Committee Day: April 27, 2022
- (b) Regular Board Meeting: May 11, 2022

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved that the meeting be adjourned 4:09 p.m.

CARRIED 33/22

Date: May 11, 2022

Tisah Boulter  
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Jesse Guy  
Secretary Treasurer