



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
ZOOM Virtual Meeting
2022 02 09

Present:	Tisha Boulter	Chairperson
	Chaya Katrensky	Vice Chairperson
	Stefanie Denz	Trustee
	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
	Ian Mitchell	GITA President
	Shelly Johnson	GIPVPA Representative
Adria Kray	DPAC Representative	
Emelie Peacock	Driftwood Representative	
Regrets:	Angela Thomas	CUPE President

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Chair Boulter. She acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples and expressed her appreciation for the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement - 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 02 09 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 08/22

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2022 01 12 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 09/22

3. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summary of 2022 01 12 as presented.

CARRIED 10/22

4. BUSINESS ARISING

5. CORRESPONDENCE

6. DELEGATIONS



7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **Draft 3 Year Calendar Adoption**

The Board has concluded its consultation process for adoption of a draft 3-year calendar for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 school years.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the local three-year school calendar for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 school years.

CARRIED 11/22

(b) **Vaccine Policy**

The Board will not be making a decision regarding a vaccine mandate at this time and will reconsider this agenda item should circumstances change.

(c) **BCPSEA AGM**

Bargaining was the topic of focus at BCPSEA AGM. Trustee Shelley Lawson recommended that, in the future, the Board consider having the same trustee representative for local bargaining and BCPSEA.

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

(a) **Projected Enrolment 2022/2023**

Schools have reported their initial student enrolment projections for the next school year. The district is anticipating a small decrease in student enrolment, with a preliminary estimate of approximately 15 FTE students less than reported last September.

(b) **GISS Principal Posting**

The GISS principal position for next year will be posted by the end of this week.

(c) **Rapid Antigen At-Home Tests**

The district has received rapid antigen at-home tests, from the Ministry, to be distributed to employees. The Ministry will also be providing the district with at-home test for all K-12 students. Rapid antigen testing is an additional layer of protection to support health and safety and continuity of learning.

(d) **EPIC School Plans**

The EPIC framework represents a revision to the school planning processes to better support student learning while addressing the unique needs of each school. School planning timelines have been adjusted, through the EPIC framework and achievement grants, to ensure structures are in place to action and resource plans for the start of the school year.

(e) **Water Taxi Incident**

Scott Benwell updated the board on the January 27th water taxi incident. He was thankful for the quick response of Gulf Islands Water Taxi staff, the Canadian Coast Guard and BC Ferries. He acknowledged students, staff, and administration for their efforts and support in ensuring students were cared for.

(f) **Staffing**

Spring marks the start of the staffing process for the upcoming school year. Projected enrolment and early identified needs provide a starting point for staffing considerations.

A recess was called at 1:52 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.



9. **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

(a) **Monthly Financial Report**

Jesse Guy shared the monthly financial report for January. Heating and ventilation continue to be areas of increased expense. The district is 1.7% within budget.

(b) **2021/2022 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw**

Jesse Guy presented the 2021/2022 Amended Annual Budget for the amount of \$27,667,775.

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

CARRIED 12/22

Tisha Boulter 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 13/22

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

CARRIED 14/22

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

CARRIED 15/22

(c) **Long-Term Parking Near GISS**

The district is in discussion with highways and CRD to find a solution to remove recreational vehicles parked long-term in front of GISS. Because the vehicles are registered, RCMP cannot have them removed. The parking allowance is on highways land and the district is requesting that signage be added by the land owner.

(d) **Drake Road Housing**

BC Housing is moving forward with a supportive housing development on a portion of the Drake Road property that was donated by the school district to the CRD ten years ago for the purpose of affordable housing. Rob Pingle, Jesse Guy and Phoenix Elementary Principal Dan Sparanese will be speaking with BC Housing to provide input around construction timelines.

(e) **Pender Transportation**

Currently, Pender Islands School only has one school bus. Local capital funds have been used to purchase a 15-passenger van as a backup for the school bus for off island students attending Pender School. The van can also be used for field trips, school sports, extracurricular activities, and other student opportunities.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Education Committee**

Education Committee began the self-evaluation process for FESL review.

(b) **FAF Committee**

The FAF Committee summary 2022 01 12 was received.

(b) **Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee summary 2022 01 12 was received.



11. **TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS**

Trustee reports were received. Tisha Boulter shared reports for GISS and Phoenix Elementary School.

Topic: How has the transition resulting from reconfiguration gone at your school? (Goal 2: Integrate Sustainability. Objective 2.1: Ensure the continuation of a healthy and stable financial environment.)

Fernwood Elementary School

Reconfiguration is going well as it's a retention of students rather than an addition of students. There has been communication with the older students about their responsibilities and mentorship around the younger students. The layout of the playgrounds means the older students are using one side with the younger students use the other. As COVID restrictions ease there will be an expansion of school events and sports that are seen as positive to creating even more whole school spirit. The band program is a success for the older students and further exploratories are being coordinated to include nature, crafts and technology.

Fulford Community Elementary School

The adjustment to reconfiguration at Fulford School has been very well received by families and staff. We are enjoying the addition of the older students and are looking forward to creating meaningful leadership opportunities for these young adults. During this time of great transition for this age group it is an advantage for them to remain in a familiar atmosphere where exploring changing identities and behaviours is safe as the adults in the school have a greater context of who you are and where you have come from. Remaining in elementary school allows the older students to continue to be child-like and engage in play without the fear of social exclusion. Overall, our school community resonates with the idea that remaining at elementary until the end of grade 7 is developmentally appropriate.

Galiano Community School

Galiano Community School has experienced a great change to the dynamic of the student body, having had most of the senior class move on to Pender. The dynamic Griffins, the GCS student leadership group, will be very different in years to come. The current configuration of the school includes two Grade 7 and two Grade 5 students, with the rest of the students in K-4. While this bodes well for future intermediate cohorts, it is hard socially for those 4 students.

A younger age skew brings a joy and sense of play to the classrooms, and teachers and staff are working together to make good connections happen for all students. Principal Lepine had the opportunity to speak with some former GCS students who now attend Pender School, and those students are settling in well and enjoying the new challenges.

Gulf Islands Secondary School

Not surprisingly so, the transition adding a grade 8 cohort has been smooth. It's been a natural fit and feels like a natural transition. It has worked out well to keep the all the grades on the same schedule and the 8/9's have integrated well to the safe warm social environment. It has been helpful for the staff to get to know the students coming in a year earlier so that supports can be put in place before the focus becomes Grad Transitions Gr.10 and up. GISS is looking forward to when they receive student directly from Grade 7 in elementary school and anticipate that fewer facility transitions will be of benefit. The addition of new educators has been a real bonus to the GISS staff.

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

The team at MIS is supportive of ensuring students have the necessary skills for their next steps to the new Junior High. They are working with those in grades 7 & 8 to increase their executive functioning skills and to provide them with supports to manage stress and anxiety that can come with starting at a new school. Our older students



are looking forward to new activities and a larger cohort and have received positive feedback from those that transitioned to the Jr. High already. Staff are brainstorming farewell events for students leaving in June, some who have been at MIS since their Strong Start days.

Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School

Phoenix Elementary School

The Reconfiguration effect has been a little more challenging for Phoenix Elementary as losing the grade 8 cohort equaled 11 students out of a 40-student population. Fortunately, the interest in Phoenix has continued and enrollment is still about the same as last year, yet with a higher ratio of primaries it meant a k-4 and a 4-7 configuration which split up the Grade 4 cohort. There was a recognition that classrooms would function better split into 3 groups, yet the space just doesn't allow for it. There was also the acknowledgement that the Grade 8 cohort really were ready to move up and it did make sense to make the shift to the high school.

Salt Spring Elementary School

The Grade 6 transition was smooth and the French Immersion introduction is going well. There is good integration between the English and French stream students. With students spending time with each other between those programs as well as with the younger students in the school. There has been a focus to create a whole school community as well as providing the older students time to themselves on the playground and through exploratories. The band program has been a good addition and applied design skills and trades curriculum are being investigated for next year when the school expands to Grade 7.

Saltspring Island Middle School

Positively the school has become an amazing place to be. Having all one grade of 12-year olds is fantastic. The students seem to understand they are building a community they can thrive in. They appreciate and support each other. The staff is committed to the sense of community, and feel a responsibility to each student, not just the ones in their class.

Principal Smith noted that the same age creates same issues. Everyone is involved. If there were some kids vaping, you can sure it will be relevant to quite a number of students going through similar stuff. For issues such as these the really close supportive relationships between all people keeps everyone on the same page and engenders positive results. Also, there is not another group of students coming up which takes the pressure off for preparations.

Some negative impacts from reconfiguration is less space, such as no room for break out activities, counselling is in tiny room, and there is no access to the cooking room or wood workshops in the west wing. This is due to keeping within the district budget. As the school is becoming occupied by other interest there have been more people unrelated to the school wandering in. Emergency services is now in a room in the west wing, and people coming for their booster are going into the school despite clear signage directing them elsewhere. The Task program is focussed on next year and has started preparations including in areas of the playground, but SIMS is still in operation.

SIMS will start looking at how they will reflect and celebrate SIMS legacy in the final month of 2022 school year.

Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

12. OTHER BUSINESS

13. QUESTION PERIOD

Chair Boulter opened the floor for questions from the public.



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14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Committee Day: February 23, 2022
- (b) Regular Board Meeting: April 13, 2022

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved that the meeting be adjourned 3:24 p.m.

CARRIED 16/22

Date: April 2, 2022

Tisah Boulter
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Jesse Guy
Secretary Treasurer