



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION**  
**Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)**  
**ZOOM Virtual Meeting**  
**2022 01 12**

<b>Present:</b>	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
	Angela Thomas	CUPE President
	Shelly Johnson	GIPVPA Representative

Lyall Ruehlen  
Adria Kray  
Emelie Peacock

GIPVPA Representative  
DPAC Representative  
Driftwood Representative

**Regrets:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Boulter. Rob Pingle acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples and celebrated the North Cowichan First Nations for reclaiming their right to education jurisdiction - 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 01 12 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED 01/22

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2021 11 10 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 02/22

**3. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY**

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summary of 2021 11 10 as presented.

CARRIED 03/22

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Special In-Camera Summary of 2021 11 29 as presented.

CARRIED 04/22



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION  
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ZOOM Virtual Meeting  
2022 01 12

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Special In-Camera Summary of 2021 12 15 as presented.

CARRIED 05/22

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6. **DELEGATIONS**

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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

Feedback was received regarding the draft 3-year calendar for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 school years. The Board will be considering adoption of the 3-year calendar at its February public meeting.

(b) **Vaccine Policy**

The Board will continue to gather information before considering a decision whether or not to adopt a vaccine policy.

(c) **District Communications Plan**

A district communications strategy was received by the board. Enhanced communications tactics already implemented have been well received by partner groups. The plan is a fluid document and can be modified to meet changing needs of the district.

(d) **Trustee Professional Development**

As events continue to move to on-line, savings may be used to plan professional development opportunities for trustees and invest in specific areas of trustee interest such as restorative justice.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

(a) **2020/2021 Six Year Completion Rates**

Scott Benwell shared the 2020/2021 six-year completion rates that continue to show improvements in SD64 graduation rates for all resident students (89.6%) and specifically for Indigenous students (90.1%). The district remains oriented towards continuous improvement of student success through actioning its Framework for Enhancing Student Learning.

(b) **FESL Self-Assessment**

The Board has been chosen, as requested, to participate in a self and peer assessment process of its Framework for Enhancing Student Learning.

Moved and seconded that the Board's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Self-Assessment be referred to the Education Committee.

CARRIED 06/22

(c) **Bargaining**

The district has commenced bargaining with the local teachers' union. Parties have met once to date. An agenda is in place for the next scheduled meeting.



**(d) COVID-19 and Functional School Closures**

The January return to school was delayed a week to provide additional time to assess the impact of the Omicron variant in community and allow staff to plan for continuity of learning. Measures are in place to maximize use of space, reduce in-person gatherings, and emphasize existing measure such as proper fit and wearing of masks, hand hygiene, and staying home when sick.

Three types of potential closures have been identified:

1. Functional: school closed due to lack of sufficient staff as determined by the Superintendent
2. Health: school closed due to high risk of exposure as determined by public health
3. Transportation: schools are open, but transportation cancelled due to lack of staff

Health closures would follow procedures similar to other illness and communicable diseases. Higher than normal student absenteeism is reported directly to public health.

A recess was called at 2:01 pm. The meeting reconvened at 2:06 pm.

**9. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

**(a) Monthly Financial Report**

Jesse Guy shared the monthly financial report for November and December. Operations expenses are slightly higher than expected and are being monitored. The district is 1.6% within budget.

**(b) Executive Compensation Disclosure 2020/2021**

The 2020/2021 Executive Compensation Disclosure Report, as required under the *Public Sector Employers Act*, is available on the district and Ministry websites.

**(c) LOU 7 Seamless Day**

LOU 7, the agreement with CUPE regarding the Seamless Day pilot project, has been finalized and approved by BCPSEA.

**(d) SIMS South Wing Plan (2021/22 and 2022/23)**

Jesse Guy shared plans for use of the SIMS facility for this year and the next. The top floor of the south wing annex is currently being leased to Island Health for a community vaccination clinic. District plans include space for Learning Services and meeting rooms. The lower floor will be used for TASK, career programs, and SSE band and music. The district will be looking to develop a process for renaming the building.

**(e) Bus Route Adjustments**

One of the cost saving measures identified through configuration review and the closure of the middle school was the elimination of one bus route on Salt Spring Island. The district will consider adjustments earlier than September as initially planned, if practical, should there be increasing pressure due a shortage of bus drivers.

**(f) Policy and Procedure External Review**

The district has engaged an external review of its policies and procedures. Anne Cooper, a retired superintendent now consultant, will undertake comprehensive evaluation of the district's policies and procedures and how they are organized, and bring recommendations to the Board for consideration.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) HR Committee**

The HR Committee summary 2021 11 10 was received.



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION  
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)  
ZOOM Virtual Meeting  
2022 01 12

(b) **FAF Committee**

The Annual budget cycle, including public consultation, was discussed at the morning's FAF committee meeting.

(b) **Policy Committee**

i. *Procedure 6850 Public Use of School/District Property and Forms 6850-1, 6850-2, 6850-4, and 6850-5.*

The committee recommended changes to the existing procedure and forms 1,2, 4 and 5. Housekeeping amendments have been made to the draft version previously circulated with this agenda package.

Notice of Motion: That the Board approve amendments to Procedures 6850 Public Use of Schools/District Property and adopt Forms 6850-1, 6850-2, 6850-4, and 6850-5.

The procedure and forms will be circulated for feedback and reviewed by the Policy Committee on February 23, 2022. The motion will be considered by the Board at the April 13, 2022 public meeting.

ii. *Procedure 215 Diversity*

The committee considered changes recommended by the Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group as well as other amendments to procedure 215 Diversity.

Notice of Motion: That the Board approve amendments to Procedure 215 Diversity.

The procedure will be circulated for feedback and reviewed by the Policy Committee on February 23, 2022. The motion will be considered by the Board at the April 13, 2022 public meeting.

iii. *Policy 6550 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses*

This policy was amended to reflect legislated changes, to reference a small hospitality fee deduction, and introduce a cap on internet reimbursement. The policy was further amended to remove reference to home office and replace "computer" with "device".

Notice of Motion: That the Board approve amendments to Policy 6550 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

The policy will be circulated for feedback and reviewed by the Policy Committee on February 23, 2022. The motion will be considered by the Board at the April 13, 2022 public meeting.

11. **TRUSTEES' SCHOOL REPORTS**

Trustee reports were received. Rob Pingle shared reports for Fernwood and Salt Spring Elementary Schools.

Topic: How are parents and/or the community involved in your school? (Goal 3: Involve Community. Objective 3.2: Engage families and community in public education.)

*Fernwood Elementary School*

*Fulford Community Elementary School*



### ***Galiano Community School***

Galiano Community School has always prided itself on meaningful, impactful connections with the larger school community, and is definitely feeling the pressure of COVID in terms of having people involved with students. For many years members of the community have participated in many ways, leading Exploratories, volunteering in classrooms, and supporting parents and families – all of these connections have been limited during the pandemic and we miss having our friends join us in learning! We are looking forward to welcoming people into the school and gardens once again, when it is safe to do so.

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

The most consistent involvement comes from parents on the PAC allocating funds to support school-based initiatives. Parents also are involved in the GISS creative think tank that meets with students, admin, and teachers to talk about policy's education, and engagement. Parents also volunteer through the Sports PAC supporting the athletics department with fundraising coordinating events and coaching teams. GISS has parent and Community members in mentorship/supportive roles with the robotics club.

GISS partners with the circle to support leadership/education in social emotional intelligence and development. Connecting generations is an ongoing successful program that brings in elders from the community in the capacity of mentorship.

Community members are involved during the rotation of REAL 8/9 doing mock interviews, resume help and business presentations. Individual teachers often bring in retired teachers or RCMP or alumni students to broaden the classroom experience.

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

At Mayne Island School, parents and community play an important role in supporting and engaging learning throughout the year. Our small but mighty PAC meets monthly and has recently been working hard splitting firewood for a fundraising raffle next year. They are also in the process of creating Spirit Wear for the school community to purchase to show their school pride. Students have been connecting with local seniors through letter writing. As well, they have been connecting with Galiano students as pen pals. Our local Conservancy biologist engages with students regularly for hands on learning in the field. One of our community paramedics has been teaching students about many aspects of wellness including proper hand washing techniques etc. Recently, parent-led after school soccer has begun for our younger kids. Students participated in the annual Giving Back celebration in partnership with Mayne Island Assisted Living, which has students creating baking, cards, gifts and more for our local seniors to enjoy some warmth and cheer of the holiday season.

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

To summarize our community public education involvement:

- Outdoor performances
- Remembrance Day program held out door w families
- First day back w welcome back PVP speech & Trustee & PAC coffee & Treats
- Xmas concert / Zoom Invite
- CBC music contest
- Ptarmigan Arts programming – various short courses including theater, photography, art projects etc
- Sports including soccer and basketball with local coaching volunteers
- Gardening with students and community volunteers
- Plans to build out shop class and invite local community for lesson / mentorship opportunities
- School PAC lunch day
- Enchanted Forest – local field trip
- Upcoming bi annual bottle drive



- 10k Times Colonist Run (ref . covid)

### ***Phoenix Elementary School***

Like many schools, the Phoenix parent group is incredibly involved in PAC fundraisers and supporting extracurricular activities. The school garden is mostly run by parent volunteers and is utilized in curriculum and nutritional benefit with harvests in spring and fall. Community organizations help fund a robust breakfast program that involve parent and staff volunteerism with transportation and service of meals. Artist in the classroom is a frequent connection through the Arts Council. Parents have initiated events that partner with community groups such as GobyBike B.C.

Recently, parents have been gathering with staff to discuss school goals, plans, and learn more about how educational supports are provided to students in need. This groups aims to be a conduit of information to the parent body of the IEP referral process and to aid the communication between home and school life

### ***Salt Spring Elementary School***

#### ***Saltspring Island Middle School***

As parents are discouraged from entering the premises their involvement with the school is more prescribed. However, there is participation. Two parents are coaching the three Tsunami basketball teams of 24 students, after school in the gym. At the moment they are playing with each other and are hopeful to challenge the Pender team in early March before spring break. There are 6 parents helping coach the circus program and approximately 6 parents help with the school store, when it is open, which is not the case right now. Parents also count Country grocer slips. The small PAC meets every second Wednesday of the month by zoom and has a social media focus.

The school communicates weekly with families through the school newsletter. Teachers reach out to parents for individual students when there is a need. The school has been getting input from parents through google polls such as for the upcoming the ski trip. For the 85 kids 67 polls were filled out. Most people want the trip to happen and there are three parents wishing to accompany on the bus. The trip and how it will configure is however still up in the air as the school (this includes parents, teachers, and admin.) tests the COVID developments.

Community has been involved with the school through zoom facilitated sessions, but these have been by and large very unsatisfactory due to poor internet. The virtual escape room for Halloween worked for 2 classrooms. On another front there is a Health Canada vaping series coming up which the school will attend. The CRD is looking for student engagement with Ganges planning, and it is not clear how that will transpire. There was a dance workshop coming up but it was cancelled due to COVID concerns. From school to school, 3 Leadership students go down to SSE to help out in Kindergarten class. The Circle is able to continue coming into the classrooms for the respect project.

### ***Saturna Elementary School/SEEC***

Parent and community involvement are key components to our overall goal of supporting educated citizens. During the last two years we continue to adapt our capacity around the global pandemic and evolving Provincial Health Orders as related to safety in our schools.

This school year on Saturna we were fortunate to have a local volunteer come into the elementary and strong start classes and work with the students on Christmas music for our concert. In order to facilitate as much involvement as possible we were able to hold three different events to showcase this year's Christmas productions. We held a Christmas concert for immediate family and school staff with the elementary & strong start student's music and the SEEC student's play. We also had live feeds on ZOOM and Facebook for anyone to join (we had approximately 30 people join those links). The next day the SEEC students preformed their play again for some parents from off-island and limited seating for community members. Then, on the third day we had the elementary



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students perform their Christmas carols again with an open invite to all family and community members as this was an outdoor performance under our new gazebo followed by hot chocolate. Overall, this was a very successful endeavour that allowed for increased involvement.

Saturna school also engages in successful relationships with our local library, Parks Canada, SIMRES and our local publication, The Scribbler.

In broader community involvement Adrian Pendergast has established a relationship with an ocean research facility on the central coast. There is an opportunity for our SEEC students to visit Hakai on Colbert Island and be directly involved with researchers from SFU. We are hopeful that there will be a field trip on the horizon before the end of this year.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

**13. QUESTION PERIOD**

Chair Boulter opened the floor for questions from the public.

**14. NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Regular Board Meeting: February 9, 2022
- (b) Committee Day: February 23, 2022

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved that the meeting be adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

CARRIED 07/22

Date: February 9, 2022

Tisah Boulter  
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Jesse Guy  
Secretary Treasurer