



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
School Board Office
2023 01 11

Present:	Tisha Boulter	Chairperson
	Chaya Katrensky	Vice Chair
	Deborah Luporini	Trustee
	Greg Lucas	Trustee
	Nancy Macdonald	Trustee
	Rob Pingle	Trustee
	Scott Benwell	Superintendent of Schools
	Jesse Guy	Secretary Treasurer
	D'Arcy Deacon	Associate Superintendent
	Boe Beardsmore	Director of Instruction, Learning Services
	Lori Deacon	Executive Assistant
	Ian Mitchell	GITA President
	Angela Thomas	CUPE President
	Jennifer Kaila	DPAC Representative
	Rob Magley	Gulf Islands Driftwood Rep.
Regrets:	Jeannine Georgeson	Trustee
	Ryan Massey	GIPVPA Representative

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chair Boulter. The chair shared a Happy New Year to all in Hul'q'umi'num' and acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples - huy tseep q'u.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions:

Mayne Islands Volunteer Firefighters request to serve (5c)

Drake Road Steering Committee (7c)

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2023 01 11 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED 01/23

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2022 12 14 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 02/23

3. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education adopt the Regular In-Camera Summary of 2022 12 14 as presented.

CARRIED 03/23

4. BUSINESS ARISING

5. CORRESPONDENCE

6. DELEGATIONS

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



(a) **Strategic Plan Review**

During the winter break, trustees completed a review of the Strategic Plan. A summary of this review was shared for the board's consideration. Strategic Plan renewal/review will continue in Committee of the Whole.

(b) **May Long Weekend Soccer Tournament – Request to Serve Alcohol**

Moved and seconded that, in accordance with Policy 3100 Controlled and Intoxicating Substances, the Board approves the May Long Weekend Soccer Tournament Planning Committee request to serve alcohol May 19-22, 2023 on Gulf Islands Secondary School grounds.

CARRIED 04/23

(c) **Mayne Island Volunteer Firefighters – Request to Serve Alcohol**

Moved and seconded that, in accordance with Policy 3100 Controlled and Intoxicating Substances, the Board approves the Mayne Island Volunteer Firefighters fundraising request to serve alcohol February 11, 2023 at the Mayne Island School gym.

CARRIED 05/23

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

(a) **Staffing and Enrolment**

The first steps in the annual staffing process for next year began yesterday with the opening of Kindergarten registration. Recruitment and retention continues to be a challenge for this district and districts across the province. An agreement with CUPE 788 is now in place for a cost-sharing initiative to support CUPE members with the expense of EA training and certification. Interested members are encouraged to contact CUPE president Angela Thomas or Associate Superintendent D'Arcy Deacon for more information.

(b) **District Communications Plan Review**

A one-year review of the district's communications strategy was shared.

9. **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

(a) **Monthly Financial Report**

Jesse Guy shared the monthly operating expense report for December. Expenses are currently within budget.

(b) **Electric Bus**

The district's first electric bus is now in operation for route 6 on Salt Spring Island. Once a phase three charging station is in place, a second bus will be on the road.

(c) **Draft 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget**

Jesse Guy shared the draft 2022/2023 amended annual budget for consideration.

Moved and seconded that the Draft 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw be read a 1st time and passed.

CARRIED 06/23

The draft amended budget will be posted on the board finance page of the district website and will be presented at the February public meeting of the board for 2nd and 3rd readings.



10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Items presented at the morning's committee meeting included an analysis of student funding and transportation expenses as well as the draft amended annual budget.

(b) **Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee summary 2022 12 14 was received.

i. **Policy 525 Catchment Areas**

Amendments have been made to this policy to update language and align with current school configurations.

Notice of Motion: That the board approves amendments to Policy 525 Catchment Areas. The policy will be circulated for feedback and considered by the Policy Committee on February 22, 2023. The Board will consider adoption of the motion at the April 12, 2023 public meeting.

ii. **Diversity Policy Working Group Terms of Reference**

Staff drafted a terms of reference to address the need to review its diversity policy and ensuring diverse student and community voice.

Moved and seconded that the board adopts the Diversity Policy Working Group Terms of Reference.

CARRIED 07/23

Tisha Boulter and Greg Lucas will sit on the committee to represent the Board of Education. Jesse Guy and Lori Deacon will represent staff.

(c) **Drake Road Steering Committee**

Rob Pingle shared a brief history of the district's donation to the CRD of the Drake Road property.

The following motion was lifted from the table by consensus:

Moved and seconded that the School Board directs staff to work with the CRD to establish an easement to access the proven well (#54644) and for new drilling permissions on school district property at 163 Drake Road as well as a license to continue access to and use of the basketball court by the School District on the CRD property at 161 Drake Road.

CARRIED 08/23

Moved and seconded that the School Board directs staff to work with the CRD to fund a legal review of the easements, permissions and license related to Drake Road.

DEFEATED

Moved and second that the Board of Education directs staff to establish legal assurance that the permissions do not expose the school district to future liability related to the agreed to access.

Moved and seconded to amend the motion to replace permissions with motion 08/23.

CARRIED 09/23



Moved and second that the Board of Education directs staff to establish legal assurance that motion 08/23 does not expose the district to future liability related to the agreed to access.

CARRIED 10/23

Moved and seconded that the School Board directs staff to use the remaining Drake Road Transfer fund to provide communications regarding the current work on Drake Road and how it supports the original purpose of the land donation for affordable housing that benefits the school district and community.

CARRIED 11/23

11. TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee school reports were received.

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

As we return to increased outside community participation in our schools, Fernwood is grateful for their parent and community partners. The Parent Advisory Council is very active and helpful in community school events on social media. Intermural sports have returned, and volunteers are helping with basketball season at the moment. One on One readers have a presence in the school with around five members assisting with our emerging readers. A community grant allowed for the hiring of a music expert on a short contract to provide choir lessons to each class with a concert performance planned for March. Other guests are returning to the school with author visits and the Salt Spring Art's Artists in the Classroom program. Students are taking field trips with community involvement. There is a hope to continue engaging with the Penelakut Island Elementary School as a field trip last year to their school was highly rewarding.

Fulford Community Elementary School

Parents are involved in classes when they help for school events, field trips or class projects. We remain in communication with all parents through weekly class blog newsletters and photo sharing. We are still easing back into more involvement since COVID.

We have had several parent helpers already this year: examples being 2 for apple pie making, 5 for wallet making, 2 for the field trip to Cusheon Cove. One staff member has had at least 7 or 8 offer their talents to the winter production (face painting, sewing, making props and working the sound equipment).

In addition, we have an active and supportive PAC (although small) that is very involved in school events such as the Harvest Garden Lunch, Re-Gift Fest (where parents donate gently used items and students get to "shop" for free present for their immediate family and they take the gifts home wrapped and ready for Christmas), and the year-end family barbecue and school picnic at Drummond. Lots of parent volunteers help in a variety of ways in our whole school production. Parents are also very involved in the school Garden - mostly parent run with classes working with teacher and parents on a regular basis.

Classes regularly have community members involved in programs, such as Artists in the classroom, story tellers, etc. Many classes also do local field trips to the fire hall, the public library, the pool, carving the welcome pole at GISS with Quentin, disc golf in Mouat Park, performances at Art Spring. We also have the 1-1 Reading through Salt Spring Literacy up and running after a long Covid pause. 6 adult tutors come twice a week for 90 minutes to see 9 kids. The choir attends the SMEK festival in the community and they also go on a field trip to visit and have lunch with one of the adult choirs on SSI.

Galiano Community School



Gulf Islands Secondary School

It's been a goal/strategy at GISS to increase communications and engagement with parents and guardians. A new email service is being utilized for weekly newsletters that incorporates photos from various departments within the school to highlight what's going on. This practice helps centralize the news of what's going on that are promoted through separate departments social media platforms. The GISS facebook posts have increased to feature a 'Tell a story' from staff that describe student learning connected to social/emotional, career, and or academic pursuits.

Meet the teacher night is now done twice a year at the start of each semester. One of Ryan Massey's goals is to collect more "Street Data" by surveying families, students and staff on topics related to the school plan the attributes of the learner. 1 on 1 meetings will also be set up with a select individuals to engage in more open-ended inquiries that will help inform a 'temperature' of school culture. Parents are involved with IEPs, and student code of conduct issues.

The intention of admin at PAC meetings are to gather info from parents instead of just info sharing.

New this year are attendance emails and In term reports out to all parents, not just to those who there is a concern with. Overall, there seems to be good dialog with teachers and families in regard to how students are doing.

Community partnership continues with the 'Pass-it-on' program offered by The Circle. GISS will be building a 5 5-year plan to ensure offerings about consent and sexual health will be regularly and consistently implemented through all the grade years at high school. Conversations with Island Health and IWAV have been initiated to support these age-appropriate extra-curricular offerings.

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

At Mayne Island School, parents and community play an important role in supporting and engaging learning throughout the year. The small, but mighty PAC meets monthly and recently has completed, for the second time, splitting firewood for a fundraising raffle. The next wood chopping event is planned for January 29. Spirit Wear for the school community to purchase and show their school pride has been made available, and they are looking into another order. They discussed extensively the contents of a welcome basket for a newly arrived Ukrainian family. Their on-going project continues to be revitalizing the on-site teacherage. Many of the parents have trades related backgrounds which provide invaluable expertise for this project.

Students have been connecting with local seniors through GenPals: Mayne Island Assisted Living. This provides a dual benefit as the students refine their writing skills through the draft to final product process, and the seniors receive mail from a local student: written communication that they look forward to receiving in the mail! This past Christmas provided an opportunity for students and the GenPals to share cookies, ornaments and cards. The local Conservancy biologist engages with students regularly for hands on learning in the field and at the school. Parent-led after school tennis continues for the younger students. The students participate in the tennis opportunities in the gym and when weather permits, after school, at the tennis courts.

Other opportunities involving the community include: the Baking Grannies who make muffins for the students to enjoy at the Writer's Café, the local food bank utilizes space at the school and the principal was invited to tour the new Mayne Island Family Place just before the winter break. All of these connections are great ways to continue to build relationships in our community.

Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School

During our last conversation, Principal Pendergast and I took a moment to reflect about how our parents and community are involved with our Pender Island school:



- Volunteer lunches - provided multiple times throughout the year thanks to our PAC group and parents who lend a hand to cook hot tasty lunches, like pizza, squash soup, lasagna, burgers and hotdogs on fun day.
- Three on the tree - arts and theatre/circus, brought to us through talented locals and skilled grant writers, who have a passion for the arts, theater and enthusiasm for passing it on
- Ptarmigan arts - Theatre and the most recent winter production at the school . There was suggested \$donations to put toward future performances. (Bought tickets). (standing room only;)
- Soccer and Basketball, Disc Golf - with thanks to volunteer community members and donations from our PAC group to help construct more golf course and baskets
- Garden club - Eagerly anticipated and enthusiastically nurtured by students, teachers and parents each year growing grass roots, weeds, flowers and veggie edible education
- Woodworking in our new shop with projects students can be proud to take home and show off
- GSA- SOGI network - sexual orientation and gender identity network, community of teachers to bring inclusive education to our schools
- Tribal School - W̱SÁNEĆ from Saanich on the Peninsula whom we have partnered to share in local cultural learning opportunities such as the salmon pit cook (pre covid) and nature walks to learn about culturally significant areas, which was co- hosted by our local parks partners
- Showcasing community events in newsletter
- Knitting- (need to restart)
- Food program-partnership with Tru Value.
- Beach cleanup (need to look to revamp this year)

Phoenix Elementary School

PAC is the main avenue for Parent involvement now at Phoenix. Parents help fundraise money through pizza hot lunch, wood raffles and west coast seed sales. The funds are then allocated for enhancing the students' extra-curricular experiences at the school or on field trips. Money has also been used to support the garden program, build outdoor furniture and plan an outside covered work area. The parents also involve the students to plant maintain and harvest food from the garden to make a few shared lunches. The PAC meetings are also the venue for learning more about the school plan, vision, and goals. Phoenix Elementary invites Artists in the Classroom programming, SS Literacy's 1to1 Reading program, and the Circle's Respect program.

Salt Spring Elementary School

Saltspring Island Middle School

Saturna Elementary School/SEEC

This month's Trustee question of how the school is involving parents and/or community was met with great enthusiasm from our Saturna school staff. After two years of pandemic related restrictions and challenges around planning outside school involvement there seems to be a renewed sense of motivation to create these opportunities for our students. One of our teachers noted when speaking about this month's question that community involvement and connection are key components to healthy school communities. We are also helping to development of our students into future thriving community members.

The list of what is has occurred this year, what is currently in the works and what is potentially planned is so extensive, over 38 items long!, I was not able to fit it into this short write up. I am personally very grateful to our school staff for taking the time and initiative to engage in this level of community involvement.

12. OTHER BUSINESS



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13. QUESTION PERIOD

14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Regular Board Meeting: February 8, 2023
- (b) Committee Day: February 22, 2023

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved that the meeting be adjourned 2:54 p.m.

CARRIED 12/23

Date: January 08, 2023

Tisha Boulter
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Jesse Guy
Secretary Treasurer