

**NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 – 5:30 P.M.
ALVIN A. MCKAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

In attendance:	George Nelson, Chair Winnie Morven-Hansen Carl Azak Danica Moore Gary Cox	Gingolx Trustee Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee Gitwinksihlkw Trustee Laxgalts'ap Trustee Nass Camp Trustee
Also in attendance:	Robert Clifton Bryce Recsky Tanya Azak Sharlene Grandison	Superintendent of School Director of Instruction Director of Instruction Executive Assistant – Recorder

Absent:

1. **PROTOCOL:**

The Chair acknowledged two Nisga'a House that lost loved ones.

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Board Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

3. **DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

Board Chair Nelson declared quorum.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

R02-

That the Board of Education adopt the September 10, 2025 Agenda with item 10.1 tabled.

Moved: Trustee Azak

Seconded: Trustee Cox

Carried

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:**

6.1 Regular Meeting of June 3, 2025

R02-1666

THAT the Board of Education for Nisga'a School District adopt the Minutes of the June 3, 2025 Regular/Pubic Board Meeting as circulated.

AND THAT any corrections or amendments noted be incorporated into the official record.

Moved: Trustee Morven-Hansen

Seconded: Trustee Cox

Carried

6. NOMINATIONS

- Trustee Cox nominated Trustee Morven-Hansen
- Trustee Moore nominated Trustee Nelson
 - Voting results:
 - Round 1: Tie (2-2, 1 abstention)
 - Round 2: Tie (2-2, 1 abstention)
 - Result: Election of the Board Chair deferred to October.
 - Vice-Chair: Also deferred to October.

7. PRESENTATIONS:

7.1 School Learning Improvement Plan Presentations:

School administrators presented their plans aligned with the District Strategic Plan:

- **Nisga'a Secondary School:** Focus on belonging, connection, and numeracy; integration of language and culture.
- **Nisga'a Elementary School:** Emphasis on mindfulness, growth mindset, and spiritual connection.
- **Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School:** Focus on literacy, numeracy, and community engagement.
- **Alvin A. McKay Elementary School:** Targeted literacy and numeracy interventions; strong partnerships.
- **Nathan Barton Elementary School:** Cultural integration through drumming and singing; exploration of school renaming.

8. EDUCATION:

Superintendent

8.1 Strategic Plan (2025-2030)

The Superintendent presented the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, noting that:

- The plan is grounded in Nisga'a values, culture, and language
- It was co-created with educational partners and the community
- It establishes long-term priorities focused on student success, well-being, and achievement
- The plan will guide district decision-making, instructional practices, and resource allocation
- Implementation will begin with a formal launch at staff orientation

R02-1667

THAT the Board of Education for the Nisga'a School District approve the Nisga'a School District Strategic Plan 2025-2030 as presented, recognizing it as the guiding framework for district priorities, resource allocation, and continuous improvement over the next five years.

FURTHER THAT the Board direct the Superintendent of Schools to implement the Strategic Plan in alignment with Ministry of Education and Child Care goals, and in collaboration with all stakeholder groups including students, families, staff, the Nisga'a Nation, and community partners.

Moved by: Trustee Morven-Hansen
Seconded By: Trustee Azak

Carried

8.2 School Learning Impact Plans

The Board reviewed the School Learning Improvement Plans for all schools, highlighting alignment with district priorities and emphasis on literacy, numeracy, and cultural integration.

R02-1668

THAT the Board of Education receive and file the Superintendent's September 2025 Monthly Update.

Moved by: Trustee Morven-Hansen
Seconded by: Azak

Carried

8.3 Superintendent Monthly Update

The Superintendent provided a monthly update on district operations and initiatives, highlighting the following:

- The 2025–2030 Strategic Plan and School Learning Improvement Plans will be formally launched at upcoming staff orientation sessions, ensuring alignment across all schools and departments.
- The Enhancing Student Learning Report is in development and scheduled for submission by October 1, 2025, in accordance with Ministry requirements.
- A leadership reorganization has been implemented to better support schools and district priorities, including interim adjustments due to staffing transitions.
- The Superintendent participated in the BCSSA Summer Leadership Gathering, gaining insights into provincial trends, leadership practices, and strategies to support student success.
- Ongoing efforts continue to focus on:
 - Strengthening instructional leadership
 - Supporting student achievement and well-being
 - Enhancing integration of Nisga'a language and culture across learning environments

8.4 Staffing Overview – Organizational Chart

The Superintendent presented an overview of the District Organizational Chart, highlighting recent and upcoming staffing changes:

- The Secretary Treasurer, Paul Mercer, will be departing the District effective September 30, 2025.
- Ernie Gran has been appointed as the incoming Secretary Treasurer and was introduced to the Board.
- In the interim, the Superintendent will assume additional responsibilities as Acting Secretary Treasurer and Director of Human Resources.
- The updated organizational structure reflects a focus on:

- Strengthening **operational leadership**
- Supporting **district priorities and strategic plan implementation**
- Ensuring continuity during leadership transition

Discussion included the importance of maintaining stability and clear communication during this transition period.

8.5 Board Meeting Calendar

The Superintendent presented the proposed Board Meeting Calendar for the 2025–2026 school year.

- The calendar includes **eight (8) regular Board meetings** scheduled throughout the year.
- The months of **December and March** have been identified for **as-needed meetings**, depending on Board business requirements.
- The **specific day of the week** for meetings will be finalized at a later date.

The calendar provides a structured framework to support effective governance, planning, and timely decision-making.

8.6 Education Committee Update

Trustee Morven-Hansen, Chair of the Education Committee, provided an update on committee activities.

- The Committee has been established to provide **strategic guidance on educational priorities** and to support the Board in its governance role related to student achievement and success.
- The Committee will play a key role in **monitoring student performance** and ensuring alignment with the District Strategic Plan.
- As an initial priority, the Committee has identified the development of a **two-year education calendar** to support planning, tracking, and reporting on educational initiatives.

Discussion emphasized the importance of the Committee in strengthening oversight, accountability, and continuous improvement across the district.

The report was **received for information**.

8.7 District Logo and District Branding

The Superintendent provided an update on the District Logo and Branding Initiative.

- A logo refresh is being planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Nisga'a School District No. 92.
- The initiative will focus on developing a visual identity that reflects:

- Nisga'a culture, language, and values
- The District's history and future vision
- A call for submissions will be issued to local artists, students, and community members, encouraging broad participation and engagement.

Discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring the branding process is inclusive, culturally respectful, and representative of the Nisga'a Nation.

The update was received for information.

8.8 DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION

The Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education presented the Indigenous Education and Early Learning Report.

- The Indigenous Education team was introduced, highlighting their roles in supporting student success and cultural programming across the district.
- The District participated in the Victoria Forum and a global Indigenous language summit, strengthening connections and learning from broader Indigenous education initiatives.
- Ongoing work continues to support Nisga'a language revitalization, including the development of language programs and educator capacity-building.
- Professional learning opportunities are being provided to staff to enhance culturally responsive teaching practices and deepen integration of Indigenous knowledge into classrooms.

Discussion recognized the importance of sustained investment in Indigenous education and early learning as foundational to student identity, belonging, and long-term success.

The report was received and filed.

9. BUSINESS Secretary-Treasurer

9.1 Operations Renovations and Upgrades Update

The Secretary Treasurer provided an update on operations, renovations, and capital upgrade projects across the District.

- Progress continues on the generator installation project, which is being completed in phases to enhance reliability and emergency preparedness across school sites.
- The geothermal heating system at Nisga'a Elementary School (NES) is underway, with completion anticipated by March 2026.
- LED lighting upgrades are being implemented to improve energy efficiency and reduce long-term operational costs.

- Renovations to the Board Office are in progress to modernize workspaces and improve functionality.
- Enhancements to breakfast program spaces at Alvin A. McKay Elementary School and Nathan Barton Elementary School are underway to better support student wellbeing.
- Ongoing upgrades to district residential units are being completed to improve living conditions and maintain assets.

Discussion highlighted the importance of maintaining infrastructure, supporting student needs, and improving energy efficiency through capital investments. The report was received for information.

10. POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

10.1 Policy Review and Revision Process

The Board discussed the Policy Review and Revision Process to ensure that all District policies remain current, relevant, and aligned with legislative requirements and District priorities.

- The Board reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a comprehensive and up-to-date policy framework that supports effective governance and accountability.
- It was noted that policies will be reviewed on a regular cycle, with priority given to those requiring updates due to changes in legislation, Ministry direction, or operational needs.
- The review process will include:
 - Board and senior staff collaboration
 - Opportunities for stakeholder input, where appropriate
 - Consideration of best practices and alignment with the District Strategic Plan
- Administrative procedures will continue to support the implementation of Board policies and may be updated as needed to reflect operational changes.

Discussion highlighted the importance of a transparent, consistent, and culturally responsive approach to policy development and revision.

The item was tabled to a future meeting for further development and presentation.

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS:

11.1 Board Chair Report – verbal

The Board Chair provided a report on recent activities and engagements.

- The Chair reported on participation in national Indigenous education initiatives, highlighting ongoing efforts to advance Indigenous student success and culturally responsive education practices.
- Updates were provided on involvement with the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), including collaboration with other boards on governance matters and shared priorities.
- The Chair emphasized the importance of continued advocacy for Indigenous education, equity, and student achievement at both provincial and national levels.

Discussion acknowledged the value of Board representation in broader educational forums and the role of trustees in advancing district and community interests.

The report was received for information.

11.2 BCSTA IEC Report – verbal

Trustee Morvin Hansen provided a report on the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Indigenous Education Committee (IEC).

- The Trustee reported on attendance at an Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) meeting in Mission, where key discussions focused on advancing Indigenous education across the province.
- Emphasis was placed on truth and reconciliation, including the ongoing work to ensure the inclusion of Indigenous history, perspectives, and knowledge within the curriculum.
- Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening relationships between school districts, Indigenous communities, and provincial organizations to support student success.
- The Trustee noted the continued importance of culturally responsive education practices and advocacy at the provincial level.

Discussion recognized the value of participation in provincial committees to inform Board decision-making and support alignment with broader Indigenous education priorities.

The report was received for information.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:

The Chair opened the floor for the Public Question Period.

- The Nisga'a Teachers' Union (NTU) President acknowledged the contributions of outgoing Secretary Treasurer Paul Mercer and expressed appreciation for his service to the District.
- A question was raised regarding the timeline of the geothermal heating project, with concern noted about project completion and its impact on school operations.
- Community member John Francis Lane inquired about efforts to recruit and train local teachers within the District.

The Superintendent responded to questions, outlining:

- Steps being taken to support local teacher recruitment and training pathways, including partnerships and grant-supported initiatives
- Ongoing monitoring and management of capital project timelines, including the geothermal heating project

The Board thanked presenters and community members for their questions and engagement.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**
The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Moved by: Trustee Moore
Seconded by: Trustee Cox

Carried



Certified correct
George Nelson
Board Chair



Certified correct
Paul Mercer
Secretary-Treasurer