

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92 (NISGA'A)
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
GITLAXT'AAMIKS, BC**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019 – 6:30 PM

In attendance:	Elsie Davis, Board Chair	Laxgalts'ap Trustee
	Charlene Ousey	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee
	Alvin Azak	Gitwinksihlkw Trustee
	Norman Hayduk	Nass Camp Trustee
	Floyde Stevens	Gingolx Trustee

Also in attendance:	Joe Rhodes	Superintendent of Schools
	Kory Tanner	Secretary Treasurer
	Sharlene Grandison	Recording Secretary

Absent:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 10, 2019:

R02-1285

That Board of Education approve the December 10, 2019 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Ousey

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

R02-1286

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 22, 2019 be approved as presented.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Stevens

Carried

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

none

6. **PRESENTATION:**

none

7. **EDUCATION:**

Joe Rhodes, Superintendent

7.1 Around the District

Superintendent Rhodes updated the Board of news around the district.
For information only.

7.2 Revitalizing Traditions and Language

Superintendent Rhodes presents his article on Revitalizing Traditions and Language.

Received lot of positive response across the district for the article,
Worked with Mr. Peter McKay – discussed the wonderful openings of the schools.

7.3 Safe School Workshops

Superintendent Rhodes presented proposed schedule on Bullying and Cyber-Bullying Building Awareness and safe Practices held in the district the week of November 18, 2019.

7.4 Six Year Completion & Grade 12 Rates – 18/19

Encouraging to see that our district is improving in a positive direction in regards to graduation rates – now doubled.

Think numbers will continue to climb.

Hit the news with the government – districts with largest improvements in indigenous completion rates over the past five years.

Board Chair - Nisga'a district was mentioned in the province as well.

7.5 Language and Culture Final 18/19 Reports/New Submissions 19/20

Superintendent Rhodes presents the Language and Culture Final 2018/2019 Reports as well at the new submissions for 2019/2020.

For information only.

7.6 Student Attendance

Superintendent Rhodes

Elementary is hovering in the 85 – 90% range

Still challenged with secondary attendance, continues to be a worry, on-going challenge to get students to attend.

Would welcome any ideas to improve that.

All schools started off better

Dropped since then, 70%

Interviews kids, got a variety of reasons.

For information only.

7.7 Menstrual Products: Start-up Funding

The District has received a grant of \$2,122 to support the purchase of product and the implementation of the Menstrual Product availability for young women in schools.

Supplies have been ordered

Time delay due to other districts ordering.

7.8 November Pro Day

Sara Bristow, M.Ed. was in the district on November 1 for a workshop on Understanding Trauma, and Strategies for Healing and Integration into the classroom.

Successful introduction for many.

Good first step.

Very current topic, worthy of ...pursuit

We shall continue.

8. **BUSINESS:**

Kory Tanner, Secretary Treasurer

8.1 Interim Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer presented the Interim Financial Report at October 31, 2019.

For information only.

8.2 2018/2019 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

For consistency with *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, respecting Public Accounts reporting, a Statement of Financial Information

(SOFI) must be submitted by each school district within six month following the corporation's fiscal year end. School Districts are defined as corporations as outline in the *Financial Information Act*.

R02-1287

That the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) for the year end June 30 2019.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Stevens
All in favor

Carried

8.3 Maintenance Report

Secretary-Treasurer presents verbal report by Director of Operations, Calvin Morven.

Apartment buildings 98% complete,
Waiting on hydro meters to be installed.

Day Care Centre is completed. Hosting an Open House on December 20th
9 am to 2 pm

All schools – on-going maintenance as per work-orders, grounds work.

Housing – regular maintenance/work-orders.

8.4 IT Report – October 31, 2019

Projects:

- Video conferencing Systems
- New Website
- SDS Upgrade
- Upcoming Projects
- Planning Database Migration
- Implementing Windows to computers
- Language & Culture Projects
- Helpdesk System
-

IT report for information only.

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**
None

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

10.1 Request for District Review Report from NLG

A motion was passed at the October Board meeting requesting a copy of the Review Report from Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Did receive a copy before the November Meeting. Report is confidential, so it cannot be given out.

Board Chair updates the Board on her attendance at the Early Learning Summit.

Day Care:

Minister Chen will make every effort to attend the opening or Open House.

Secretary-Treasurer Tanner to work with Minister Chen's assistant.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

11.1 Vaping restrictions to protect Youth

Question was brought up on what vaping experiences is like here.

No specific information, is a challenge, and seems to be getting worse.

Is there a policy in place on smoking/vaping.

It is similar to smoking, something that needs to be explored.
School is challenged with it.

11.2 NTU Report – November/December 2019

NTU Report to the board for November/December 2019.

For information only.

12. **Public QUESTION PERIOD**

5 minute break

8:50 pm

Taron Scott

FNESC final Report:

- Yes we did ask for a report at the public meeting
- The Language & Culture meetings need to be more engaging to the public
- not a lot of people new of the meetings
- Only 4 parents involved in the last one.
- More outreach needs to happen to gain more public support.

- Getting kind of lost following this report, all schools together right?

Superintendent Rhodes: Each school has to complete one of those.

Day Care:

- Exciting.
- Scheduled opening was to be Sept. 1st, is this on budget or over in regards to upcoming programs, costs and staffing and will you have enough staff to meet the needs of the community and other possible clients?

Board Chair Davis: agree we need to come up with a plan.

In regards to day care budget, we are on budget.

We have enough early childhood educators in the nation, whether they apply or not the question.

Crystal Adams:

Vaping

Do we have any awareness posters? Vaping does this, vaping does that.

Superintendent Rhodes: There is, there was an assembly, being proactive as well as reactive.

Charity Peal:

The LEA Funding – is that local education agreement?

Secretary-Treasurer Tanner: That is the billing we do to NLG.

Charity – Do we have a local education agreement?

Superintendent Rhodes: The Ministry provided dollars to to facilitate that process, but nothing has happened.

Charity Peal: What is the mental health? Is that employees?

Superintendent Rhodes: Program funded for employees, building of student curriculum, plans submitted last year and partially implemented.

April Parenteau:

Safe School workshops:

What is the process that the administration to follow to ensure fairness?

Superintendent Rhodes:

I cannot respond for each school, they handle differently, depending on the age of the students.

What are the steps for administration to follow again in fairness when there is a student's family being uncooperative, to come in to resolve the situation to the bullying?

Superintendent Rhodes:

The consequences to the student would be issued. Family would be encouraged to come in, but cannot force people to participate.

Board Chair – When there is a bullying incident, the school and administration are not allowed to share with other parents or adults, due to privacy laws. The schools are held to protect the privacy of the students.

Sara Beardsell:

Recycling:

Would like to see recycling in schools to show the public that the district is environmentally conscience.

District comments:

It has been addressed, and discussion with the Director of Operations, but there is a lack of will by schools.

It needs to be a joint effort with all communities.

Take a proactive step, piloting, tap into the equipment

Coordinated effort, absolutely.

Other places, it was the kids that did it.

Charity Peal:

Was the article shared with everyone?

Were others planning on speaking to their constituents on graduation rates, be proactive and promote the positive.

Board Chair – As trustee for Laxgalts'ap, I share the praises all the time.

Send regular emails to the Village Government

Send NLG graduation rates.

Need to celebrate the great things happening in the schools.

Superintendent Rhodes will share the article at a meeting with the executive next week.

Trustee Stevens:

Accomplishments need to be celebrated, the successes, congratulations are in order to our teachers and students.

We do need to get the message out there that things are moving up and seeing successes in our students.

Derek Azak:

Technology:

Requests a portable laptop cart for grade 8 students – 24 gr 8 students.

10 minutes for students getting laptops and 10 minutes returning, all that time lost. IT Dept said there is are no laptop carts available.

What is the Board doing for shortage of teachers and TTOC's in the district, specifically for NESS? There is no consistency for students.

Board Chair –

The Board cannot make a decision at this time for the laptop carts.

Postings are out and hoping people apply.

Superintendent Rhodes: Meeting with faculty of education with SFU, UVIC, UNBC to get on to the agenda to speak on students graduating, promoting the benefits to come to rural area.

Posting are out and sit silent for months.

Taron Scott

Extend invitation to Trustee Ousey, Superintendent to give council an update.

Invites all to community Christmas dinner tomorrow.

Rich Hotson:

Will all Administration be evaluated as per last June meeting?

Superintendent Rhodes: Yes.

Disappointed that my report didn't make the agenda.

Basically part of the report dealt with services to students and my first questions is last year there was a teacher not replaced

Very pleased to see posting.

I'm hearing that its' been hard on teachers, less support of assistance.

As there was a surplus - would the board consider restoring some of the services at NESS.

Board Chair: It is not feasible to pay a teacher with four students.

Rich Hotson – We're here to support our children, had money in the surplus, was it considered to put back to students.

Board Chair: It did go back to students, went to safe schools training in the district. Took all teachers to terrace to train for mindfulness... all paid for by Laxgalts'ap Village Government.

Yes it was put back into student success in a different way.

Page 59 financial report – 3rd line talks about EA's, this is the schedule...

We didn't provide EA that we budgeted for.

This year coming off with a surplus and if you're expecting a surplus, would you consider putting that money...

Charity Peal – class size 30 or more, there is couple of schools with 30 with 4-5 staff.

Class size actually at the biggest elementary school (NESS) – class size is double. Want a targeted intervention at the primary grade.
If you can consider – that we target those dollars at intervention.

Board Chair: Tasked with having to provide services in all communities, not equitable across the board.

Derek Azak
Class size
Strongly request the board reconsider the decision.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried



Certified correct,
Elsie Davis,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer