

**NISGA' A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GITWINKSIHLKW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GITWINKSIHLKW, BC**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023 – 6:30 PM

In attendance:	Winnie Morven-Hansen Chair	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee
	George Nelson, Chair	Gingolx Trustee
	Edward Desson	Nass Camp & Surrounding Area
	Danica Moore	Laxgalts'ap Trustee
	Carl Azak	Gitwinksihkw Trustee
Also in attendance:	Jill Jensen	Superintendent of Schools
	Kory Tanner	Secretary-Treasurer
	Sharlene Grandison	Recording Secretary

Absent:

1. **PROTOCOL**

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

Addition under 9.1 – Transfer of Surplus to Local Capital

3. **DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

The Board Chair declared a quorum.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

R02-1557

That the Board of Education approve the October 17, 2023, Agenda as presented.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Azak

Carried

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

5.1 Minutes of September 7, 2023, Inaugural Meeting Minutes

R02-1558

That the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board held on September 7, 2023, be approved.

Trustee Moore/Trustee Desson

Carried

5.2 Minutes of September 12, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

R02-1559

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on September 12, 2023, be approved.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Nelson

Carried

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

No business arising from the minutes of September 7, 2023 and September 12, 2023.

7. **PRESENTATION:**

7.1 No presentation.

8. **EDUCATION:**

Superintendent

8.1 Report to the Board

Superintendent Jensen's report for Board review.

Presented a few highlights

- October 11th - Blessing of Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School Gym
- District enrollment is down slightly from last year
- September 21st - District song and dance we hosted at Nisga'a Elementary School. All four elementary schools participated.

Would like to extend congratulations to Trustee Nelson who has just recently been appointed as Co-Chair of the Indigenous Education Committee with BCSTA. He is taking on Provincial responsibilities, happy that he will be a voice for our district at that table.

- Grad Program - Highlights the importance of grade 10 students, meeting grade 10 requirements in grade 10. If they are able to

do that they are almost certainly guaranteed to graduate on time.

8.2 Language and Culture Report – Tanya Azak

District Principal of Indigenous Education presented her report on:

- Language and Culture taught to grade K-12
- District Principal Indigenous Education
- District Elder in Residence
- BC Curriculum
- Knowledge Keepers group out of NESS, it is a year old, it has brought Knowledge Keepers into the schools to work with students k-12, to have discussions about what language and culture looks like in our education system. They have also been a part of compassionate systems as well as being in the schools supporting the learning.

9. **BUSINESS:**

Secretary-Treasurer

9.1 Transfer of Surplus to Local Capital

This item was brought forward from the In-Camera Meeting.

District restricted surplus transferred to Local Capital.

R02-1560

That the Board of Education approve the new restricted surplus plan as presented.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Moore

Carried

10. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

No policy development.

11. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

No trustee reports.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

No correspondence received.

13. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD: (6:58 pm)**

Charity Peal

I noticed decline in public, parent attendance to Board meetings, are there strategies that you are discussing or looking at in order to bring more community to inform you of collective persons who represent citizens of this valley?

Jill Jensen:

The Board is looking at ways to increase community engagement and is going to be hosting a town hall in each of the four communities. They want the opportunity to hear from each of those communities. They will be sending out an invitation this Fall and we will plan those meetings for the Spring.

I am hoping our schools are encouraging feedback from their families and building community engagement through school plans through consultation around the school goals, that's a way to bring in community in each of the villages.

Charity Peal

Can I ask for the purpose of understanding what the difference between a public board meeting and a town hall would be?

Board Chair

The Town Hall will be more interactive. Board meetings are more restricted, the school board meeting is a meeting for the Board. It's not a public meeting, where as a Town Hall will be more with the public with the parents and communities.

Superintendent Jensen:

Public meetings of the Board are different than public meetings within the Nisga'a Nation. Board Meetings across the Province are held for Boards of Education to do the business of the Board, they are not held for public consultation. Boards need to find other ways to engage their communities.

Trustee Nelson acknowledges and thanks Tanya for her language and culture report. Asks if we as Trustees can get a synopsis of the report, so that when we do speak in our meetings, etc. with Village Government or at the Provincial table, we speak to our strength and I think your report outlined our strength nicely, would be nice to have that as a quick sheet.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**


The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Moore

Carried



Certified correct,
Winnie Morven-Hansen,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer