

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 – 6:30 PM

In attendance: Kory Tanner Secretary Treasurer
Sharlene Grandison Recording Secretary

Via Microsoft Teams: Elsie Davis, Board Chair Laxgalts'ap Trustee
Charlene Ousey Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee
Norman Hayduk Nass Camp Trustee
Floyde Stevens Gingolx Trustee
Alvin Azak Gitwinksihlkw Trustee
Joe Rhodes Superintendent of Schools

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared a declaration of quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 21, 2020:

R02-1303

That Board of Education approve the April 21, 2020 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

4.1 February 18, 2020

R02-1304

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2020 be approved as presented.

Trustee Stevens/Trustee Ousey

Carried

4.2 March 30, 2020

R02-1305

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 30, 2020 be approved as presented.

Trustee Stevens/Trustee Azak

Carried

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

None

6. **PRESENTATION:**

none

7. **EDUCATION:**

7.1 Continuity of Learning Update

a. Tech Implementation

Superintendent Rhodes brings the Board up to speed on some of the latest things that has happened over the last week or so, in terms of trying to implement new way of doing business in the school district. In order to learn from a distance, we are struggling in some areas, with some families in terms of access to technology or access to the internet. Happy to report that the IT Department has been working overtime to put together as many devices as possible to move out into the communities. That process has started last week.

There is about 150 pieces of technology to be moved out to families that have been identified as in need of technology. Hope by late next week most of those pieces technology will be moved out. It's exciting to note that in partnership with NLG that our request to have support for increased connectivity to families that don't have it, seems to be moving forward. We submitted lists of families that were without technology to the NLG internet, they have begun providing access. Don't know all the details.

As of today, this is where we are at:

- The schools will be able to distribute the assigned iPads that were specified for IEP students, as they will only be going to their assigned person. This counts for 8 devices so far.
- Bobby delivered 21 white Macbooks to NESS
- Bobby delivered 20 white Macbooks to NBES (for NBES and NESS students)

- Bobby delivered 7 white Macbooks to AAMES (for AAMES students)
- We will have 13 white Macbooks that will be processed by Thursday, and will be dropped off at AAMES on Thursday.
- We have 16 iPads from NBES being processed and should be delivered to the school Thursday or Tuesday next week.
- We have 15 iPads from AAMES being processed and should be delivered to the school Thursday or Tuesday next week.
- We have 10 iPads from GES being processed and should be delivered Thursday or Tuesday next week.
- We have 25 iPads from NESS being processed and should be delivered Thursday or Tuesday next week.
- We will be getting 12 Macbook Airs that will be delivered to NESS and GES (for NESS students) later this week, or early next week.

As internet becomes more available in homes, we will get more requests for devices, and we are hoping to have ample iPads, as well as purchase keyboards for them, in order to have those ready to go when needed.

Trustee Azak – All families in each school have they been surveyed?

Superintendent Rhodes:

Principals and Staff have done their best they can to connect with all families to survey what their needs are. There are a couple of families we are unable to connect with. We are at 98% of initial contact. There are three layers of need: 1. No Connectivity 2. May have a cell phone but don't have devices. 3. There may be 3 or 4 kids in one family and only have one device. So in order of priority we are trying to support all those needs, would like to get devices out to those who have none first.

Trustee Azak:

The devices that are going out, are they ready?

Superintendent Rhodes:

Yes, that's why it's taking a bit of time, they are being cleaned and putting any technology that needs to go on to them. They will have the apps that the students need to access their programs.

Trustee Azak:

Staff at the schools are comfortable using the technology?

Superintendent Rhodes:

They're getting there, there has been a huge learning curve for staff as well in terms of communication strategies. Many staff were already using many of the devices, others it's been brand new for them. Supporting each others.

Trustee Stevens:

With the number of devices being handed out to the students will that suffice?

Superintendent Rhodes:

We think we have enough to meet the need, as more folks get access to technology the demand may increase. The challenge is if we're to go out and order any new technology right now the turn-around time is 6 to 8 weeks to get them.

b. ESW Support

In terms of government expectations to provide as much support as we can to our essential worker families, who have children we did reach out to through the survey process to all of our families to identify the essential workers and offer some level of support in terms of direct service to their children if it was needed. We've had virtually no demand to provide support directly at the school level. A couple of kids at NESS are in attendance at the school, a few kids at AMMES, there may be one at NBES. We are fortunate we have not had a high demand, many districts have had to open up significant number of schools to provide that level of support, but it is absolutely critical, that could change in a heartbeat, if COVID does come into the valley, then all of a sudden we'd have a much greater need to support the essential workers, so they can support us.

Board Chair:

Superintendent to define what the Government has deemed essential workers to be providing the support.

Superintendent Rhodes:

Tier 1 workers are health care, social workers, enforcement RCMP, if some of the teachers are required to be in to support the essential workers, and they have children, their children would be also considered the support. First responders as well.

c. Learning Support

So once that routine has been established in terms of supporting our Tier 1, the next level of expectation is to try and reach out to our vulnerable kids to ensure that we are providing the best service that we can, our learning support teachers/learning resource teachers reached out to all parents and students of our most vulnerable kids and have begun small group one on one tutoring sessions, either in person, virtual or by phone in short half-hour, $\frac{3}{4}$ hour segments, one to three days a week depending on need, basically they are supporting the kids completing the course work the teachers are providing. That is where we are at the district numeracy teachers been reaching out to help them access the resources that the teaches are providing in terms of numeracy. Mathletics is a big tool that many of the teachers are using with the kids. That's begun, they are doing a real good job of reaching out and touching base and having lots of virtual meetings, as well as a few face to face, in person or by phone.

The question I have for the Board in terms, part of the vulnerable kids, is access to the breakfast program and because of the support from NLG and Village Governments in terms of providing, bringing food into community, we've had very little request for the breakfast programs, we do have the funds though, we're thinking along the lines, do we purchase grocery cards, do we team up with NLG and support their program with our funds. Looking for direction from the Board in terms of the best use the dollars we have remaining.

Trustee Azak:

I would leave it up to the staff, we are not really involved with it. Youth Centre in Gitwinksihlkw still buying the snacks and deliver door to door to the children who attended the Youth Center.

Superintendent Rhodes:

I am happy to take that direction in terms of utilizing the funds and let the school make the call. If that's the consensus of the Board, I am behind that.

Trustee Ousey:

We should try and limit as many people coming in our building at all. Is it possible to phone ahead? If we are going to it that way, have people phone ahead, have somebody open the door and hand the snacks or what-ever it may be, to anybody who has requested the breakfast program. Is that even possibility, or we talking about oatmeal and it's a bowl and we can't do it?

Superintendent Rhodes:
Many of the districts are putting together weekly breakfast boxes. Parents drive through and pick up the box. That is one strategy the school could implement.

Trustee Stevens:
Great idea! We have the funds. I can see that happening here in Gingolx where parents can come and pick up a week's supply.

Board Chair liked the idea of Trustee Azak had brought up, I realize that it may not be practical in some of the bigger communities. Just be mindful of our most vulnerable families. I like the idea of giving autonomy to the schools, the teachers and administrators know the families.

d. Learning Support:

Couple of rounds of learning packages have gone out now, both on-line and direct learning physical packages parents have picked up. Where we are at now we are hoping that families are going to complete those, call in for assistance if they are struggling, and have questions and get them back to our teachers so that they can be assessed. Without any feedback from those learning packages, it is hard to know the next step for the teachers. We need to get into this cycle of regularly going out and regularly coming back. Unfortunately at this point and time we probably got 90% families picking up the packages, but have around 10% been returned. Putting out a plea to families, to students, parents, that it is really important for this to work, for us to move education forward, to move learning forward so that the teachers have a sense of where to move on to next.

School	Enrolment	Learning Packages delivered	Approximate number of Learning Packages returned to date
NBES	43	43	5-6
AAMES	71	64	7-10
GES	32	30	4-5
NESS	230	210-215	20-30

Trustee Azak:
Supports Superintendent Rhodes request. What we would like to hear any suggestions on how we could support the learning on-line and with the packages that go to the homes, if any of the parents have a good idea how results can be attained through the processes that we are using now. It would be most welcome.

e. Communication

For information only.

Schools were requested to put out weekly updates on what has been happening. We're posting on the website, all the Government information that comes to the district, passing it on to parents and to communities. Superintendent sends out regular update as well, from all of the Microsoft team meetings, with Government, Public Health with Emergency Response, NLG. We are trying to keep community and public as informed as possible.

Trustee Azak:

One of the things that jumps out at me, if this...these newsletters are they going out to the public?

Superintendent Rhodes:

Correct, yes they are going to families from each school.

Trustee Azak would like to see little or no acronyms.

7.2 Possible Coast Mountain Opportunity

On a very positive note, one of the areas with trying to do everything on line is our elective opportunity for high school students has suffered, so we have been in contact with Coast Mountain, not great for their students, but excellent opportunity for our students that many of their programs they shut them down early, and so they have instructors that they are paying for that been creating a lot of on-line opportunities for their students going forward if this thing continues, but as an opportunity for them to pilot and test with some of our students. Because we have the short-term portion of our 18 day one course part of the time-table, I have been working with the high school to offer an introduction to hairs dressing opportunity where they will do some stuff on-line, we're looking providing kits to the students who are interested with a mannequin so they will be able to do at least one hairstyle. Also looking into an introductory exploration to trades opportunity and there is some of the culinary, the chef training course has been prepared for on-line as well. We are looking to provide those opportunities.

Trustee Ousey:

Could we get this in writing, the courses that are going to be available for our kids, along with this verbal report?

Superintendent Rhodes:

Absolutely, it is in the works we met with Coast Mountain late last week, they just need to run it through their process to get approved and we will

get it in writing exactly what they will offer, hope to have that in the next week or two.

7.3 District 92 COVID Plans

There is a large district plan document I had shared with the Board. Just a heads up the learning curve for staff is significant. Want to put out huge kudos to our staff and our organization for the incredible number of hours and learning that has been going on by them as we navigate this really challenging time. Just a reminder that this Friday and Monday were scheduled as Professional Development days and will continue the opportunity for staff to continue to grow and learn becoming more comfortable with tools that they are just beginning to acquire expertise from. Those are collective agreement; the Friday was an NTU day and the Monday was the February day. These will be learning days for our staff.

8. **BUSINESS:**

Secretary Treasurer Kory Tanner

8.1 2020/2021 Capital Bylaw No. 2020/2021-CPSD92-01

Secretary Treasurer Tanner presents the 2020/2021 Capital Bylaw No. 2020/2021-CPSD92-01.

Capital plan (including site acquisitions, Expansion Program, Replacement Program, Bus Acquisition Program, Seismic Mitigation Program, Building Envelope Program, School Enhancement Program, Carbon Neutral Capital Program, and Playground Equipment Program. Boards will prepare one bylaw for the annual capital plan. Capital plan bylaws must contain a provision by which the Board authorizes an appropriate official to execute project agreements related to the expenditures contemplated by the underlying capital plan.

R02-1306

That the Board of Education unanimously agree to give the 2020/2021 Capital Plan Bylaw all three readings April 21, 2020.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Stevens

Carried

R02-1307

THAT the Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2020/2021-CPSD92-01 (2020-2021 Capital Plan Bylaw) be read a first time, passed and adopted the 21st day of April 2020.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Stevens

Carried

R02-1308

THAT the Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2020/2021-CPSD92-(2020-2021 Capital Plan Bylaw) be read a second time, passed and adopted the 21st day of April 2020.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Stevens

Carried

R02-1309

THAT the Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2020/2021-CPSD92-01 (2020-2021 Capital Plan Bylaw) be read a third time, passed and adopted the 21st day of April 2020.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Ousey

Carried

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

none

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

none

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence received from Mr. Rich Hotson, a letter of thanks from the Jr. Girls Basketball team who attended the Provincials in Langley BC.

12. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:**

Jeffrey Stanley:

Why isn't the district going publish a list of essential workers that apply to the nation? Our list of essential workers is significantly different from the provincial list. The reason why I am asking is because we have so many students that could benefit from a revised Nisga'a list, not many qualified for Tier 1 provincial services from teachers.

Superintendent Rhodes:

Have not seen such a list, can check with NLG to see if they have such a list that they have designated as essential workers. Not aware of anything, I have taken the direction the province in terms of their Tier 1 identification.

Jeffery Stanley:

What will September look like? Seen that Dr. Bonnie Henry said we could be on restriction for the next year. Learning can take weeks, but the district can prepare, order hardware now and we'll be set for September, if we are going to be doing learning from a distance in September.

Board Chair:

A very good point Mr. Stanley. Thank you for your suggestion, right now as with other districts, they are doing their best prepare and we are hoping we will be open in September. I am sure that the September 2020/2021 school year, that our school district, as well as our staff and administrators are keeping that on their radar.

Peal:

Suggestion for the graduates, there are two support persons, their parents perhaps, it would be by appointment and taking turns in order to accommodate the guidelines.

C. Mercer:

What is in place for guidance counsellors at this time? Does the district plan to be saving money this year with this pandemic or in a deficit longer break of closure, vacant positions or other savings?

Superintendent Rhodes:

The guidance counsellor is at work, is providing support for the high school students, not sure if they are referring to the district counsellor, but it's a personnel issue and with all vacancies we post and fill. We're not trying to save money, we're going to utilize the funds the best way we can with the resources that we have.

C. Mercer:

Is the district in the red during this pandemic, or projecting to be?

Secretary Treasurer Tanner:

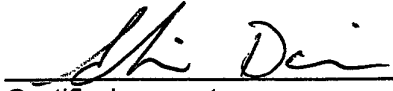
At this point, no we are not. We are in a good position at this point, I don't project us to be over spent or terribly underspent either.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

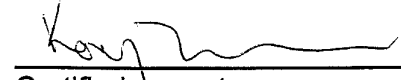
The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried



Certified correct,
Elsie Davis,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer