

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020 – 6:30 PM

In attendance:	Kory Tanner Sharlene Grandison Elsie Davis, Board Chair	Secretary Treasurer Recording Secretary Laxgalts'ap Trustee
Via Microsoft Teams:	Charlene Ousey Norman Hayduk Floyde Stevens Joe Rhodes	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee Nass Camp Trustee Gingolx Trustee Superintendent of Schools
Absent:	Alvin Azak	Gitwinksihlkw Trustee

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared a quorum

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 16, 2020:

R02-1313

That Board of Education approve the June 16, 2020 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

R02-1314

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on May 19, 2020 be approved as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None

6. PRESENTATION:

None.

7. **EDUCATION:**
Joe Rhodes, Superintendent

7.1 Continuity of Learning Update

Superintendent Rhodes Report:

1. Continuity of Learning
 - a. Teachers are busy preparing final report cards this week and next. A variety of assessment tools are being used and final grades will be a blend of work done prior to Spring Break and the start of the Covid 19 Pandemic (70%) and work completed after Spring Break during the suspension of classes time (30%).
 - b. Virtually all teachers returned to work from school and developed the health and safety protocols for the expected return of students in September.
2. Around the District:

NESS:

 - a. Commencement 2020 – this Saturday, eligible students will participate in the modified ceremony. Beginning at 19:00 am until 3:00 pm – if any miss appointments they are bumped to 3:00 pm (I have told both parents and students this).
Pre-records are going well – last update from Paul.
We have certificate from Minister Ross, Skeena Riding – he also recorded a message to graduated (he wanted to attend in person and was informed there will not be an open ceremony nor audience in the gymnasium).
Valedictorian is Patrick Guno – he is recording his speech tomorrow at NESS.
 - b. WTK: 9 out of 11 students arrived and completed orientation.
 - c. Smokehouse project construction has started \$350,000.00 project made possible by the NESS Language and Culture Grant.
 - d. Feast soup supplies have been delivered to 139 homes throughout the Valley. Students are encouraged to document their soup making process (as a requirement for funding).
 - e. Grade K-7 have received 2 meters of regalia fabric from NESS Language and Culture Committee to create a personal regalia item.
 - f. 20 graduates have received 2 meters of red and black regalia fabric to create a cape or button robe to wear during this year's ceremony.
 - g. Transitions into Sim Algax of NESS levelled readers are in the printing press and will be ready for September.
 - h. High School Sim Algax Curriculum has been taken out of storage and is currently undergoing a makeover with digitization, updates in language and picture quality.
 - i. Ts'ak the puppet has made a comeback to NESS. His videos will be posted on the sim algax 101 facebook group. In his return to NESS, he talks with teacher Dorcas about the passing of his Jiits' Mercy <https://nisgaa.bc.ca>
 - j. Here's a Facebook link. This page was created and managed by Peter McKay <https://www.facebook.com/groups/534294493658107/>

GES:

Teachers are back in school and becoming more comfortable and feeling safe. The numbers of students that are coming into the school for extra support has increased. All three classroom teachers have in-school student visits throughout the week. LRT/LST has 9 students that come in Thursday and Fridays. (staggered throughout the days to follow all protocols). All teachers do their very best to get assessments done before the school year is complete.

Virtual Feast:

We have scheduled a virtual Celebration Feast, this will include: Nisga'a stew package (all ingredients to make Nisga'a stew as well as dessert, buns and crackers), a video online to show how to make the stew (with an elder) and a study package with activities that are centered around feast protocol and accompanying language.

Celebration of Growth/Grade 7 Graduation:

- a. Celebration of Growth a celebration package will be sent home, it will include:
Sweatshirt (paid for by NVG), celebration awards and treats, and a pizza package.
- b. Grade 7 Graduation: Parents and staff were given a decoration package so they can decorate their cars for a Grad Parade. On June 24 (PM) staff and parents will be having a parade to celebrate the Grade 7 grads. They will also receive gift cards, pictures, posters, their certificates and fancy cupcakes.

AAMES:

Learning Packages and Final Assessments:

No new learning will be sent home on Monday, June 15. Instead, teachers will be sending home information on students' final assessments and catch-up requirements. Parents/guardians are asked to come to the school on Monday or Tuesday to pick up this information. Teachers may also be contacting students to come into the school to complete a self-assessment and/or a reading assessment.

In-School Learning Appointments:

Students will continue to come to the school during the week of June 15. In-school learning will be suspended the week of June 22.

Final Report Cards:

Teachers are finishing their marking assessments during the week of June 15 so that they can hand the final report cards into the office on Monday, June 22. Report cards will be available for pick up on Thursday, June 25.

Return of Loaned Laptops and iPads:

Laptops and iPads are to be returned to the school by Friday, June 19.

Celebration of Growth:

Due to the fact that BC Health regulations allow no more than 50 people at an event, AAMES will be hosting two Celebrations of Growth Ceremonies. Invitations to the celebration will be included in the June 15 assessment package that goes home to families. We appreciate families limiting the number of participants at the Celebration of Growth. *If the limit on maximum numbers changes over the next week, we will revise this plan.*

Primary Celebration of Growth will be Tuesday, June 23 starting a 11:00 and will take place on the playground. Families are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. AAMES will be providing a snack basket for each family to enjoy during the ceremony. After the ceremony, students have asked for participants to join them in a parade through the village. The parade route will be provided at the celebration.

Intermediate Celebration of Growth will be Thursday, June 25 starting at 11:00 and will take place on the playground. Families are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. AAMES will be providing a snack basket for each family to enjoy during the ceremony. After the ceremony, students have asked for participants to join them in a parade through the village. The parade route will be provided at the celebration.

FNESC Language Grant Committee Meeting:

The FNESC Grant Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 16 at 2:30 through Microsoft Teams. Contact Alison Stewart or Martha Swinn if you would like an invitation to the meeting. This meeting will conclude some business regarding the summer language camps.

School Growth Plan:

Community and staff members are invited to provide feedback for the school growth plan. The plan is the North Star that the school uses to focus its energies during the school year. Feedback can be directly emailed to Martha Swinn or community members can also join the Microsoft Teams meeting on Thursday, June 18 at 2:30. Just email mswinn@nisgaa.bc.ca for an invitation.

Greenhouse:

Thank you to Gordon Robinson who volunteered his time to help stain boards for the new greenhouse. We are still working on this project and would appreciate more student assistance next week if possible.

Grade 7/6 Chair Project:

Students are able to work on the chair project next week. It is very exciting to see the projects take shape. We hope to see more progress before the end of the year.

NBES:

Provided families with soup supplies for a virtual teaching of soup making – Nisga'a stew – Elder Role model virtual teaching in Nisga'a Language.

Year end Grade 7 outdoor graduation Ceremony on school grounds.
Outside tents used – by invitation only – NBES provided families with turkey dinners for private family gathering.
NBES – small groups of students attending school for assessment purposes.
Greenhouse/school gardens – prep work by community member – for summer planning.
Kindergarten – Welcome to Kindergarten – in school – 4 of 4 students attended.
NBES grade 7 students participated in graduation photo opportunity – NBES printed pictures out for family memory book.

3. Strategic Plan Draft

Recommended action – The Board take the draft plan out to community in the fall, in a form of consultation (virtual or public) to be determined by the state of the pandemic.

7.2 Nisga'a Language & Culture – Update

All four schools are using Ask Me document.

Year end feast three schools are buying ingredients for Nisga'a stew and sending a how-to video home so that each student can have a feast at home. Booklets on vocabulary will also go home with the ingredients. AAMES will be having a committee meeting today feast is one of the agenda items.

All schools are working on setting up teams for Nisga'a Ask Me. NESS hired elders to work on resources that they will share with other schools. AAMES distributed graphic cards to all students and continue to work on the street and on teams with the students. Assessments are done based on the Ask Me exam.

Books are available on You tube for students

Culture is taught 2 days at some schools that are working on the year end feast.

All schools would like to have training on Ask Me and any other new resources we may have available.

Need training on virtual teaching.

Would like to have all teachers, TA's EA's, fluent speakers, and committee members have a language teacher's training.

Complete translation and resource development for ASK ME.

7.3 Strategic Plan

I had given the Board the draft Strategic Plan for consideration, a revision of our previous Strategic Plan. Which I believe more closely aligns the Board's vision with the Nation's vision and more closely aligns the priorities that the board has expressed need for. I really feel that it needs to go out to public consultation. I would expect that in the Fall that the Board would take the draft plan out to community for feedback and entertain that feedback in a way that is appropriate for whatever the COVID environment is of the day. Whether it be true face to face consultation public meeting in each community, or whether you need to do in a more virtual format. That remains to be determined, as we see how the Fall

unfolds with the COVID situation. I sincerely believe that prior to adopting it as a forward moving document, it needs to go to the public for feedback and consultation.

Trustee Hayduk:

I fully support a community consultation, especially in these times, and done virtually I think is not really going to accomplish what we want to hear from the public. So hopefully and fingers crossed that we will be able to do it face to face.

Board Chair Davis:

Trustee Ousey, any questions or comments? No

R02-1315

That the Board of Education approve the Draft 2020/2023 Strategic Plan to be brought out for community consultation in the Fall of 2020.

Ousey/Hayduk

Carried

8. **BUSINESS:**

Kory Tanner, Secretary Treasurer

8.1 Five Year Capital Plan

The 2021/2022 Five Year Capital Plan as outlined by the Ministry of Education's Resource Management Division addresses funding requests for capital projects which involved new space, replacements, renovations, site acquisitions, seismic mitigation project and bus purchases. Board of Education are expected to have a School District Facilities Plan in place that supports projects being submitted to the Ministry for capital investment considerations.

R02-1316

That the Board of Education approve the 2021/2022 Five-Year Capital Plan as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk
All in favor

Carried

Trustee Hayduk:

Do you think we run any kind of a risk of Ministry? IF you look at our plan and say an agreed to.... For example, windows, electrical and say we will do the electrical, do the windows and we won't do the school because we just did the electrical and windows, is there any kind of connected between getting the pieces fixed up and not getting....the school?

Director of Operations – Calvin Morven

What I did not this plan on the Set programs, there is 3 of them in there. I grouped them all together and the reason why we grouped them is that our district could qualify for up to 1.2 million annually, so under the Set program, I grouped them all together, it is just over the 1.2 million right at this state on the submission.

Trustee Hayduk:

There is no carry over from Laxgalts'ap there is nothing left in there for that one.

Director of Operations – Calvin Morven

If you refer back to my actual Board Report, what I did because I fell short on the bio mass upgrades last year, I phased into a 2 phase project, my short-fall last year, I got it this year. At the stages they are in on both projects at NBES and AAMES, it is in progress at the point and they will have the shovels in the ground for the building by the end of the month. I did get approval though the following our COVID response plan from the 2 ...Gingolx and Laxgalts'ap approval to go ahead with the projects.

Superintendent Rhodes:

If the parking lot development was approved, does it fit in with the planning of supporting the development of the new school on the field side, so that the two would mesh together in the event that we did get approve for the new school? Would seem to be a vit of waste if it was developed, then it had to be all torn up to create a new field.

Director of Operations – Calvin Morven

No, it will fit where it is at, as far as parking, if we probably end up having an upper parking and how we design the parking for the school, is we have not gotten that far on the design space yet.

8.2 2020/2021 Annual Budget

For 2020/2021, the Board must prepare an Annual Budget, and have it adopted by Bylaw before June 30, 2020. As per Section 113 of the School Act and submit it to the Minister of Education by this date.

In order for the 20/21 Annual Budget to be received to the Ministry by June 30, 2020, all 3 readings need to be done today.

R02-1317

That the Board of Education unanimously agree to give the 2020/2021 Budget Bylaw all three readings June 16, 2020.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Ousey
All in favor

Carried

R02-1318

That the Board of Education 2020/2021 Annual Budget Bylaw Version 1420-9675-7692 be read a first time the 16th day of June 2020.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Ousey

Carried

R02-1319

That the Board of Education 2020/2021 Annual Budget Bylaw Version 1420-9675-7692 be read a second time the 16th day of June 2020.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

R02-1320

That the Board of Education 2020/2021 Annual Budget Bylaw Version 1420-9675-7692 be read a third time, passed and adopted the 16th day of June 2020.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

8.3 Monthly Financial Statements – May 31, 2020

Secretary Treasurer Tanner presented the May 31, 2020 Monthly Financial Statements.

For information only.

8.4 Maintenance Report – May 31, 2020

Director of Operations, Calvin Morven presented his May 31, 2020 report.

Trustee Ousey:

Since the parks are now open, are our playgrounds open at our schools?

Director of Operations – Calvin Morven

Not at this point. We are regulated on Nisga'a Lisims Government, they have not opened up anything yet in the Valley at this point. What I am hearing, it may be by the end of the month, they might do something, but it is not definite. BC has moved forward in opening their playgrounds. We have not gotten approval from Nisga'a Lisims Government to open anything yet.

Superintendent Rhodes:

Additional information

I sit with the Emergency Preparedness Committee and tomorrow they are meeting to discuss the Nisga'a Lisims Government restart plan and as Mr. Morven stated the projected soft opening day that will go to executive on June 24, 25 is for soft opening June 29th, for some facilities, I am not at this point completely clear on to which facilities.

Trustee Hayduk:

Have we completely resolved the issue of moisture underneath the teachers, is that finished? What is the status on that?

Director of Operations – Calvin Morven

The crawl spaces are already sealed, we have not completed the concrete scratch coat. What I was going to do with that, bring in a request quote on the concrete, whoever gets the tender to replace front of the school concrete, I was getting them to look at the teacherages to see if we can get a lower cost for replacement this summer.

Trustee Hayduk:

Biomass fuel – Have you completed contracts, etc., what is the status of the field supply for those?

Director of Operations - Calvin Morven

Those are still in the planning stage, but we do have sort of like an agreement, but not signed yet with Pinnacle. Pinnacle is a pellet company that delivers from Williams Lake to Prince Rupert on a weekly basis. Been in discussions with them, they are willing to swing off to the Nass Valley on one of their weekly trips to load our containers, but as far as the cost goes, we have not received the updated costs.

Trustee Hayduk:

I do not know if you have explored opportunities to do a local supply on that. I know that pelletizing is not a small item and I realize that. It seems to me, you know the wood is here, the waste is here, I guess you can look at that pretty carefully and maybe if it is not feasible to do with within the Valley.

Director of Operations - Calvin Morven

Terrace has a company, I talked with the Manager, they never got back to me on whether their supplying dirty pellets or clean pellets. Dirty pellets they supply with the bark on it, and that is not good for the system.

Board Chair Davis:

Paving of NESS, it that going to be done through the summer and if it goes over the summer into the schools months, is there some kind of contingency plan in place for safety of kids that are going to be going to school? Would be great if we had a just in case contingency plan, a separate entrance for the students, should there be a chance it is not completed before school starts.

Director of Operations – Calvin Morven

That is going to be completed before school.

There is the back door that we can use, there is also the playground entrance. I did complete a section right under the breezeway between K-block and the elementary section that can be accessed as well.

Report for information only.

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

None.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

None

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

None

12. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

7:20 pm

Rich Hotson

Is there a surplus predicted this year?

Kory

Yes, we are predicting a small surplus this year, because year-end has not happened yet, can't give number yet.

T. Scott

In regard to the budget and COVID 19, I have a concern about the start-up in September about class size and split grades.

Board Chair Davis:

I am not sure what your question is. I do know that though the Ministry of Education we are working on guidelines around COVID-19 and how those will be conducted. As you know because we are under Nisga'a we have some autonomy with Nisga'a Lisims Government support to be able to enter into the schools quickly or slowly as we are comfortable with, like for right now for instance, all other schools in BC are open, we are not. We are still in suspended mode except for those that are essential works and families that have requested for extra needs support.

Loretta Stewart-Nisyok:

Will there be split classed at NESS this coming year?

Superintendent Rhodes:

At this point, based on projected enrollments we will continue to have split classes, if we are fully immersed in and able to fully return back, we would be operating with split classes in all four of our schools.

Carlos Alcuaz

Are there enough laptop chargers for grade 12s to bring home laptops?

Superintendent Rhodes:

I do not know the answer to that. I would have to check. I don't think at this point and time thee are. I do know that we are in the process of ordering more equipment so that hopefully we are fully prepared if we are in a blended model starting up in September.

Jeffery Stanley:

Why spend money on replacing the windows at the school if the entire school is to be replaced. Is it not a waste of cash flow?

The way the maintenance plans work with the Ministry, they would rather see us move forward on the improvement on assets and when it gets to the point on doing an audit on where there is a recommendation for the school to be replaced, even though we attempted to keep the buildings safe and healthy environment with our staff and students. Decisions are based on those guidelines that we follow with the Ministry under capital assets so, I rotate them on a health and safety basis for all our schools. That is why I put the Capital Plan together. The windows are at the point where they are becoming like an environmental issue with the users of the facility as far as opening and closings the windows, that is why I left the windows on the plan to get them all replaced, it is under the Ministry under their Capital Projects and guidelines.

Can the school stay in the same location and just take the building down to its shell and rebuild from there?

Director of Operations – Calvin Morven

When you do a replacement of a school, it is not just a 1-year project, it is a multi-year project. The way the Ministry looks at projects they move forward with a plan that is least ... the students and staff to carry on with school.

Loretta Stewart-Nisyok:

Will NESS still have in-split classes at NESS? I am concerned of the class sizes and the number of children in the class and limited support that children will be receiving if this is going to be the approval for classroom.

Board Chair Davis:

As Superintendent Rhodes has said earlier that this will probably be the model, unfortunately we do not have the numbers big enough to justify having single grade classes in any school. The only way that would be justified is if we were able to move all four communities into one school where the numbers would justify having a teacher and an E.A. or a T.A. in the classroom with grade. Unfortunately, some schools have up to 30 kids. I do not know of classes within our district that has more than 20 kids.

Mr. Rhodes would you like to elaborate?

Superintendent Rhodes:

I think you covered the concept. We do not have the budget to operate single grade classes with the 10 – 12, in some schools would be 5 or 6 students, some of the small schools have 3 grade splits and that is the reality of having individual elementary schools within each community, and as you say if we were to move all students into one school, we would have the capacity to operate single grades. We just do not have the staff and budget to support that at this point and time.

Loretta Stewart-Nisyok:

Can we please get another teacher at NESS? With NESS being the largest group of elementary students, as COVID-19 has been detrimental on several children's development, as well concerned with the work completed from last months report and with the number of students presented coming into kindergarten, thinking about the respective IEP's to accommodate teachers and learning capacity due to this lengthy break from an education facility.

Board Chair Davis:

At this time unfortunately as Mr. Rhodes has stated, we do not have the budget to add on another teacher. I am not so sure that the NESS class is the largest elementary class and if it is, then it can't be by much. The other option is that we stagger the attendance as they are doing right now, once we start in September and then the other piece is that according to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education, the 2 weeks that schools have been in, there have been no COVID-19 cases related to any students or teachers returning to the schools at this time. Mr. Rhodes I am seeing that there is a trend here in regard to not enough support do you know what the time for elementary classes at NESS?

Superintendent Rhodes:

Off the top of my head I do not have those numbers, but certainly to add additional staffing at this point and time without knowing what are enrolment will be in September is something that is not prudent at this point and time. There is always a potential for

decline in enrolment which would mean a decline in budget dollars available. It is really important that we wait and see who shows up in September given the circumstances of COVID across the Province. We know that there is all kinds of concerns about enrolment projections for the fall, so I think it is important for us to wait and see what the number of student who show up in each school and if we need to, we will make the budget adjustments at that time. Certainly, if we have more students and we have more income, we will add more staff.

Trustee Ousey:

I think what the trend maybe, is the fact that I have seen on facebook and stuff like that, examples of how the classroom looks, spacing, social distancing, so where as we used to be able to have 22 kids in a class; now that we have to space them all out. How is that going to work, because now a teacher can only teacher like 10 kids even though there is 22 in that class, I think what is where all of these questions may be coming from for September when schools re-open.

Superintendent Rhodes:

The Province has five different phases of start-up for the school with stage 1 being all students return, in order for that to happen....your absolutely right, the Provincial Health Office would have to change the Health and Safety regulation requirements as they stand right now. As they stand right now we could not operate and that is why there is phase 3, there is 50 percent of students allowed to attend school at any one time and so at phase 2 I think it goes up to 75 percent of students would attend, but again that would require changes in the Provincial Health Regulations in order for that to occur. If we are returning in September and the Nisga'a Lisims Government agrees with Government in terms of the phasing, that we would be opening schools up with. If it was at Phase 3, then only 50% of the students would attend 50% of the time in a week. In that situation it would be potentially possible to fun single grade classes, so that is a potential and that is actually the model we have developed for phase 3 opening if in fact we are given permission to do that. At phase 2 we would probably consider that. Phase 1 would only be enabled if Provincial Health changed the guidelines in terms of social distancing and the number of students that would be entitled to be attended at any one classroom. I hope that kind of gives you a sense of what you're talking about. Very much so that if we're in anything other than phase 1, there will be staggered entry of students will be in a blended model where some students will be doing home-learning while others attend and the next day will change, so that is where we are headed depending on what happens in September.

Loretta Stewart-Nisyok:

If there is a plan to continue to work with split classes, how do you support the range of children in the class from the ones that need extra support to the ones that are excelling? I worry about each child's development in the learning environment and when they are able to receive the level of support that is needed for the child's need requirements. Our school continues to be a school that struggles to enhance the level of learning in the classroom and with the proper support this can be mitigated.

Superintendent Rhodes:

I think one can always make a case that more support is needed, and I do not disagree with that. We have to live within our means and this point and time we need to be in the range that they are in and we provide the most support that we can with the dollars that we have and if we get more dollars in the fall we will do the best we can to spread them

out as effectively as we can. We do have six learning support teachers as part of the collective agreement. They are non-enrolling teachers; the intention is for them to be able to provide and support classroom teachers. That is how we utilize trying to provide that extra support and so that is the model that we need to operate within the collective agreement, so we make the best use of creating the best class sizes we can with the dollars we have and we provide additional support through the learning support teachers that we have. That includes the district counsellor as well as the equivalent of 6 or 7 learning support teachers across the district.

Dee Dee

I have a concern about how split classes will work. Is there a way to evaluate how teachers support the split grades? I ask because as a parent I have 2 kids in the same class, different grades, they get the same work. I hope that the split classes will be by grade level to better support the kids.

Board Chair Davis:


Dee, as you heard from Mr. Rhodes, we are working as best we can with the funding that we have for the numbers that we have. Short answer is yes, teachers do get evaluated and the other short answer is, if you are having concerns about what your children are bringing home, please bring to the attention of your Principals and your Superintendent. We can't address what we don't know.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**


The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk

Carried



Certified correct,
Elsie Davis,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer