

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92 (NISGA'A)
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGUAR BOARD MEETING
ALVIN A. MCKAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LAXGALTS'AP, BC**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 22, 2019:

R02-1281

That Board of Education approve the October 22, 2019 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk
All in favor

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

R02-1282

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on September 17, 2019 be approved as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak
All in favor

Carried

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

None.

6. **PRESENTATION:**

None.

7. **EDUCATION:**

Joe Rhodes, Superintendent

7.1 Update on Enrolment

Projected: 370-371, actual 375
374.375 FTE

School by school:
NESS is down a bit
Other three schools are up a bit.
Large Grade 12 cohort this year.

7.2 District Language and Culture

- Meeting held today with Language teachers to continue developing the new ASKME approach to teaching the language
- Schools have submitted their plans to FNEESC and away approval
- Several NESS grade 12 students are taking a dual course Language course through WWNI/UNBC. We are formalizing our relationship with UNBC to allow ongoing dual credit opportunities

Visit the schools to see the change.

7.3 Summary of Ministry Conference

See attached summary of Ministry initiatives and expectations.

October 16:
BC Tripartite Agreement Workshop

October 17:
All Superintendents Meeting

October 18th:
Partner Liaison Meeting

7.4 Pro-D Opportunities Upcoming

- Literacy workshops this week

- Coast Mountain conference on Friday, October 25th
- EA's and TTOC's invited to a classroom management strategy workshop this Friday, October 25th at NESS
- Student and Parent Safe Schools workshop being provided to all schools and two communities the week of November 17-21
- Math Numeracy workshops the first week of March through SFU
- Still confirming November 1st Opportunities

8. **BUSINESS:**

Kory Tanner, Secretary Treasurer

8.1 Interim Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer presented the Interim Financial Report at September 30, 2019.

R02-1283

That the Board of Education approves the Interim Financial Report at September 30, 2019.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Hayduk
All in Favor

Carried

8.2 Revised Capital Plan

The 2020/2021 Capital Plan needs to be revised for HVAC upgrades at Nathan Barton Elementary School and Alvin A. McKay Elementary School.

Director of Operations reported/updated the Board on the revised 2020/2021 Capital Plan.

R02-1284

That the Board of Education approves the revised 2020/2021 Capital Plan as presented.

Trustee Stevens/Trustee Azak
All in Favor

Carried

8.3 CUPE Bargaining Update

Update - all parties have signed off, now waiting for the agreement to sign it off.

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**
Superintendent Rhodes

Update on Draft Policy 309-P – Provision of Menstrual Products to Students was sent out on September 18, 2019 to all communities for feedback.

- No response from communities
- Student response available at the meeting
- Ministry expectations are up and running by New Year - \$300,000 being made available to the Province to help with implementation – not sure of our share.

DSAC Summary

1. New student trustee – Cole Angus, Grade 12, Gingolx
Understudy Dante Davis, Grade 8, Laxgalts'ap
2. Bells on or off – will have a 10 minute assembly to survey the student population regarding bells.

Menstrual Products – are going to talk further with students, initial thoughts are having machines on washroom walls that limit resources, either by cost or time delay, and leave money with Tina. For those who cannot afford, right now it is possible that not everyone feels comfortable getting products from the office, Ms. Peal or Mrs. Rose.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

10.1 Shelter for School Buses

Board Chair shares her concern that there are no shelters at bus stops in all communities for bad weather.

Proposing the Board direct the Secretary-Treasurer, Superintendent and Director of Operations look into costs for shelters for the bus stops in each community for the safety and health of our students.

Direction

That Administration Staff and Director of Operations seek out capital and information so that we can begin to look at obtaining school bus shelters for each community.

Ousey acting as Chair

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

11.1 NTU Report – June 2019/October 2019

NTU Reports for June and October 2019.
For information only.

12. **Public QUESTION PERIOD:**

Board Chair reads the Simple Rules.

Taron Scott:

Bottom of board package – Next Board. Meeting – Nov. 19th. Noticed on the other package, the meeting was scheduled to last week.

Pro D Opportunities coming up; which one are open to public.

Menstrual products draft up date, would be nice to come from an understanding of the younger children that are going through menstruation, as well as transgender children, it's important to be opened minded.

Youngest is in high school and is extremely shy, she will not be going to the office to get the product. Any form of token or quarter to get those products even if there is another high schooler in there.

Extends an invitation to Gitlaxt'aamix rep to attend their next month's Council meeting.

Superintendent Rhodes:

Pro D Opportunities –

The pro d for this Friday, there is nothing specifically set up for the teachers, except for the E.A.'s

Nov. 1st – trauma in schools, will be wide open to community, public welcome to attend, just firming up the details on that.

Feb 14 pro d, has not been confirmed, but will certainly be open public most events

The Provincial Pro D, most people scatter, there is nothing formally organized.

Thank you for the feedback on menstrual products.

Board Chair Davis – Change in Board meeting date – there was a change request from the Sr. Administrative staff due to other obligations. A motion was passed at the September meeting in our closed session. Notice was sent out to all schools, was put on the district website, plus was changed on our calendar. We do make every effort to do that as soon as possible.

Ms. Clayton:

7.4 – Safe School Workshops –
I'm just starting to come out PAC meetings.

Bullying:

I myself experienced that.

Painful to listen to families explain their experiences.

Can you implement cameras that will capture, not just random cameras, because when I asked the school, they said it wasn't on school property, there was a lot of going back and forth, no one could pin point it, until they all finally agreed...and it wasn't dealt with. I'm wondering why all the schools have cameras, and they're not catching anything. Why is it just a running camera?

Shelters –

And if you're going to do the shelters; being in high school we froze. A great idea, why can't cameras be there as well?

What are the statistics on bullying – how many children are in each school?

What percentage of those are being bullied?

Accountability – for the people who are doing those things, can something be implemented, outside of school, before school?

Superintendent Rhodes:

As far as percentage on bullying, I don't have that information at the top of my head.

Suspension rates are low in this district compared to other places, a general observation. But to say that it is in our schools and we need to be proactive and take (?) measures when it does happen.

We are attempting to provide environments for all kids that are safe, but is challenging, we need community and parent support. Many bullying incidents begins outside the school and carries into the school.

There is a lot of incidents that go unreported, that where the education of students....to not be a bystander. It will be an ongoing challenge.

Video surveillance, some areas of the high school, not typically something we do for the elementary schools. We do put some surveillance on some buses. It something we need to discuss with the Director of Operations.

Derek Azak:

Grade 8 Program:

Why is not continued from last year?

Every parent I've talked with regarding the grade 8 level; the grade 8 level program is not continued this year from last year.

It's probably the most talked about in our discussions.

Last year there were 28 grade 8's now in grade 9.

This year there is 24 and then there are those that are more designated.

If we had the program that would alleviate the problems.

Ness sports

New director – Mr. ?

Process of signing up students,

Asking the Board for continued support, in bussing, getting students to play days etc.

District Events:

Last year was the first year I missed for my daughter's Celebration of Growth; it was planned at the same time as the NESS Learning Feast. Hopefully that the schedule will be worked out by the District this year.

Superintendent Rhodes:

Not sure I heard any questions outside of the grade 8 program that is something the district doesn't micromanage in terms of allocating staffing; staff do the best they can. I too am in support of the concept of the grade 8's. I think I was the one that spearheaded it last year, so anything we can do to continue that concept is worthwhile...

District Events: Will try to encourage Administrators to talk to each other, so we aren't doubled up. Thank you for the reminder. There is an Admin meeting next week, and I will put that on the agenda. I am very much in support of that concept.

Steven Johnson:

Possible gym at GES – I think last year I counted close to 20 days last year they didn't get to use the gym, and some of those days, they're reduced to playing in the snowbanks during their physical activity. Is there a possibly to get it this year? Reduced to playing in snowbanks.

Do we have anything in mind to alleviate the issue?

Board Chair:

At this time I can say that it is colder inside the gym than outside, there are cement floors, not a lot of protection. As you can see our Capital Plan has been adopted tonight, buildings are a priority

Charity Peal:

Son was part of a very small class.

Only 7 students.

When he got to gr 8 – 12

Only 7 graduated.

Happy about the numeracy. It's long overdue.

Wondering that will be district wide, every classroom, every teacher. Is it an initiative? One-time pro-d?

Hoping to develop a relationship with them

Derek:

Numeracy

Is there a District assessment of students k – 12?

Using that to move forward to the strategic plan.

Superintendent Rhodes: It is K-9 District Numeracy and Assessments.

The data has not been presented to the Board yet, is in the works.

Rich Hotson:

At the last Board meeting, discussion has to do with recruitment/retention, it was mentioned requested to partner with Nisga'a Lisims to create marking tools.

Concerned when we can't recruit teachers on Letters of Permission (LOP). Last

weekend a number of our Execs went to the Zone Meeting. There is a high school in our zone that has 10 teachers on LOP's and the Principal is on LOP.

Became very aware that this is a Global problem.

Would be interested to hear your lobbying efforts of the District with the Government.

Board Chair:

At our last NIB/NW Branch meeting:

Retention is a global issue

Only one district that does not have teachers on LOP

It is a priority with BCSTA to be working with Ministry of Education trying to make it easier for teachers to get certified.

Make it more available and trying to make it more accessible and this Board has with Mr. Rhodes help.

Student teachers are doing practicums

Have possible loan forgiveness programs for rural areas

All over BC is a struggle.

Charity Peal:

There is a Cohort in Terrace UNBC – 14 students, 24 accepted, everyone was accepted and will get their certificates, but that is two years away.

There are a number of them that worked on LOP's, and want to be certified on full time continuing contracts.

Taron Scott:

Special events

Don't see anything in regards to Unity Day, any plans for that?

It would be nice for all of our new teachers to experience that part of our history.

Superintendent Rhodes: There is nothing formally organized at this point.

Steven –

It was difficult trying to find out information about this meeting.

Board Chair:

Our Administrative Assistant, conveys it through Lisims Government, each of the local Village Governments, and each of the schools. It also on our website. And it also on our calendar.

Board Chair:


Mr. Rhodes and I have met with new district student advisory council. Did request that they nominate a student trustee, who could not make it to this meeting. Our new student trustee is Cole Angus – gr. 12, from Gingolx. We also have Dante Davis – grade 8 – from Laxgalts'ap.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**


The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Davis

Carried



Certified correct,
Elsie Davis,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer