

**NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
VIRTUAL: Zoom**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 – 4:00 PM

In attendance: George Nelson, Chair Gingolx Trustee
Winnie Morven-Hansen Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee
Danica Moore Laxgalts'ap Trustee
Carl Azak Gitwinksihlkw Trustee
Gary Cox Nass Camp & Surrounding Areas

Also in attendance: Robert Clifton Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mercer Secretary Treasurer
Sharlene Grandison Executive Assistant - Recorder

Absent:

1. PROTOCOL:

Trustee Morven-Hansen acknowledges Wilps Axcwinkdaskw with a prayer and condolences to the family on the passing of a loved one.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

The Chair declared quorum.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

C02-1616

That the Board of Education approved the February 4, 2025, Agenda as presented.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Moore Carried

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2025

C02-1617

That the Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board held on January 7, 2025 be approved.

Trustee Moore/Trustee Cox Carried

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

No business arising from the minutes.

7. **PRESENTATION:**

6.1 Inclusive Education

District Principal, Olga Jorda presented on Inclusive Education Policies:

Presentation on Inclusive Education:

- Explains the concept of inclusion as a way of thinking and acting that demonstrates universal acceptance and promotes a sense of belonging for all learners.
- Outlines three key goals: strengthening inclusive policies and practices, enhancing professional development for educators, and fostering active engagement with families and community partners.
- The presentation includes a discussion on the Ministry framework for supporting inclusive education students and the district's efforts to align with these guidelines.

Discussion on Inclusive Education Policies

- Discussed the importance of early identification and intervention, development of individualized Education Plans, multi-disciplinary and collaborative support teams, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation.
- The district is using a Ministry guide for inclusive education services, which was published in 2014, and emphasizing holistic support for each student.
- Highlighted the need for policy reviews and updates, using data to make decisions, and working on updated referral and assessment protocols, improved communication channels, and a centralized data system.
- The district is focusing on forming collaborative support teams, integrating assistive technologies, and ensuring flexible supports for students.

Questions and Comments on Inclusive Education

- Board Chair Nelson asks if there are any questions for the presenter.
- Trustee Morven Hansen asks if reports from early childhood educators are accepted by the school district and suggests it would be good to have a head start on evaluations and supports for children.
- Olga responds that on a case-by-case basis, information is shared between schools and teams dig deeper to learn the background, but there is no formal process in place.
- Trustee Stephens thanks Olga for the report and highlights the importance of data-driven decisions and equitable education.

8. EDUCATION:
Superintendent

8.1 Superintendent Update – February 2025

- Superintendent Clifton provided an update on the district's monthly report, including the launch of a data dashboard, the district organizational chart, and the Learning Buddies Network.
- The strategic plan has received 77 responses, with about half completing the survey, and feedback is being gathered from parents, community members, and the teachers' union.
- The district is planning to engage with staff and senior leadership to discuss the desired state of education and barriers to student success.
- The district is working on a local education agreement with the Ministry of Education and will begin negotiations soon.

R02-1618

That the Board of Education receive the Superintendent's Report as presented.

Trustee Cox/Trustee Morven-Hanse

Carried

8.2 Indigenous Education Monthly Update

- Superintendent Clifton reports on behalf of Director Indigenous Education & Early Learning, Tanya Azak, who is on compassionate leave.
- Highlighted several initiatives, including the Compassionate Systems Leadership and Metabolism course and a district COVID event.
- The district is planning to host a Foundations 2 course in April and is working on a district COVID event on February 19.
- The board is asked to create an invite for the district COVID event and to receive the Indigenous Education report.

R02-1619

That the Board of Education receive the Indigenous Education report as presented.

Trustee Morven Hansen/Trustee Cox

Carried

8.3 Strategic Plan Update

- Superintendent Clifton presented a summary of the Thought Exchange survey results, highlighting the need for better engagement with children and youth, and the importance of student voice.
- The district is examining how to move current values into higher ratings and improve engagement in language and cultural learning.
- The survey reveals areas for improvement in supporting learners in developing critical thinking, engaging in creative activities, and promoting health and well-being.
- The board is encouraged to take the information and shape the vision, mission, and value statement for the district.

8.4 Roles & Responsibilities for Board of Education – infographic

8.5 BCSTA Calls for Action on Climate Change in Schools

The BCSTA calls for Action on Climate Change in Schools: New Report on Achieving CleanBC Emission Targets.

- Superintendent Clifton brings forward a call to action from the BC School Trustees Association on climate change in schools.
- The board is encouraged to consider the areas of focus, including clear policies and strategies to meet clean BC emissions reduction targets and incorporating climate action into district strategic plans.
- Trustee Morven Hansen emphasizes the importance of bringing climate change home to students and making it relevant to their lives.
- Superintendent Clifton highlights the need for clear policies and strategies to support energy-efficient transportation and climate action.
- Trustee Morven-Hansen shared her thoughts on how climate change has affected the valley and the potential impact on students, suggesting that the district take action to help the planet.

9. **BUSINESS:** Secretary Treasurer

9.1 Financial Statements

Secretary Treasurer Mercer presented the monthly financial statements for December 10, 2024.

For information only.

9.2 TD Signing Authorities

- The board is asked to approve a corporate resolution for the Toronto Dominion Bank, allowing the district to open and maintain accounts and borrow money or obtain credit.

R02-1620

That the Board of Education approve the Corporate Resolution.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Cox

Carried

9.3 Engagement Letter – Auditors

- The Board is informed that the district has engaged a new auditing firm, MNP, and an engagement letter will be signed by the board chair and secretary treasurer.

10. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

10.1 Governance Policy Update

- Superintendent Clifton reports on the board's work plan to review, refresh, revise, and create policies, with assistance from outside consultant Mike McKay.
- The board is encouraged to ensure that policies reflect the district's direction and priorities.

11. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

11.1 BCPSEA

Trustee Morven Hansen reports on the BC Public School Employees Association AGM, highlighting key business items, recruitment and retention strategies, and the importance of maintaining confidentiality.

11.2 Provincial Council – no update

11.3 Chair Update

Board Chair Nelson informed that the next board chair day will focus on cyber security and K to 12, and the next advocacy day is scheduled for March.

12. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

12.1 Business – Chair Update
12.1.1 Terms of Reference

Superintendent Clifton reports on the Business Advisory Committee's first meeting, establishing terms of reference and guiding the development of policies that align with the district's strategic goals.

R02-1621

That the Board of Education approve the Business Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

12.2 Education – Chair Update

The board is informed that the Education Committee will be established later in the year, after the Business Committee is up and running.

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

13.1 BCPSEA Conflict of Interest for Trustees - Quorum

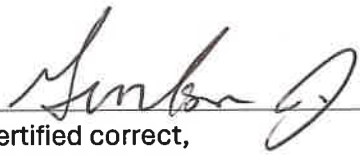
The board receives correspondence from the BC Public School Employers Association on conflict of interest for trustees and quorum requirements, which will be used to guide their work in governance.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:

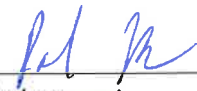
Superintendent discussed the intention to increase transparency and public participation in the Board of Education's public meetings. He outlined the rules for the question period, which includes a 15-minutes time slot for public questions, a requirement for advance notice, and process for delegations to make presentations to the board, which must be relevant to educational policies and submitted a week in advance. Superintendent Clifton emphasized that the Board is not obligated to take immediate action on the presentations.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned 7:08 pm



Certified correct,
George Nelson,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Paul Mercer,
Secretary Treasurer