

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

**TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 – 6:30 PM**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

**2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

Board Chair declared quorum

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MAY 19, 2020:**

**R02-1310**

That Board of Education approve the May 19, 2020 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Stevens

Carried

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

**R02-1311**

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on April 21, 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

1. BC's Restart Plan (attached)

- The Ministry recognizes the right of First Nations to determine the approach to instruction in First Nations schools and will continue to work closely with the First Nations Schools Association and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to share information and collaborate on areas of mutual interest. The Ministry will also continue to work with FNESC to ensure that the increase to in-class instruction in the BC K-12 system is implemented in a manner consistent with the Province's broader obligations to Indigenous students and their families.

- District Public Announcement:

May 15, 2020

As you are most likely aware the Ministry and the Premier announced today a restart of the economy. As per of that plan it also included a move from our current phase 4 state in schools to a new phase 3 by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Phase 3 is a voluntary option for parents of K-5 students to send them for direct instruction at school for up to 50% of a school week, and for Grade 6-12 students to come to school for one day a week for direct instruction.

At the strong recommendation of the Nisga'a Emergency Preparedness Committee, Nisga'a Valley Health, Nisga'a Lisims Government, the Village Governments, and supported by the Board of Education School District 92 will not move forward with the increased opening of schools at this time.

While we will continue to plan for a shift to phase 3 or beyond, our District will remain as we are, until confidence by Nisga'a Lisims Government, Village Governments and the Board of Education believe we are ready to open up. More detailed information will follow next week.

- Ministry Planning Requirement by May 25 (attached)

2. Current Status

a. Phase 4 Implementation

i. Current State

| School | Teaching Staff            | Support Staff in School | ESW Students               | Vulnerable Students |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| NBES   | 0 regularly               | 3 EA's                  | 1                          | 0                   |
| AAMES  | 3/6                       | 5/6                     | 4                          | 15                  |
| GES    | 2 part-time, 2 occasional | All                     | 0                          | 4-6                 |
| NESS   | All but 3                 | All                     | 9 elementary, 13 secondary |                     |

ii. Online Learning Success

iii. Mathletics Data – Mathletics Online Users since April 20, 2020

| School                    | Active Users | Once or Twice | Never |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| NBES                      | 67%          | 26%           | 7%    |
| AAMES                     | 43%          | 20%           | 37%   |
| GES                       | 50%          | 18%           | 32%   |
| NESS Elem.                | 23%          | 18%           | 59%   |
| Math 9 course             | 67%          | 7%            | 26%   |
| NESS Math 10              | 32%          | 23%           | 45%   |
| NESS-Gr.8 remedial Groups | 54%          | 8%            | 38%   |

I think some teachers are not using Mathletics online for their math program during remote learning and some parents have requested packages only. So, these results reflect both the students who are being requested to use Mathletics online by their teacher and students who without being requested by the teacher are using Mathletics online.

District data for literacy online programs reflect similar if not worse participation rates, but we are awaiting information from the companies to determine how we get it. Currently only individual class data is available.

iv. Breakfast programs – Board passed a motion giving individual schools the autonomy to decide best use of funds.

b. Successes

- i. Innovative instruction tools and strategies developing
- ii. A few points of high levels of engagement
- iii. Increased appreciation for the work teachers do
- iv. Greater collaboration between staff and schools
- v. Increased communication, and cooperation between school district and levels of community government

c. Challenges

- i. Less than 30% return of Learning Packages
- ii. Low completion or access to online learning tools
- iii. Challenge for families to be teachers
- iv. Challenge for staff to find the right balance of work
- v. High level of student/family disengagement
- vi. Many staff still have not entered the facility

### 3. Looking Ahead

#### a. Graduation – Commencement planning – Summary from Charity Peal:

- Red Carpet set up
- Staff will decorate those areas
- Videographer
- Grads with two support persons (family)
- Staff and custodial staff assisting with directing and maintaining orderly entrance, safe sanitation and effective exit
- Maintain an orderly and timely movement

#### Superintendent Rhodes:

Attended a meeting with Charity Peal, Grad students. What you see before you is a plan about us being able to recognize your graduates. This is a very difficult time for them.

#### b. Worries for September Restart

- i. Which phase will we be in?
- ii. Summer school? – Should we offer given the low participation rates? Instruction online?
- iii. Loan technology
- iv. Staffing
  - 1. Many still have high anxiety of returning-without knowing procedures will that increase over the summer.
  - 2. Will returning staff from the summer still need to self-isolate? If so, return to start school in September would require mid-August return or severe staff shortage until mid-September.
  - 3. Use two early Pro-D days severely hampered
- v. Procedural Knowledge
  - 1. With no practice in June, how will staff know how to navigate, how will students know health and safety rules, how will we organize classes, establish social distancing protocols, hygiene practices, movement through and

- in/out of the building, gathering restrictions. What will practice for parents/visitors be?
- vi. Timetabling/student scheduling – class organization, registration, limits on class size?
  - vii. Transportation/housing protocols?
  - viii. Continuation of on-line learning for first two weeks until quarantines lifted.
  - ix. New Leadership – what an initiation

Discussion:

Trustee Hayduk:

What is the Province's position on this? Is there a BCTF agreement on the steps taken?

Superintendent Rhodes:

To my knowledge, what we are told is both the BCTF and CUPE are in full support, at the President level of moving forward into Phase 3, but because of the Province, also made a very clear statement, First Nations Schools and Independent Schools as well as ourselves, we have the option to follow the guidance and direction of the Nation. That is what is happening in a number for first nations and independent schools as well as school district 92, in some parts of other district e.g. in Terrace, the band schools are not moving forward. There is a variety of situations where there are still a number of communities in lockdown across the province.

Trustee Hayduk:

The learning packages that were distributed or picked up, any ideas of the effect of this .... of a way of communicating?

Superintendent Rhodes:

One of the worries that I have, there is a number of challenges with the learning packages in terms of them being picked up on a regular basis, completed on a regular basis, being returned on a regular basis. So, there is definitely some worries around the learning packages as you can see in the data, a number of kids access the online learning tools, there is certainly some concern from my perspective. It is not the most effective way for our kids to be learning, but also respect the concern of the nation in terms of wanting to hold the line in this point and time.

Trustee Ousey:

Have the Village Governments Coordinators been contacted and are they helping in any way?

Superintendent Rhodes:

Yes, there is still representation on the Emergency Preparedness Committee, as well as the Programs and Services. They are all aware we are trying to give them weekly updates and have them help us encourage. Nisga'a Lisims Government's Communication Department is also working with the schools for encouragement, video together to get out to our communities. The schools are sending weekly messaging out to their communities and to their families to encourage folks to get the material completed. I think there has been some improvement, but it is still a concern that there is not enough activity going on.

Trustee Ousey:

A follow up to that, I understand you have your EOC and Emergency, and that is how the Villages are involved, but have we contacted the Village Governments and asked for the Home-School Coordinators to get involved?

Superintendent Rhodes:

Yes, we have been in contact with a four Education Managers and directly requested their support.

Trustee Stevens:

It is a little alarming to see the statistics from the different schools. I do not know what more we can do other than to say that we need to get the message out, that the children, especially the children that are in their formative years are expected to move up a grade next year may run into problems with the curriculum. I think that is where we need to get the message out. We need to get them into these online programs. Decision was made, we are going to keep schools closed, this is their only avenue of learning at the moment.

Superintendent Rhodes:

One of the big driving forces behind the province trying to move to phase 3, there has been a strong recognition that online learning models, the learning package are not working for a lot of our kids, they need to be back in some formative way to re-engage them, and that is why provincially, there is this move to try and get all kids back in the school to re-connect them to school. For some of our most vulnerable kids, it is not a model that is working well. It is not just us; it is across the province. There is a concern for our vulnerable population. It applies to us, but for all the right reasons we are still in the phase that we are going to stay in. We will do the best we can. I can assure you; we are constantly trying to engage families; teachers are regularly re-contacting homes. Principals are regularly communicating. We are making small gains, but there is still a

real concern and the data shows it in terms of the numbers that are not engaging fully in school at this point in time.

Trustee Stevens:

Worries for September re-start

With this pandemic that we are facing, we do not know where this is going to go in the next little while, if there is going to be a second way, we do not know that yet. I understand what you are saying Mr. Rhodes, we need to be all thinking about a plan moving forward for September. I support your comments, we need to do forward thinking on what we need to do throughout the summer to get prepared for September.

Trustee Ousey:

Some teachers are not in the valley. What is we were opening to Phase 3? Is there any particular reason why some of the teachers are not back in the valley? Shouldn't everybody be ready, willing and capable of working?

Superintendent Rhodes:

When I heard the announcement last week, had the Nation agreed, we will be moving forward, I would have insisted that all teachers return, so that by June 1<sup>st</sup> we are in a position to ramp up. At this point, not knowing when our startup would be, and it does not look like we will be starting until September. At this point we have a couple of teachers working effectively from a distance. Without breaching confidence as to why they are not in the valley, I would very much order them back.

Board Chair:

Suggestion:

1. Videographer

Great idea. Are we utilizing Nisga'a Lisims Government to save costs on that?

Nisga'a Lisims Government Communication has done some amazing live videos and it would be a great way for the communities to be able to see the kids graduate.

2. Support People

Grads want more support people in the building with them.

Suggestion: Have live stream on a projector outside, so that families can be outside watching the ceremony.

Superintendent Rhodes:

Thank you. I will take that forward. It is my understanding that I think through Nisga'a Lisims Government, but I cannot say for certain. Will have to double check that.

#### 4. Communication

- Superintendent attends weekly online meetings with Emergency Preparedness Committee, Northern Health, NLG Programs & Services Nisga'a Education Provider. All Village Governments are represented. Updates and response to questions shared weekly.
- Weekly updates provided to community by Superintendent and each school.

Comments:

Trustee Ousey:

When we first started having these meetings with regard to FNEESC and the FNEESC monies, the Board has no say on how the monies are being disbursed. One of the main things I heard as an answer was that, if it was not part of the grant proposal, that is not how the money was to be used.

Is this creative usage for the grad monies with regards to the FNEESC dollars? I see that they were great at helping with the breakfast club and having online feast modification, that was great.

Superintendent Rhodes:

My understanding is there has been some direction from FNEESC, They are well aware that because of the situation with the pandemic, the original plans put forward by the schools were not able to be accomplished, so there has been some allowances and adjustments. They have been able to adjust their plans. My assumption is they will be re-submitting their plans for FNEESC if there were any issues, FNEESC would let them know.

Board Chair:

Would like to acknowledge all of the prep and work that goes into what the schools have been doing to stay connected to their families, not just homework, but ensuring that the breakfast program is being rolled out, ensuring that teachers, staff and students are safe.

#### 5. School Reports:

##### a. NBES:

- COVID-19 Update
- Breakfast Club:  
NBES has purchased breakfast club supplies. The supplies were given to all 26 families of NBES. Prior to COVID-19 staff and community had a meeting to discuss the breakfast



program. It was decided at that meeting that FNEESC funds will be made available to assist the breakfast program for the remainder of the school year. At that time, we knew our budget will not last until June 2020. A second batch of breakfast supplies will be delivered to families the first week in June 2020.

b. NESS

- COVID-19 Update
- Successes
- Breakfast Club:  
NESS created one two-week box for the 25 most frequent households. The other box that was to be delivered this past week has been delayed to this week due to an ordering 'hiccup' with Save-On Foods. They had approximately \$2000 left in their breakfast club budget and have augmented from their school budget, another \$2100 to help make these boxes happen until the end of the school year. There was concern posted by a few staff members that they were not doing enough for families and are working on a package of feast supplies and a recipe to each of the households.
- Update on Language and Culture Grant

c. GES

- Update on COVID-19
- Successes
- Struggles
- Breakfast Program:  
A weekly breakfast package is being sent out to those families who have identified as in need on the surveys, however; since the surveys, we have had an increase of approximately 40%. Packages go out on Thursday and Friday, parents' pick-up the packages from a designated table at the front of the school. All areas are sanitized after each person enters and leaves the school.

d. AAMES

- Update on COVID-19
- Successes
- Struggles
- Breakfast Program:  
Started with families who were already using the breakfast program. We asked families to contact us if their situations had changed and they were needing support with breakfast. Two families were added to the list through direct contact. A newsletter was sent out to families apprising them of the breakfast program.

- A grant of \$1050 was received from the Breakfast Club of Canada to help with supplying breakfast materials
- A breakfast package is given to families at the beginning of the week when they come to pick up work packages
- Since the breakfast packages sometimes sit for a while before picking up, we are staying away from dairy products that need refrigeration. Quite often families walk up to pick up packages, so we are trying to keep them light to carry.

## 7.2 District Calendar 2020/2021

An update, we did get Ministry approval in terms of endorsement of the District calendar.

There are three place holder date for Pro D Days: September 21 in the event that the Education Convention does go ahead, as part of the collective agreement required to create an opportunity for our staff to attend at least one day of the Education Convention. It is tentatively scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September. If it does not go through, the Board would be able to have discretion at the recommendation of the Superintendent to change that Pro D Day. There are 2 NTU Days that are place holders, May 21 and the traditional day October 16. That would be ratified by NTU at their Annual Meeting (in June). Outside of that the calendar meets the Provincial requirements that was endorsed to go ahead. We will put it out to the general public by the end of May as required in the School Act.

## 8. **BUSINESS:**

Kory Tanner, Secretary Treasurer

### 8.1 Financial Statements – April 30, 2020

Secretary Treasurer Tanner presented the April 30, 2020 Financial Statements.

For information only.

### 8.2 IT Report – May 2020

Secretary Treasurer Tanner presented the May 2020 IT Report.

For information only

### 8.3 Director of Operations Report – May 2020

Secretary Treasurer Tanner presented the May 2020 Director of Operations report.

For information only.

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

None.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

10.1 Grad 2020 Gift

Board Chair:

This is something that I brought to the Board, and they requested that it be brought into the Public Session.

I found a gift that I would like to propose to the Board in the amount of 750 + taxes, a one-time gift to the Graduating Class of 2020. I don't want to go into too much detail about what it is. The Board is aware of it. It is intended to be a surprise for the Grads.

Trustee Ousey:

I am glad that it is a one-time gift and we as a Board need to say that. It is because of the unprecedented times. I ask that we consider possibly seeing if we can do something for the Grade 7 grads. What is the will of the Board?

Board Chair:

Are you proposing a similar gift Trustee Ousey?

Trustee Ousey:

Probably not in the extent for the grade 12s. Should look at seeing if they are doing anything for the Grade 7s and if they are, I would like to see if we as a Board can help them with their grad ceremony as well.

Discussion:

Trustee Hayduk:

If the Secretary Treasurer has no difficulties in finding the monies available. I have no concerns. There should be some form of recognition and acknowledgement. Times have been different then they have been in the last number of years.

Trustee Stevens:

I do agree, we are in unprecedented times here, normally the communities would take care of the grad ceremony. We do need to do something on our part to support our graduates from the different levels.

Trustee Ousey:

Would like to put a motion on the floor, that the Board of Education for School District 92 give a one-time gift to the Grads 2020, a monetary gift in the amount of \$800, possibly give to the Grad Committee; and see if there are any grad 7 teachers requesting financial gifts as well from the Board. Should we try cap Grade 7s now or should we just keep the motion just to the Grade 12's right now?

Board Chair:

Trustee Ousey, just to be clear, is your motion in regard to give a monetary gift to the Grad Committee or is it in regard to the proposed gift that I had forwarded to the Board prior to this meeting?

Trustee Ousey:

I am guessing the Grad Committee might not know about this gift then.

Board Chair:

No. The Grad Committee has the autonomy to do whatever it is to acknowledge the Grads. This was a separate thing that I had proposed and that is why I had brought it to the Board.

If it is okay with the rest of the Board, can I just share what the gift was going to be, so that we can have a more directional discussion. Can I poll the Board and see how they feel about it?

Trustee Hayduk:

As far as I am concerned, I would not need to know the specifics, especially if it is done in an element of a surprise. I have confidence with the decision of the Board Chair, it is totally within reason. I would be comfortable supporting that.

Trustee Stevens:

I think that the idea at the start was to surprise the Grads with a gift; without convoluting the discussion, I think we should just move ahead with the motion that we support the notion of a gift to each graduate.

Trustee Ousey:

I am not sure, are we discussing it?

Board Chair:

If I am not being in-correct, Trustee Hayduk and Trustee Stevens are fine with moving forward without discussing, without putting out the details of the gift. That is what I am basically doing now, is I am polling the Board to see if they want the details of the gift shared so that we can make a decision on the specific item before we start discussing the monetary amount being given to the Grad Committee.

Trustee Ousey:

I will go with the will of the Board.

Superintendent Rhodes:

As a point of order, there needs to be a motion put on the floor with a seconder so that you can debate it and move forward.

**R02-1312**

That the Board of Education, School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) grant a one-time gift in the amount of \$900 to the Graduation Class of 2020 as a one-time gift.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Stevens

Carried

All in favor

Trustee Ousey:

I propose that, because this is a surprise, and that if we have any discussion, that we could possibly have it in an In-Camera meeting for further discussion of the details of the gift.

Board Chair: Any opposition to that?

Trustees – No.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

None.

12. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

T. Scott:

Graduation

Appreciate the staff working diligently to ensure this happens for the grads. As a parent I am grateful for all their hard work. As majority of other school ceremonies have been cancelled.

Board Chair:

Anonymous questions cannot be addressed for recording purposes.

T. Scott:


When can we expect a report on the FNEESC funds adjusting in Program delivery?

Superintendent Rhodes:

I believe they extended the report, normally it is the middle of June or end of June. I believe they extended it to August, will double check before the final reports have to be submitted.

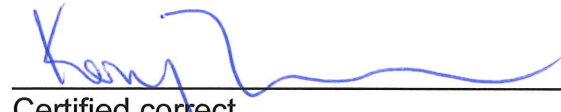
13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



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Certified correct,  
Elsie Davis,  
Board Chair



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Certified correct,  
Kory Tanner,  
Secretary Treasurer