

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 – 6:30 PM

In attendance:	Charlene Ousey Alvin Azak Norman Hayduk Floyde Stevens	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee Gitwinksihlkw Trustee Nass Camp Trustee Gingolx Trustee via Teams
Also, in attendance:	Jill Jensen Kory Tanner Sharlene Grandison	Superintendent Secretary Treasurer Recording Secretary
Absent:	Elsie Davis, Board Chair	Laxgalts'ap Trustee

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2020:

R02-1327

That Board of Education approve the November 17, 2020 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

R02-1328

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 20, 2020 be approved as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

none

6. **PRESENTATION:**
6.1 Youth Council

Cora Jane Davis:

Hello and good evening, my name is Cora Jane Davis, I am one of eight youth council members for Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School. We are currently working on making our school environment a little more inviting to the students. Also, the Youth Council is focusing on being positive role models and making sure every student has their voice heard. With the pandemic going on we understand that we cannot plan any events for school, but we can make an effort to bring smiles and school spirit to them. I would like to thank the Board for giving me the opportunity to inform you about Nisga'a Elementary Secondary Schools 2020/20201 Youth Council. Thank you for your time.

Board Chair Stevens:

Thank Cora. It is good to hear and keep up the good work.

Trustee Ousey:

Thank you for coming in today via teams, it nice to hear from you. Thank you very much.

Trustee Hayduk:

Thank you, Cora, for your presentation. Will you be contacting us regularly for Board meetings and so on?

Cora Jane:

Yes, I will be.

Trustee Hayduk:

Good, very good news.

Trustee Azak:

I am very happy to see you take a leadership role. We encourage it and invite every Nisga'a to take their place in the Nisga'a Nation. I am glad that you chose this as your place and that your family will be very proud of you. We are very glad to have you on board. Thank you.

Board Chair Stevens:

I myself as well Cora, want to thank you for your presentation and definitely good to hear the youth perspective around matters pertaining to our school and I look forward to more presentations from you, as your Youth Council gets going. Wish you all the luck. I too would like to say thank you for updating and taking on the leadership role within the school. Thank you very much.

7. **EDUCATION:**
Jill Jensen, Superintendent

Before I start on my reports, I would like to express my thanks to Cora Jane. She has really stepped up as part of our Youth Council and is always willing to take charge of things. Cora Jane thank you very much, I appreciate your commitment and look forward to working with you the rest of the year.

7.1 Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan 2018-2021 posted on the district website; feedback is welcome. I have updated a few pictures on the slides, that will be up this week. The plan is what it has been over the last three years.
- Over the course of this year we will be developing a new Strategic Plan.
- Starting to think about what our strategic priorities are, working with principals, having conversations about what is most important for our Nisga'a students and what values will be guiding our actions and our decisions.

7.2 School Plans for Student Success

- 3 of four schools presented their school plans for student success to the Board on November 9 for approval; plans, once they are revised and updated, will be posted on school websites and reviewed regularly throughout the year.
- The 4th school will present their plan hopefully before the winter break. So that we will have all four complete.

As a summary, the goals and the plans focused on literacy, language and culture, student well-being and numeracy. As a district admin team, we are working on identifying interventions for students when they are not meeting expectations. Measuring growth and how do we know what we are doing is making a difference. What is the evidence? And if it is not making a difference, what are we doing about it? That will be on-going work throughout this year.

7.3 Graduation Pathways

- Working with NESS to develop summary of graduation program and individual plans.

Power point presentation on graduation pathways.

When I started this year, one of the things I wanted to do immediately was pay attention to what was happening with our students in the graduation program, particularly the grade 12's. I started looking at closer tracking of the progress and reviewing the course completion and interventions and how can we include students and parents in planning the grad program. Creating some clarity making sure that everyone is aware of what was involved. Using the Ministry of Education document, just created a

checklist summary for students and parents, everything that students need to do to graduate. Which courses they can take in different areas and the number of credits that they need in each area. The grad program starts in grade 10 and students have three years to complete. Thank you very much to Ms. Peal, who is working with the Guidance Department at NESS. She and I worked on this document and then she took it to students in grade 12 and students started working on their program, filled it out, checked it off, shared it with families. As soon as they did that, one of the students who would have been graduating next year, realized, 'hey, if I do this, this and this, I can graduate this year'. So that is where our early grad came from. That was an exciting immediate, ok, if we put this checklist in front of people, it will help. That is our first tool. That is the summary that goes to families and then students have a blank copy, so they can fill in the courses they are interested in taking to meet requirements. Our hope is that students will share that information with the families regularly throughout grade 10, 11 and 12, so that families and students know where they are at and if they are on track or not. Next steps, that same focus with grade 11 students and families, grade 10 students and families and I am pretty sure that Ms. Peal has things well in hand already with the grades 11's. Once we have that in place, start focusing on literacy programming and intervention as soon as students start entering our school system in kindergarten. The sooner we can start tracking students and identifying where interventions are needed, or where support is needed, that would be great. Literacy matters, I could not talk about Pathways to Graduation without talking about Literacy, because we know our students need to be literate. It matters and there are so many reasons why it matters. These are just five. One of the reasons that it is most important to me, it is the currency of other learning, once you can read, you can learn whatever you want. When we talk about data and evidence and grad rates, it can be easy to lose sight of those behind the numbers. These two quotes are things that I live by: I have never encountered any children in any group who are not geniuses. The ultimate aim of education is nothing other than the creation of human beings in the fullness of their capacity. We cannot lose sight that behind those graphs and numbers are children. That is the reason I believe we need to champion the idea of 100 percent graduation and the success of all our students. Education is total way of life. It is about living a full and flourishing life, and every child deserves that, and every child is capable of that.

7.4 Throughout the District

- Provincial professional development day – October 23
- Unity Day Virtual assembly – November 3 at NESS organized by Ms. Peal. Thank you again to Ms. Peal it was a wonderful assembly. First time virtual Unity Day assembly. All of things that are so important. We are needing to find new ways to do them. I really appreciate the fact that teachers are seeking out ways to keep those things happening.
- Remembrance Day virtual assemblies held in our schools – November 10

- Ms. Borosa and Mr. McKay assisted me with SFU Explorations C session – November 12 where we hosted 32 teacher candidates for 2 hours, shared information with them about the Nisga'a School District and why this is a great place to work. There was a lot of enthusiasm and interest from the participants. Thank you to Ms. Borosa and Mr. McKay.

We have on-going sessions with POPARD that 15 or so teachers are participating in every two weeks, focused on differentiated instruction and executive function. Some plans have begun for grade 7 orientation at NESS. Staff and students at NESS are beginning to look at options for term 9 in June, which is the short term. It looks like there will be some unique and engaging options for students. At AAMES they started looking at a grade 7 co-op program. I would like to express my gratitude to our staff for the work they are doing despite the challenges of COVID. They needed to be flexible with how the schools operate, Cohorts, scheduling, remote learning, personal safety measures. It is all new and different. This is not how we were operating at this time last year. I truly appreciate the staff's commitment, resilience and flexibility. I really appreciate our family's patience and understanding as we do our best.

7.5 Language & Culture Report – Peter McKay

Superintendent presented the Language and Culture report.

- Work with fluent speakers to finalize the first of 6 old Sim'algax high school readers
- Begin revamping the next 6 readers
- Work with the printing company to design the layout of the new readers
- Upgrade and create a new unity-day resource
- Classroom visits in each school
- Guide the high school 10-12 Sim'algax program with their daily delivery of lessons
- Revamp the Aguhl jjabihl gat series and prepare it for the grade 8 classes to begin using on their start day of November 16, 2020
- Meet with the NESS literacy team to ensure that the content of the new levelled readers is culturally correct.
- Upload videos on to the Sim'algax101 you tube page which is now connected to the district webpage.
- Create sim'algax visuals for display in each classroom in the district.
- Sorting through resources at the L&C Building to prepare for the moving of resources to the schools.
- Begin the process of digitizing the collection of picture slides from the L&C Building.
- Substitute a few days for language teachers who have been absent.

Trustee Hayduk:

I was trying to relate some of the most recent FSA results we have gotten and trying to balance the grade 7 level as a predictive for the grade 10 performance. Maybe that is something we could see at some point, because it seems a little dismal I guess would be the word of the grade 7 math level, if the students are able to pick up the skills and still get the mathematics component of graduation, I would sure like to know that. I wondered if the Pathways to Graduation overview page, there seem to be a number of courses the students can choose in order to satisfy requirements and the right hand section of that goes into math, history of math, computer science, foundations of math, are those courses that are recognized from post-secondary? Or do they have to go to more rigorous mathematics to qualify for post-secondary?

Superintendent Jensen:

It would depend on what they would want to do at post-secondary. But the dogwood degree is a requirement of post-secondary.

Trustee Hayduk:

So as far as post-secondary is concerned as long as they have the Dogwood, they are good to go?

Superintendent Jensen:

Yes, depending what they want to go into, different post-secondary programs have different requirements.

Trustee Hayduk:

I was really glad to hear your comment on early recognition interventions, maybe we could flex that out at some point to see what that looks like, what actually does that mean, whether it is a tutorial, whether it is a course load. Maybe part of that is also how soon there is recognition of the intervention is working. If it delays 6 months or whatever that sort of goes one direction but if it is recognized within the first month, then that goes a different direction. That would be helpful.

Trustee Azak:

First of all, as a person harping on strategic plans for years, I'm very excited and happy to hear the developments that have been going on at the schools in the last little while. Not only are we seeing our Strategic Plan every month we see it on our website, and we hear about it. And now that the school plans are in place, I can see some strategic planning going at that level, some strategic actions going on. To me that shows that we are moving forward from not knowing where we are going to knowing what...or having a compass to guide us to where we want to go. I am really happy to see that because the more that we work on the Strategic Planning, the more people, staff and parents, and Governance level buy into this, the easier our work is going to be, because we know where we will be going, we will know how to get there. And we will be working together to get to that point. I can't say enough about that.

The other thing that I am really excited about is the marketing that we are doing for our district to young teachers are just going through the colleges right now, that is I guess that is another phase of the Strategic Plan. We are trying to get people that are going to want to be here, that wants to have a good view of what education and educating the Nisga'a school district is going to be like.

The other thing that we discussed at a Branch meeting we had with BCSTA, the Northwest Branch, we are living in the COVID era and I have seen it on the reports that the staff, the district leadership, staff students and parents are all understanding all the difficulties that we are going through and still achieving at the rate that we are achieving now. I am very happy to hear those issues come up in a Superintendent's report.

Trustee Ousey:

I enjoyed your Graduation to Pathways. If we have distance learning available for adults who have missed a couple of courses. This could be something that could be available for adults to come if they attended our school. Can adults register at our school for distance learning?

Superintendent Jensen:

We can help them figure it out.

Trustee Ousey:

I enjoyed Throughout the District report as well. You brought up COVID, again is everything happening and taking place safely? I brought it up at the last meeting. I continue to hear in my community concerns with regard to lack of masks and if child does not have mask(s), can we provide masks?

Superintendent Jensen:

Yes, all of our schools have masks available, all staff have masks. Students are provided masks if they need one or would like to wear one. All of our schools are following the Provincial Health Guidelines. Within Cohorts, masks are not required. We have many students who still choose to wear a mask, but they don't have to. I think that is a reason many community members feel that maybe we are not following, because Cohorts in the secondary level are quite big, and if you are in your Cohort you don't have to wear a mask. If you are out of your Cohort and cannot physically distance, a mask is required.

Trustee Ousey:

That was one of the things that has been brought to my attention people leaving the secondary level and then going to work with the elementary, they are doing a different, they are not in the same Cohort and they are required to wear a mask, that goes the same for substitute teachers who are not in anybody's bubble, they are all wearing masks in the classroom as well?

Superintendent:

They should be. If they can physically distance, they do not have to. So, it is when you are in close proximity.

Board Chair Stevens:

Thank you for the exciting reports, I look forward to working with the Strategic Plan. I was not on the Board when the last one was developed, and very excited as well as Trustee Azak to look at the process of doing the next Strategic Plan. Exciting times. The School Plans for Student Success, we all heard the plans and I believe they are up on the website. I want to say thank you to the Principals and whoever assisted them with the Plans. The Graduation Pathways, very excited to hear that report. Looking at the Pathways for our children, I always talk about how we get right from K up to grade 12 and the whole process of getting a small child from kindergarten to cross the graduation stage at grade 12. The Language and Culture report from Mr. McKay, very exciting and look forward to more progress there around our language and culture.

8. BUSINESS:

Kory Tanner, Secretary Treasurer

8.1 2019/2020 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

Report is due to the Ministry by the end of December.

For consistency with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, respecting Public Accounts reporting, a Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) must be submitted by each school district within six months following the corporation's fiscal year end. School Districts are defined as corporations as outline in the *Financial Information Act*.

Reference the attached 2019-2020 School District Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report.

The first page of the SOFI Report kind of has a table of contents and gives you a breakdown. A lot of the pages are the financial statements that were approved by the Board in the September Board Meeting as presented by the external auditor. Then there is a few numeration pages and payments to vendors.

R02-1329

That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) for the year end June 30, 2020.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

8.2 Monthly Financial Statements – October 31, 2020

Please find the Financial statements for October 31, 2020 attached. The first page after the cover is basically our revenues verses our expenses at the moment. We are pretty much right on track. Schools are buying supplies and resources to educate our children which is fabulous.

For information only

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

none

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Hayduk – BCSTA Provincial Councillor

October 24th. we had a zoom meeting, that being a Saturday, our Superintendent was helpful seeing that I had availability of the district system here to take part in that meeting.

58 attendees: trustees and number of supporting staff in attendance. The meeting was actually quite very well done considering how it was being done. It moved very well. There were opportunities throughout for Provincial Councillors to question and contribute to the discussion. There were about 9 or 10 motions, a couple of them came out of Haida Gwaii, from their Councillor, they are facing some of a unique situation and that was a point that was raised by administration, it is part of our responsibility to support individual districts who might have very focused concerns that might not be applicable to everybody, but there is need to show support for each of the districts. They were quite concerned about safe routes, especially because of student movement. They have situations where the speed limit on the highway is 80 kilometers an hour and they have students walking on the road with no proper shoulders. It is quite hazardous. They were seeking support from the group to approach Ministry of Highways to address that in some form.

There is also one that does affect us, it is concerning the Teacher Regulation Branch, that is a body that oversees evaluation of credentialing for new teachers. For teachers who have taken training away from the Province. There seem to be more and more teachers coming from out of Province and out of country. Some of the reports came in and the Teacher Regulation Branch, was very slow in reacting to the need of making sure the proper credentials were in place. Sometimes going as long as 2 years with either phoning a district that they have agreed that there is appropriate training level for that teacher. So that is leaving that district in a pretty awkward situation of not knowing for sure or whether or not their teachers are fully qualified to be in the classroom. Of course, most of these motions were passed by the body. I think there was only one that was turned down. Some of the larger districts mostly are facing concern of how Ministry is approaching new school construction and basing current enrolment numbers as a driver for selecting schools for new construction. I believe this came out of Prince George, they were saying they're situation is where they will be given a right to produce a new school, but it is at capacity when it opens. So that is really not a solution, it is a problem of foreclosing in schools. They're request was to move the planning to a 10-year projection for student numbers to try and address that this is where the monies are going to be.

Out of Burnaby and Vancouver came an interesting one, it seemed to be an off shoot of the difficulties in the States with the black lives matter movement, and it

generalized into discussion of districts having policy regarding racism. This came out of School District 23. This is something that when we get around to checking our policy and development of new policies, that is something we might want to see if there is anything there that can make our situation descriptive properly within policy.

There was a request among motion to remove the pay freeze regarding public sector executives ... some of these were either unanimous or very close, a request to Minister of Finance and Minister...to see if it was possible to remove the freeze for executives. The mostwas a strange one, talked about related to the COVID situation at outdoor activities and how districts were finding that...my goodness it's snowing outside, or raining outside now the kids can't really go outside, we should have covered areas for them to have their outdoor Ed. That was kind of an instant discussion and because some people talked about.... well if it is COVID, there should be more walls on that so could heat the area a little bit. Several Councillors spoke, saying...especially in Northern Districts, students and parents simply clothe their young people appropriately in relation to the climate. It was surprisingly an effective meeting. Thanks to the tech department for helping set up for the zoom meeting.

Trustee Azak – Vice-President – BCSTA/Northwest Branch
Northwest Branch Meeting – November 16, 2020

There wasn't very much happening at the Branch level, just a normal housekeeping, things like executive elections, the President position and one other are up for election at the meeting that will be on at the Academy. If you have any nominations for President, I think Shar McCrory is the current President. The President of the Branch, they are offsetting, one is the President is on even years, and the Vice-President is on odd years. Those elections will be happening then, and the Branch Meeting will be happening at the Academy starting at 11:00 am on, can't remember which day, will have to passed that on to the Board. This issue that was brought up was, because we are not going to all gather to meet some place to do the Branch Meeting, there was a question as to whether we should be at the executive, issuing invoices to each Board of \$300 for the fees. At the end it was decided that we would go ahead with that and if we don't have any expenses, we'll just pass that on to the next year. The current Secretary Treasurer said that we were low on funds. We need the revenue at the Branch level.

Board Chair Stevens:

A suggestion for the Branch Meetings, we could always use Microsoft Teams. Meet together with the 3 districts to hear the reports from each of our Northwest Districts.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

12. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD: 7:27 pm to 7:40 pm**

Rich Hotson:

I am please to announce Derek Azak NTU Vice-President was elected was elected on the first ballot at the recent virtual BCTF Representative Assembly to a three-year

term on the Judicial Council. This Council oversees internal mediation service of the BCTF.

Jeffrey Stanley
Made his comment in Nisga'a (no translation)

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**


The Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried



Certified correct,
Floyde Stevens,
Acting Board Chair



Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer