

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020 – 6:00 PM**

<b>In attendance:</b>	Elsie Davis, Board Chair Charlene Ousey	Laxgalts'ap Trustee Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee
Teleconference:	Floyde Stevens Alvin Azak Joe Rhodes	Gingolx Trustee Gitwinksihlkw Trustee Superintendent of Schools
<b>Also in attendance:</b>	Kory Tanner Sharlene Grandison	Secretary Treasurer Recording Secretary
Absent:	Norman Hayduk	Nass Camp Trustee

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm

2. **DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

Board Chair declared a quorum.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 30, 2020:**

**R02-1301**

That Board of Education approve the March 30, 2020 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Stevens

Carried

4. **2020/2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Superintendent Rhodes

4.1 Draft 2020/2021 School Calendar

2020/2021 Calendar Recommendations

- Approximately 25 community and staff made recommendations regarding the draft calendar

- 23 were opposed to splitting the two-week spring break, 2 were in support
- NTU submitted the idea of taking the two non-instructional days attached to Remembrance Day and moving them to February. They would add an NTU Pro-d day to make a short week during all native
- No opposition to moving two District Pro-D days to the Thursday/Friday before Labour Day weekend
- No other suggestions received.

**Recommendations:**

- Maintain Pro-D days before Labour Day to allow for a positive start up and orientation
- Keep two-week spring break based on feedback from community
- As both November and February are high absentee months for students and staff, Superintendent is good with either choice. Community Spoke strongly against providing support to all native by closing school which would suggest November would be preferable.
- NTU Pro-D days to be determined at their AGM

After discussion, the 2020/2021 School Calendar will have the Spring Break remain 2 weeks together and after feedback from the public with the two Pro-D Days are scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> Pro-D Day, February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> non-instructional days.

**R02-1302**

That the Board of Education accepts Superintendent Rhodes recommendations:

- Maintain Pro-D days before Labour Day to allow for a positive startup and orientation
- Keep two-week spring break based on feedback from community
- February 10<sup>th</sup> Pro-D day and non-instructional days on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>
- NTU Pro-D days to be determined.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Stevens

Carried

**Update from Superintendent Rhodes**

School District 92 Nisga'a like the rest of the province, is preparing to provide continuity of educational opportunities for students and other community supports during the current COVID-19 pandemic. This work includes developing plans and using alternative delivery methods to provide curriculum, instruction and assistance to students and families.

We are working under the guidance of public health officials and the Nisga'a Lisims Government expectations, to ensure delivery of educational services and supports in a manner that keeps students, families and staff safe. Consistent application of preventative measures must remain top of mind.

Today our schools and classroom teachers are beginning to develop flexible and innovative ways to accommodate the needs of each of our school communities. It is important to know that learning environments and related services may look very different from regular operations. It is also important to acknowledge that local circumstances may require different approaches between schools and communities. It also takes time and we are at the beginning, so we appreciate your patience as this unfolds. Over the next days and weeks teachers, support workers and administrators are preparing to support student learning until normal operations are resumed. It is expected by the Ministry that students are connected to their teachers no later than mid-April but we anticipate here that will be much sooner.

Before we can plan for learning though, we need to create safe procedures for access to the building, we need to learn new ways to communicate with each other, and new ways that learning can be provided remotely.

While we have considerable flexibility in how we deliver educational opportunities and supports to meet the needs and circumstances of our schools, service delivery must operate within current guidance from local and provincial medical health officers. In addition to providing educational services, we have been asked by the Provincial Health Officer to prioritize in-person care for children whose parents/caregivers provide essential services in the community.

What that means is we plan to operate on 4 guiding principles

#### **Guiding Principles**

1. Ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
2. Provide the services needed to support children of our essential workers.
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

This is extraordinary for everyone involved. Please be patient and respect the time and procedures schools need to create a safe working and learning environment.

On-line Schooling for Grads?

Yes, coming very soon. The grade 12's are the highest priority, all courses will be moved virtually to an on-line model as soon as possible.

#### FNESC Funds

The funds will continue to be available. FNESC is looking a repriorizing the existing plans. No details yet.

#### Breakfast Programs in Communities?

Looking at the possibilities of creating weekly breakfast boxes, providing supplies to enable children to have breakfast for the week, each would be delivered or picked up. Details need to be worked out. Way are being explored to continue the services.

#### IEP's

Students with IEP's, will they have to redo?

No. IEP's are reviewed on an annual basis, usually in the Fall. We are exploring ways to continue to provide the service to those students to continue to work on their IEP.

#### Laptops

Students who do not have laptops at home, can they access laptops at school? We are looking at the concept of digital library, where we could loan out devices. The details will be surfacing this week. There are challenges with charging the unit, as they are permanently installed in the library boxes.

#### Are kids from Elementary to use Ipads?

Each school is going to come up with a plan on delivery services. In many cases will consist of on-line using devices, as well as package learning.

#### What about ones that cannot access the internet?

Please understand, this district is small, we have limited amount of resources, we are encouraging parents/family to look into their own sources as well, ex. If a parent has a laptop, ipad, students can use for the duration of instructional time. Superintendent plans to connect with individual village governments to see how we can be supported. We are at the tail end of the school year, we are not equipped to give each child a laptop, as well as the internet, but definitely looking into options.

Schools will be contacting every family over the next 2 / 3 days to do an inventory to determine the exact need for devices, how much need there is for connectivity. Once we have that information, we're in a better place to know how much support we can provide.

#### FNESC Funds

Funds could be used to purchase laptops for student to use and can be returned to the school.

It would have to be looked into by each school. FNEESC dollars were allocated very specifically to each school. It's unfortunate that we're in this crisis situation, however individual contract per school must be adhered to.

Superintendent Rhodes – It is been explored.

**Extra-ordinary Funds**

Can you apply for extra-ordinary funds, targeting COVID-19, to cover costs for internet access and tablets through NLG?

As Mr. Rhodes has stated, he will be having a meeting on Thursday with NLG. They have reached out to this board to see how they could support the district.


Thank you everyone for tuning in, as Trustee Azak has stated, it was very heartening to see so many parents and concerned community in attendance at this meeting. It definitely gives the Board some food for thought on innovative ways we can engage our public and the respect that was shown to this Board and Administration staff in regards to your comments and question.


**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Stevens

Carried

  
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Certified correct,  
Elsie Davis,  
Board Chair

  
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Certified correct,  
Kory Tanner,  
Secretary Treasurer