

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92 (NISGA'A)  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
GITWINKSIHLW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
GITWINKSIHLKW, BC**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 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 9:35 pm

**2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

Board Chair declared a quorum.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 18, 2019:**

**R02-1267**

That Board of Education approve the June 18, 2019 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Stevens  
All in favor

Carried

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

**R02-1268**

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on May 21, 2019 be approved with corrections.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Ousey

Carried

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**  
No business arising from the May 21, 2019 Minutes.

6. **PRESENTATION:**  
No presentations.

7. **EDUCATION:**  
Joe Rhodes, Superintendent

7.1 District Language and Culture Committee

Invitations have been sent out Trustees, NTU, DSAC, PVP for a June 20<sup>th</sup> initial meeting at 1 pm at the School Board Office. Have asked school reps to bring a parent or Elder. Have received only four responses so far, but will go ahead with the meeting.

Would like a Trustee(s) to attend.  
Trustee Azak will attend

7.2 Graduation

Graduation is June 22 at NESS beginning at 1:00 pm.  
Governor General Award for top student and District Scholarship announced. See draft Agenda.  
Please try attend.

7.3 NLG Education Review

Superintendent Rhodes requests a Board motion to request release of the review to be utilized to update our strategic plan.

**R02-1269**

That the Board of Education direct Administration prepare a letter to Nisga'a Lisims Government requesting the release of the Review to be utilized in the update of the School District Strategic Plan.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak  
All in Favor

Carried

7.4 Upcoming Events

- Science World visit to NESS - June 17
- GES Celebration of Growth – June 19 – 5:00 pm
- NESS Year End Feast – June 19 – 4:00 pm
- NBES Year End Feast – June 26

- NESS Sports Day – other schools have been invited
  - GES Sports day – June 27
  - AAMES Celebration of Growth – June 27 – 9:00 – 12:00 pm
- For information only

8. **BUSINESS:**  
Orest Wakaruk, Secretary Treasurer

8.1 2019/2020 Annual Budget Version: 2424-1679-8696

For 2019/2020, the Board must prepare an Annual Budget, and have it adopted by Bylaw before June 30, 2019. As per Section 113 of the School Act and submit to the Minister of Education by this date.

In order for the 2019/2020 Annual Budget Version 2424-1679-8696 to be received to the Ministry by June 30, 2019, all three readings need to be done today.

**R02-1270**

That the Board of Education unanimously agree to give the 2019/2020 Budget Bylaw all three readings June 18, 2019.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Hayduk  
All in favor

Carried

**R02-1271**

That the 2019/2020 Annual Budget Bylaw Version 2424-1679-8696 be read a first time the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019.

**R02-1272**

That the 2019/2020 Annual Budget Bylaw Version 2424-1679-8696 be read a second time the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019.

**R02-1273**

That the 2019/2020 Annual Budget Bylaw Version 2424-1679-8696 be read a third time, passed and adopted the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

8.2 Five-Year Capital Plan

The 2020/2021 Five-Year Capital Plan, as outlined by the Ministry of Education's Resource Management Division, addresses funding requests for capital projects which involves new space, replacements, renovations, site acquisitions, seismic mitigation projects and bus purchases. Boards of

Education are expected to have a School District Facilities Plan in place that supports projects being submitted to the Ministry for capital investment considerations.

**R02-1274**

That the Board of Education approves the 2020/2021 Five-Year Capital Plan as presented.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Stevens  
All in favor

Carried

8.3 Interim Financial Statement at May 31, 2019

Secretary Treasurer Tanner presented the Interim Financial Statements at May 31, 2019.

**R02-1275**

That the Board of Education approves the May 31, 2019 Interim Financial Statements.

Trustee Stevens/Trustee Hayduk  
All in favor

Carried

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

No Policy Development.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

10.1 Website Meeting – Trustee Ousey

Still need group photos and write-ups.  
The website is pretty much done except for the little things to be done.

Trustee Stevens: Is there an official launch?

Secretary Treasurer Tanner: We are still waiting on the items.

10.2 Indigenous Education Committee – Trustee Azak

There are three members left from the Committee, members left.  
There are 7 new educated members to advocate for indigenous students.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

No correspondence.

12. **Pubic QUESTION PERIOD:**

Public question period on:

Celebration Feast – C. Peal

- Policy?
- Photos – release forms be signed?
- School function?
- Onus would be to contact parents give them the option to participate.
- Control over public taking photos and videos is extremely challenging.
- Announcement – 10 k run Thursday morning, leaving NESS.

Day Care - Taron Peal

- There was discussion of plans for a day care. Is there still plans for that?

Board Chair Davis:

Application was completed for Child and Family Development, we are awaiting an announcement.

Work has been done in regards to designing. Can't give any more information.

Keith Tait:

- Thanks Trustee Azak for representing our region for Advocation for our children.
- This is what Nisga'a culture is all about as well as good communication, every time I take part in observe different meetings, and you just got through telling my colleague, you can give only so much information.
- When we talk about education it is 24/7, we don't have any input as to how they are brought up.
- I have seen the onset of breakdown of communications, where information should be shared, not because of regulations you have to operate under.
- Now there is a review – language and culture is not being transcended properly to the level we want it at. Education is important.
- The Board needs to embrace the education, the way the Nisga'a leadership had envisioned it, to be a Nisga'a district.
- It is really condemning to me and other leaders. We're seeking answers at this moment, we are going to be making serious decisions. Not only talking to the Ministry, but the government. What I am saying is encouraging all of us, start thinking out of the box. For who are you providing a day care for? District employees or public. Is on Aiyansh lands? We are interested as well.
- I would like to encourage you as well to fulfill the obligation that Alvin left from retiring from the committee he is on. Takes a good person whose committed. This is something that has been missing from our students in the past. As a parent I lived through it as well. I encourage the board to take initiative, to think out of the box in working and providing leadership

Board Chair:

In regards to language and culture, since the FNESC dollars have come in, each of the schools has a language and culture committee. The last board meeting struck a Nisga'a language and culture district committee.

We are working with our language and culture Coordinator for the language to be consistent in the valley.

In regards to education and us working together, we want nothing more, we have been invited to Lisims executive. Had board meetings with Gingolx Village Government.

We are working hard to turn our schools back to community schools.

Daycare – it is for educators in regards to teacher retention, also for the public, for the whole valley. We realize there is a need for it.

These are the hopes and dreams of our district and our Valley.

Thank you for your words. Encourages to see three council members here.

Keith Tait:

We are ready to work with you on the initiatives.

Language and culture, takes some real interactivensess.

Get out into the environment, need to encourage that.

Trustee Stevens,

Thank you for the comments, comes at a timely moment.

We are working to make the schools a lot more conducive to learning, we will be making contact with unions, to begin have meetings with some of the problems in the schools. That is all geared to having the children be in the best place to receive what their learning properly.

Excited at the new approach with the new language. New program we're looking at, Ask Me program, it's around immersion, really excited about that.

Hopefully there'll be more success with it.

Thank you again for the comments, we are ready to work with everybody.

Superintendent:

Last year, schools required a bus 52 times to transport kids, we are changing, not as fast as some of us would like.

Many culture supportive environments. Hope it will continue.

Dr. Nyce and Superintendent will be offering senior students to take a first year college culture course in the fall, and in spring offer language course.

Doug Maclean:

Steps to bring culture together, music is a strong part of that culture.

History, bring photo graphs etc.

3 years ago, bought a trailer, questioned liability, no one came up with an answer. Talked with ICBC. Trailer has not be used.

Calvin Morven:

Approval process on any field trip process – what-ever the principal or superintendent approves in the schools, the school protection kicks in. There is nothing keeping him from using his trailer. It is just the approval process.

Incentives:

Do we have any community based/government based incentives, for ex. I received a Cr

Trustee Stevens:

I know all villages have their stories. All started about the same time, there is a lot of history there. If there's anything we can do to push the students towards band. In our community, concert band has gone down too. Good place to start is with the children.

Is it possible to give our children more incentives? Can consideration be taken on this?

What can we all do everyone to join hands to build the unity that the nisga'a nation stands for?

Does anyone have any suggestions to strengthen our bond?

Steps taken tonight, have committee from Aiyansh Village Government to work with us. The Board to work with unions. I think that if, and I realize its frustrating to follow process. Encourage you to follow process.

Floyd Davis, A council member and chair for Programs and Services.

Encouraged to hear the plan for the day care, and we did a series of questions, some Keith Tait asked.

I think majority of counsel was disappointed, that our plans for a day care was sidelined by your plan.

How many spaces are you looking at?

Nisga'a Language and Culture

Encouraged to hear the plans the district has for that within the schools.

I think, and not sure if it's a reaction to a study in Canada, coming extinct, I know the school district has offered nisga'a language instruction be it part time – actually hoping that we look at it, we have such a high concern in losing our language. Hoping that the teaching is expanded with in the district and become a regular subject for our children to learn, you have an excellent vice-principal whose is fully knowledgeable, speaks, reads

and writes, and hoping he is put to good use. The retention of the language is important, we are losing a lot of our elders, and speakers of our culture. At my age we don't have that, I can understand the language quite well, speak it in my mind. Hoping there will be an increase of instruction in the school.

WWN – majority of the graduates are in the First Nations.

To help promote or pat the back of the school district, I have three grown daughters now, went through the school. I uprooted them, one of their fond memories of the school, is the nisga'a language at nass. Sure we have other former students, hope they have those kinds of memories as well.

It is time we work together, and I'll say honestly, my perception from year 1 to most recent time, school district is operating in isolation. Pleased to see now there is an effort to work with outside bodies. We need to work with Governments, NLG and to hear what the communities are saying, my experiences with Village Government, I look forward to our public meetings. I look forward to our next run which starts in July.

Looking at the bigger picture, annual assemblies, to be honest I haven't gone to one. I am hoping that school district will become a part of that public meeting type arena, because the memberships are there, I think last year Nisga'a Valley Health took part in the last assembly. Encouraged on what I am hearing tonight, especially around the nisga'a language and culture. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Board Chair Davis:

We were part of the assembly.

Public meetings – I have attended to present a public meeting.

Your trustee is Trustee Ousey.

Regarding day care and numbers – the space we have and plans have drawn out, is set for 12, 20 multi spaces, depends on qualified staff we get.

That is what our floor plan is set for.

Taron Scott

Upcoming rec n read program

Would like to know if there is any statistics of improvements that students have been recommended to attend.

Based on teacher recommended to attend.

Would it be beneficial for her to attend, to gain progress, it might be beneficial to put those statistics out there, to attract more parents to apply for the program.

I don't know of any specific data.

A lot of celebration, over all a number of students who are minimally meeting expectations 56 – 82 percent. Combined efforts approach to literacy.

We know kids who come to school ready to learn and ready to read, research, they have spent a thousand hours with their parents reading. Those kids come prepared.

Is there going to be an elementary side playground?



Calvin Morven:  
Funding:  
New playground for 7 to 12 year olds.

New playground is semi handicapped right now.  
The one not completed yet is for the younger students.

Board Chair Davis, is that a ministry guideline, 7 to 12 year olds, or suggested age?

Calvin Morven, they put them in categories – the one we got replaced,  
You can add, but will rotate.  
PAC used to fund raise for the playground.  
They offered the three schools, covered under FTA dollars.  
Have PAC activated back in the schools to work with the school, strike a committee to design the playground.

Board Chair Davis, does concern me now of the risky play  
Elsie would like to meet with Calvin for more discussion.

Kathryn  
PAC was involved with this playground, went to one meeting.

Here as a parent:  
Single parent,  
Understand you're not allowed to discuss items that are not on the agenda.

One recommendation:  
For future meeting to attach and agenda to the notice.

Maybe read out once, or put up on a white board, for transparency reasons.  
Was expedited so quickly.

Concerns:  
Or suggestions or is there a mechanism other than emails, that have an ear of the board. Can it be made aware to parents of the district. Not enough for parents on issues that arise, trauma felt over the year. Need to feel comfortable.  
Communication on powering and advocating for our students.

Board Chair Davis:  
Brilliant idea to attach the agenda.  
Budget(s) are discussed in closed sessions, but available on our website once finalized.  
Finalized budget will be sent to the ministry

Communications  
There is a process in regards to how parents are able to be heard.

Speak to the teacher, administrator if not comfortable, if not ok with process, contact Kory Tanner, she will send the forms.

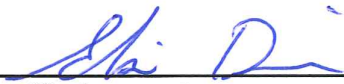
This board has put forth a motion to review communication policy.


Kathryn:  
Many parents are not aware.  
Put information out.  
Every format possible.

JR:  
The format put out to the parents,  
Would actually reach the parents,

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm

  
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Certified correct,  
Elsie Davis,  
Board Chair

  
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Certified correct,  
Kory Tanner,  
Secretary Treasurer