

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 – 6:30 PM

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

Trustee Azak to address families who have lost a loved one: Wii Na Buxw and Kwaxsuu

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2021:

R02-1337

That Board of Education approve the February 16, 2021 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

R02-1338

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on January 19, 2021 be approved as presented.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Azak

Carried

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

none

6. **PRESENTATION:**

7. **EDUCATION:**

Jill Jensen, Superintendent

7.1 COVID-19 & Continuity of Learning

Superintendent welcomes Cora Jane Davis to the meeting, Student Trustee Rep for Student Council. Did not have time to prepare a formal presentation, hoping at our April, May and June meetings Cora Jane or one other member will be present to make presentation.

Students are back in class this week starting on Thursday. Any families and students who choose to come to school can do so. Families who choose to continue learning at home will be accommodated to do so up until Spring Break. At that point if there are families and students who want to continue the rest of the year learning at home, we will have them connect with their school to discuss options. We are very excited to have students back in class. I would like to invite Cora Jane to share a student perspective about returning to class.

Cora Jane:

I think it is better to go to school because, I for one have a hard time doing the whole on-line school, and not having a teacher right there to help me. It is better to see some friends who do go.

Superintendent Jensen:

Thank you, Cora Jane. The conversation that we had last week with Youth Council, there were four of them participating in our meeting, all of them were very anxious to get back. It is harder to stay motivated when you are learning at home.

Another thing I have been working to do is to showcase and highlight the many great things that have been going on in the district despite students and teachers in an online remote learning situation. I have created a learning and leadership report, that will highlight some of the great things going on and there is a lot. Many of our staff have been involved in working on our strategic plan, that is well underway, and we will continue it, it will take us a few months to get that established where we really want it to be, we have great involvement from staff. We just finished 2 professional development days, February 5th and 10th. There was lot of focus on curriculum, assessment, and ways that teachers can enhance

instruction and create more opportunities for students. On Friday, it was a vacation day, but we had 11 of our teachers participate in a Joyful Literacy Professional Development that was apparently amazing and we are looking at continuing our learning with that. I also wanted to point out the BC Graduation Program, there is some information in the report about that. I wanted to highlight the difference between graduation and post-secondary requirements. When students graduate, they get their Dogwood diploma, having that diploma does not necessarily mean you can get into any university program you choose. Different programs have different prerequisites. There is an example in there of what that might look like. It is really important for secondary students to, if they are planning to go away to school that they investigate those programs and prerequisites that are required. Completing your grade 10 requirements in grade 10 is essential for helping you to graduate on time. It is important for students and parents to monitor progress, so we also have the overview in the Learning Report as well.

7.2 Language & Culture Report – Peter McKay

Since my January report I have been working with our dear friends, Cathy & Kristi upon the Literacy project to ensure that the English and Sim'algax versions of our readers are in their best mode of presentation. The readers are all based upon Nisga'a custom, ceremony and culture. The BC Curriculum calls upon the infusion of Aboriginal content in all subject areas. We have an opportunity to become leaders in the province with Aboriginal content. Our focus on building resources with Nisga'a stories is a blessing for all learners. Teachers across the province are currently seeking guidance with how to infuse Aboriginal content. Our book collection will become a foundation for learners and teachers to fully explore a strong influence of Aboriginal content. We are teaming up with SIMBI, an online reading platform to digitize our growing collection. We are in trial mode right now and figuring out the logistics of having a portal of our books available for reading online. The fun feature with the program is that we can record voice to match our written text. When the trial is ready for viewing, we will present this to the school board. Once the digital platform is set up, teachers can create learning groups for tracking student progress in their reading levels. We are also currently exploring options to have a mainstream publishing company print our collection of stories to be available in a larger market.

Update:

- We are hopeful that Covid-19 precautions will end soon so that we may commence with our plans for Sim'algax teachers to mentor with Fluent speakers.

- Each school is on track with their spending of the FNEESC Grants. The focus has remained upon supporting a foundation of Sim'algax based initiatives.
- The weekly language classes with Wal'aks and Ts'ak are a success. The puppet show recordings are all in the language and posted for public viewing on our District Youtube site, Sim'algax 101.

Trustee Davis:

Really excited to hear about this new program SIMBI, and there being a way to track the progress of our students. That is something that has never been explored except for when we are in the classrooms. So for them to have physical, digital, model to...so that parents are able to look at it as well is really exciting.

The other piece is in regards to the educators receiving their language and culture mentorship, you mentioned that there is 50 hours to start. Has there been a cohort chosen for those first mentorship partnerships to start happening in each of the schools?

Peter McKay

There has not been right now, we are going to focus...we have opened the doors to our sim algax teachers to partake in that, so we will function as individuals...we will each have our own mentor to begin with. It is like a trial run, test run with the first 50 hours. If all goes well, I think we will get to that space of choosing one person to learn from or have a rotation and do classes as teachers, as a group of teachers.

7.3 2021/2022 School Calendar

Two calendar options sent out for consultation.

Both options have the same number of vacation and instructional days.

155 people completed the survey. The more typical school calendar was selected by a significant margin of 77%.

It seems clear that Option 1 is the community and staff preference.

Thank you so much to everyone who provided feedback on the calendar.

It was the most feedback we have had on any issue 157 responded.

Within the comments some very thoughtful and helpful information.

Calendar #1 was clearly the choice. 77% that was pretty consistent for the length of time the survey was open, and it is still open, I will close it off this evening. I am going to recommend we go with Option 1 with a couple of adjustments based on the feedback. There was some time in February and the recommendation from many people was that time be aligned with Hoobiyee, I have made that adjustment, and there was a shifting of the professional development days to align with other Northern districts so that we can share resources. Some of the feedback that was most

interesting was the year-round, was a good idea but we need to look at it more. There is a desire for it to align with Christmas and Spring Break with surrounding districts, it certainly could. There was concern about missing out on harvesting and preserving with the year-round calendar. My hope is that eventually the best way for schools to engage in harvesting and preserving would be to have a year-round calendar. My thinking is, why isn't school involved in that? That seems like it would be an important thing for a school to do. Another point was students needing to work, secondary students needing summers off to engage in part time employment. Again, why can't we look at that having that available to our students year-round and they can get work experience, so they can get paid and get credits that would go towards graduation. Another thing that came up was extra-curricular opportunities for families and students mostly needing time in summer to travel out of the valley so that kids can engage in swimming or dance or needing to leave their communities for those things. So again, how can we look at providing more of those extra-curricular opportunities for students within their own communities, so they do not need to leave for that? There are all kinds of opportunities if students are interested in skiing or arts or something that requires them to be away school, how can we work together so that becomes part of their schooling. I appreciated all the insights, gave me lots to think about and I am going to recommend we got with Option 1 with those couple of adjustments around Pro D and the February vacation time.

R02-1339

That the Board of Education move to accept version 1 as the 2021/2022 School Calendar.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried

8. BUSINESS:

Kory Tanner, Secretary Treasurer

8.1 Monthly Financial Statements at January 31, 2021

Secretary Treasurer presents the Monthly Financial Statements at January 31, 2021.

Spending is still on track. Keep ourselves in a good position and following the Audited Financial Notes as were laid out in June. We are in a good position at the moment, as pointed out, we did lose a bit of funding through the Ministry in our FTE drop. I think with planning we have been able to maintain.

For information only.

8.2 2020/2021 Amended Annual Budget

Attached is the finalized 2020/2021 Amended Annual Budget which is due to the Ministry by February 28, 2021.

We did do two readings of this Budget in the January Board Meeting, but the Ministry approved the second amount of the Federal funding for COVID, so I had to amend the Budget, tonight we will have to all three readings because of the changes, the first two readings are null and void.

R02-1340

That the Board of Education unanimously agree to give the 2020/2021 Budget Bylaw all three readings on February 16, 2021.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

R02-1341

Read a first time the 16th day of February 2021 and that the Board approve the Amended Annual Budget dated February 5, 2021 Version 9648-8903-6920.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Azak

Carried

R02-1342

Read a second time the 16th day of February 2021 that the Board approve the Amended Annual Budget dated February 5, 2021 Version 9648-8903-6920.

Trustee Ousey/Trustee Azak

Carried

R02-1343

Read a third time passed and adopted the 16th day of February 2021 that the Board approve the Amended Annual Budget dated February 5, 2021 Version 9648-8903-6920.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Ousey

Carried

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

none

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

None

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

None

12. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Charity Peal

Minutes from previous meeting: Superintendent Policy: Social Meeting – should be Social Media and in question period: C.Peal – confused with sm'algaX not sim'algaX.

Charity Peal:

Clarification from the Superintendent about her adjustments to the calendar – do you mean that there will be non-school days around Hoobiyee?

Superintendent Jensen: Yes

Taron Scott:

In regard to the return of students to schools, what is the ratio of adults to students in each school? If it cannot be answer now, hopefully we can be updated during the next public meeting board meeting.


Superintendent Jensen: I can find out.

Charity Peal:


Re: Next year's calendar – if there are non-school days, it may prevent student involvement.

Trustee Davis:

It is true that teachers may not be able to involve the students in Hobe as a school project, but it may encourage parents to take their children the whole being and experience the culture together with their child.



Certified correct,
Elsie Davis,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer