

**NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MICROSOFT TEAMS
GITLAXT'AAMIKS, BC**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 – 6:30 PM

In attendance: Winnie Morven-Hansen, Chair Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee
George Nelson Gingolx Trustee
John Johansen Gitwinksihlkw Trustee
Danica Moore Laxgalts'ap Trustee
Edward Desson Nass Camp Area Trustee

Also in attendance: Jill Jensen Superintendent of Schools
Kory Tanner Secretary-Treasurer

Absent:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Board Chair acknowledges the families that have lost loved ones.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

There is a declaration of quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

6.1 Presentation is removed from the agenda.

R02-1422

That the Board of Education approve the January 17, 2023 Agenda as presented.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Johansen Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

4.1 Minutes of December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

R02-1423

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on December 13, 2022, be approved as presented.

Trustee Moore/Trustee Johansen Carried

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
No business arising from the December 13, 2022 minutes.

6. **PRESENTATION:**
No presentation.

7. **EDUCATION:**
Superintendent

7.1 2023/2024 District Calendar

Superintendent Jensen presents the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 District Calendars.

The 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 District Calendars need to go out to the public for consultation for 30 days and then be approved by the Board by March 31.

7.2 Indigenous Education Report

Welcome to each of you, the new Nisga'a School District 92 board members. We are delighted at your arrival and put forth the most precious of medicine for your sacred walk with us as we guide our students and staff into a bright and promising future.

At the beginning of this 22/23 school year, we sat as a family of educators to plant some seeds of local Nisga'a culture. We've reinstated the longhouse style of meeting by sitting in a circle. The circle allows for an atmosphere of calm and open-minded energy.

The presence of the drum, song and dance or what we love to refer to as ceremony was prevalent throughout the few days gathering. Such loving methods have set the tone for a delightful Nisga'a enrichment approach to learning. We will keep using our drums.

One aspect that we have adopted into our method of upholding the district's strategic plan, which is rooted in Nisga'a belonging is the "Benefits of the Indigenous drum", by Davita Marsden. Through the process of embracing the teachings of the drum we are,

- Infusing indigenous voice through the curriculum.
- Revitalizing Indigenous language, music, spiritual and cultural practices.
- Reinstating Nisga'a natural ways of knowing and being.

SUCSESSES since we opened the doors in September 2022

- Courses such as grade 10 English Spoken Language are calling upon an awareness of self through studying mainstream approaches of Indigenous poetry, regional aboriginal authors, AND a peek into what truth and reconciliation is rooted in. Students are upon a pathway of discovering their roots by telling their family histories.

- The daily practice of TPR through our 5 Sim'algax classroom settings is fast underway with positive results. We want to branch out to include parents in the learning too.
- The presence of the drum to tell stories, to call students into the school, to sing and dance is evident in each of our sacred settings. We are learning to hand this over to the student body to lead as they step into being brave. We are collectively learning the DISTRICT SONG so that we can present it on Aboriginal Day 2023.
- Greeting students in Sim'algax at the bus when they arrive is a step back into traditional protocol. We will be approaching local community members to partake in this process in an effort to bridge community back to the school.
- The presence of Elders (fluent speakers) in our school settings is alive and well.
- The continuous compilation of story based Sim'algax text learning resources have continued and we are now in year 4. Stories are in the process of having audio enhancements with fluent speakers.

8. **BUSINESS:**

Secretary-Treasurer
No Report

9. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

No Policy Development.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

No Trustee Reports.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

No correspondence received.

12. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:** via Microsoft Teams

Elsie Davis:

Thank you for your presentation, Mr. McKay.

In light of Mr. McKay's concern of funds dwindling for fluent speakers does this Board plan on putting a motion forward to have a proposal sent to Lisims Government for funding. Their fiscal year is coming near, and it would be beneficial to have some from the district in their finance table.

Peter McKay:

Thank you Elsie for your suggestion. It is something I think that we definitely can do knowing where we are sitting at currently. Because we have this opportunity to have a seat at the table with Lisims Government from time to time. I think it's ideal and we'll definitely move forward with your suggestion, thank you.

Elsie Davis:

Not a question but encouragement for new board members to review previous board meeting minutes to get a better understanding of the evolution of revitalization of the Nisga'a language in SD92.

Board Chair:

Thank you Elsie.

Taron Scott:

When will the public sessions be open to in person?

Board Chair:

Please check the website. It will be put on the website when we start having the open in person sessions with our community members.

Taron Scott:

Why are there only two versions of the calendar being presented and why not present one with a week in February?

Superintendent Jensen:

The two calendars are for two different years. One is for 2023/2024, the other is for 2024/2025. It will be going out for consultation to families and staff for 30 days. Any feedback that you provide the board will consider.

Taron Scott:

How does the budget account for increasing administrators, when we have postings for teachers at every school?

Board Chair:

Please direct your question to our Superintendent Jensen. Since it's not on the agenda, you can contact her by email or call her at the school board office. Thank you.

Board Chair:

Taron, your other questions, can you please follow-up with Superintendent Jill Jensen call her at the school board office or email.

Board Chair:

Elsie Davis can you please contact Superintendent regarding your questions.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm

Trustee Johansen/Trustee Moore

Carried

Handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "for George Nelson". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Certified correct,
George Nelson,
Board Chair

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kory Tanner". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Certified correct,
Kory Tanner,
Secretary Treasurer