

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92 (NISGA'A)
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
ALVIN A. MCKAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LAXGALTS'AP, BC**

OCTOBER 17, 2017 – 6:30 PM

In attendance:	Elsie Davis, Board Chair	Laxgalts'ap Trustee
	Alvin Azak	Gitwinksihkw Trustee
	Sally Barton	Gingolx Trustee
	Norman Hayduk	Nass Camp Trustee
	Tabitha Munroe	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustees

Also in attendance:	Joe Rhodes	Superintendent of Schools
	Carey Stewart	Assistant Superintendent
	Orest Wakaruk	Secretary Treasurer
	Sharlene Grandison	Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Board Chair declared a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 17, 2017

R02-1145

That the Board of Education approve the Agenda for October 17, 2017 as presented.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Munroe

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

4.1.1 Regular Minutes of September 19, 2017

R02-1146

That the Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Board of Education held on September 19, 2017 be approved.

Trustee Barton/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

5. SUMMARY OF IN CAMERA MEETING OF THE BOARD

5.1.1 Summary of Special Meeting of the Board, September 19, 2017.

R02-1147

That the Summary of the Special Meeting of the Board held on September 19, 2017 be approved: the Board of Education of School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) approve the purchase of two lots and Secretary Treasurer Wakaruk to negotiate best prices on both.

Trustee Hayduk/Trustee Barton

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising from the minutes.

7. EDUCATION

7.1 Superintendent of Schools:

7.1.1 National Principal's Month

Superintendent Rhodes presented an Article from the B.C. Principals & Vice-Principals Association: October is National Principals' Month in Canada and the British Columbia Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA) is proud to celebrate the vital role Principals and Vice-Principals play in driving excellence in public schools.

7.1.2 Article in BCTF Teacher's Magazine

BCTF news reporter attended the "March to School" at Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School in September. The October edition of the Teacher's Magazine features our District.

For information only.

7.1.3 Access to Public Health

An offer has been made by the Public Health Nurse Megan Eleson of Nisga'a Valley Health for all four communities in the Nass Valley, to provide nursing and public health support in the schools.

This could look like an onsite nurse for 4 hours a week for students to access and ask health questions; she could offer workshops like 'good touch vs bad touch', Ages and Stages, and Sexual health and health relationships.

She could be a resource, as needed. She can also help with spectrum and development referrals, and IEP's.

She is requesting to know whether she needs to submit a formal letter, or other next steps.

Trustee Hayduk suggests that there be discussion with the CEO at Nisga'a Valley Health to ensure that the timetabling is set to service everyone's needs.

Trustee Azak in favor to leave it to Administration to work out the details.

Board Chair commented that Ms. Eleson should discuss with Nisga'a Valley Health on her offer to the District in order to mandate her scheduling.

R02-1148

That the Board of Education approve Megan Eleson's involvement with schools and direct the Superintendent to work with Principals to determine needs.

Trustee Barton/Trustee Munroe

Carried

7.1.4 Acknowledgement of Orange Shirt Day

We should be proud of the support our students, staff and community made to the outstanding participation in Orange Shirt Day, September 29th. A special thanks goes out to organizer Charity Peal, and the Nisga'a Lisims Government for their support and participation at the culmination of the event. It was a wonderful learning experience for our students.

7.1.5 Education Conference

Superintendents Rhodes comments that the two day Jointly planned Education Conference was highly successful. Suggests that the Board Chair write a letter of acknowledge to Laxgalts'ap Village Government and Nisga'a Lisims Government for their contribution and involvement.

7.1.6 Adult Education – needs Identification

Superintendent Rhodes met with the four village Education Coordinators and WWNI to discuss needs for Adult Education given the Ministry's reinstatement of funding.

Math and English upgrading was consistently identified as the greatest need. Enrolment required to offer a course would be 20-25 students. Course claim - \$577 per students if completed, half at registration and half upon completion.

R02-1149

That the Board of Education direct Superintendent Rhodes to advertise the opportunity in all communities to determine interest, and if sufficient enrolment then offer night school in as many communities as possible beginning in January 2018.

Trustee Munroe/Trustee Barton

Carried

7.1.7 Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course Update for 2017/2018 School Year

BAA Courses need to be reviewed and updated to align with the new curriculum.

Locally developed courses need to be reviewed.

Superintendent Rhodes will bring revisions to the Boards attention for approval.

For information only.

7.1.8 Find Your Fit Tour

Assistant Superintendent Carey Stewart

We have an opportunity to have WorkBC's Find Your Fit Tour work with our students at no cost to our district. The Find Your Fit Tour is a WorkBC initiative that has been receiving outstanding feedback over the past three years.

The program has been designed to target students grade 5-10. The program includes 5-6 hands on, interactive and engaging activities that have been designed around in-demand occupations, it will also showcase some of the related skills and duties involved in those occupations.

This program would take place November 14, 2017.

We will move forward in planning with School Principals in engaging students to take part. It would also be a wonderful opportunity for Trustees to take part on this date.

7.1.9 Nisga'a Code of Conduct Policy No. 911-P

Assistant Superintendent Stewart:

A motion to send the draft Nisga'a District Code of Conduct Policy out for feedback was passed through the Board meeting September 19, 2017. The draft Nisga'a District Code of Conduct Policy was sent out to the nation agencies, Nisga'a Government offices and Lisims Government for feedback on September 28, 2017.

To date we received two responses to this draft policy, the first response was in writing, there was a request to change one of the Nisga'a terms Hathaatkw-respect.

The second response was a phone call conversation from the same person to leave the first term Hathaatkw-respect as it is. It was stated that the former Nisga'a Heritage Society embedded the term Hathaatkw – respect in the Policy No. 100-P Nisga'a Vision for Education which was a main part of information used in the Nisga'a District Code of Conduct

Trustee Azak suggested that more research be done.
Board Chair feels it would be better if the Policy was sent out again, put in the monthly newsletter, and send out to Parents.

7.1.0 BCSTA Student Performance Application at AGM

Assistant Superintendent Stewart:
School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) has an opportunity to apply to perform at the BCSTA Annual General Meeting April 26 to 29, 2018. This will allow our students to participate and showcase their hard work and talent. The application is attached.

Our students will have an opportunity to perform at the BCSTA AGM if this application is approved by the BCSTA, funds will be arranged.

District groups from across British Columbia will also be applying to perform. The planning around this educational opportunity for our students will be a wonderful experience for our students.

Trustee Azak: Any plans for fundraising?

Assistant Superintendent Stewart: Hopefully we will find support within the four communities.

R02-1150

That the Board of Education of School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) approve the BCSTA Student Performance AGM 2018 Application, to be submitted to the Director, Education Services, BCSTA before October 20, 2017.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Munroe

Carried

8. BUSINESS

8.1 Secretary Treasurer:

8.1.1 Housing Shortage in Laxgalts'ap

Secretary Treasurer Wakaruk:

Currently we have a 4-unit complex; 2-2 bedrooms and 2-1 bedroom. The MOA has increased staffing by 1, a learning resource teacher. It is difficult to find a private house for rent. The School board has a building on the school property that is not required for education purposes. We can convert this building into a duplex with 2 bedrooms in each unit. I am working with an architect to develop a floor design and a specifications sheet(s). The renovation would be according to the BC Building Code.

The estimated cost is \$100,000.

We do have a number of employees that live here with their own homes; when they retire, we will not have accommodations for the new teachers coming in, if they're not from Laxgalts'ap and their own homes.

Note: Tabled to the next Board meeting.

8.1.2 Facilities Inspection Surveys

Contracts for surveys and inspections have been completed:

1. 39 house inspections were completed; remedial work has started and will continue into the Fall. Started with an application to kill the mold and spores in all crawl spaces; next step will be to get rid of debris and then the standing water in the spaces. The baseboard heaters were turned off by occupants, this has led to even more moisture and humidity build up in the crawl spaces. The heaters will be disconnected. Some are even in the water.
2. Workplace Hazardous Materials survey has been completed on all facilities, residences.
Smoke tests on the fireplaces has been completed. Estimated replacement costs for each fireplace is required.

For information only.

8.1.3 Inspection of Teacherages

During July 2017, Amerispec completed inspections of all units in the 4 communities. Attached is a Summary on the individual buildings, conditions reports. A more detailed report (up to 10 pages) is available. Major improvements required in the crawl spaces, insulation of flooring, perimeter walls, electrical, plumbing, attics, fire places, water drainage, decks, steps.

R02-1151

That the Board of Education approve all repairs as per the building Condition Reports by funding the repairs and improvements up to an estimated amount of \$200,000 by transferring these funds from the Local Capital Funds to the Operating Fund.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Munroe

Carried

8.1.4 Financials at September 30, 2017

Secretary Wakaruk presented the Financials at September 30, 2017.

For review/information only.

8.1.5 Banking Resolution

Signature cards for banking must be updated to reflect changes to staffing; Superintendent and the NESS Principal.

A copy of the Banking Resolution that includes the signing authorities for Trustees and the Principals for the school bank accounts.

R02-1152

That the Board of Education of School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) approve the Royal Bank resolution regarding Banking.

Trustee Barton/Trustee Hayduk

Carried

8.1.6 Annual 2017/2018 Budget Review

Background on what was included in the approval Annual Budget on June 20, 2017.

1. The budget was built based on 391 students FTEs.
2. The 2017/2018 budget requires education services review. Areas need addressing are the Special Needs, ELL and the Aboriginal Education Programs. The teacher and Education Assistant staffing levels at each school need to be examined. Salary and benefits are 83% of the budget.
3. Finance has been reviewed, with staff hours reduced and a new position, Assistant Secretary Treasurer has been added. The Data Clerk is assigned to finance half time.
4. The Operating Grant recovery is estimated at \$400,000.

R02-1153

Direction for the Secretary Treasurer to review all programs and provide a progress report at the November 2017 Board meeting.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Barton

Carried

8.1.7 Board Policy Orientation

Secretary Wakaruk has been in contact with Mike Roberts, CEO of BCSTA to arrange a session for Trustees on Board Policy Development.

Mr. Roberts forwarded a list of facilitators to choose from. The facilitator could do a general overview of the current board policies to get a sense of the content.

The training session would be 2 – 4 hours; followed by perhaps looking at the current policy manual to determine what is policy and what are administrative procedures.

Recommendation to select a facilitator, date and location that is best for the Trustees and the chosen facilitator.

Trustee Azak:

November 23-25, 2017 is the Trustees Academy.

Need commitment from the whole Board to attend the Academy, then we can have the the Board Policy Review on November 22nd the day before the Academy starts.

The Board is in agreement to have the Board Policy Review on November 22nd.

Secretary Treasurer Wakaruk to contact Facilitator Juleen McElgunn, Former Superintendent of School District No. 23.

8.2 Maintenance:
No maintenance report.

8.3 Information Technology
No information Technology report.

8.4 Human Resources
No Human Resources report.

9. POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW:

Discussed under 7. Education, item number 7.1.9 – Nisga'a Code of Conduct Policy No. 911-P.

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

No correspondence.

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS: (verbal)

No Trustee reports.

12. PRESENTATIONS:

12.1.1 Nisga'a Teachers Union

1. BCTF Brief to the Ministry:

President Rich Hotson presented his report on a Brief to the Ministry of Education from the BCTF, the brief contains key recommendations on many of the issues and policies important to the public education system.

2. What role does absenteeism play in a students performance in school.

3. Several teachers attended the North Coast Fall Zone Meeting: all discrete groups examined the issues around implementing our restored collective agreement with the overall goal of restoring and improving the Public Education System.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:

Matthew Bright:

Raised concerns on:

Student attendance

Is it improving? Superintendent Rhodes will forward a copy of attendance for September 2017

Brought forward a concern that is reflective in all communities:

Students not taking education seriously and needs to be addressed.

Stipulations put in place for funding for students participating in sports, especially basketball: students participating should provide proof of good standing and attendance.

Check with CFO, Nisga'a Lisims Government, on recommendations to education and attendance.

Adult Education:

Good opportunity, we need to capitalize.

Soon facilities will be available, we will soon have a library, thanks to Principal Susan Forbrigger for giving connections on this.

Peter Leeson:

Comments on procedures for first, second and third & final reading on Policies.

Questions the process for the BCSTA Student Performance at the Trustees Academy, to include all schools or one school?

Budgets: expresses concerns regarding the budget and cuts to employee positions.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.



Certified correct,
Elsie Davis,
Board Chair



Certified correct,
Orest Wakaruk,
Secretary Treasurer