



**NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
NATHAN BARTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
GINGOLX, BC**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025 – 5:30 pm**

**A G E N D A**

1. <b>PROTOCOL</b>			
2. <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>			
3. <b>DECLARATION OF QUORUM</b>			
4. <b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 1, 2025</b>	Motion		
5. <b>ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:</b>			
5.1 Regular Meeting – March 4, 2025	Motion	Attachment	Page 1-6
5.2			
6. <b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:</b>			
6.1			
7. <b>PRESENTATION:</b>			
7.1 Introduction - Director of Instruction – Bryce Recsky	Information	Verbal	
8. <b>EDUCATION:</b>			
SUPERINTENDENT			
8.1 Superintendent's April Update	Information	Handout	
8.2 Indigenous Education Update – Director Azak	Information	Attachment	Page 7-10
8.3			
8.4			
9. <b>BUSINESS:</b>			
SECRETARY-TREASURER			
9.1			
9.2			
9.3			
10. <b>POLICY DEVELOPMENT:</b>			
10.1 Field Trip Policy & Regulation - Draft	Information	Attachment	Page 11-16
11. <b>TRUSTEE REPORTS:</b>			
11.1 BCPSEA	Information	Verbal	
11.2 Provincial Council			
11.3 Board Chair's Report	Information	Attachment	Page 17-19
12. <b>STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:</b>			
12.1 Business – Chair Update			
12.2			
13. <b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:</b>			
14. <b>PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:</b>			
15. <b>ADJOURNMENT:</b>			

**Next Board Meeting: May 1, 2025 - SBO**



## NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

### MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5.1

<b>Action:</b>	X	<b>Information:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Regular	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	April 1, 2025
<b>Topic:</b>	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board – March 4, 2025		
<b>Background/Discussion:</b>			
Minutes as attached.			
<b>Recommended Action:</b>			
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on March 4, 2025 be approved.			
Presented by: Board Chair			

**NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
VIRTUAL: Zoom**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 – 4:00 PM**

<b>In attendance:</b>	George Nelson, Chair	Gingolx Trustee
	Winnie Morven-Hansen	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee
	Danica Moore	Laxgalts'ap Trustee
	Carl Azak	Gitwinksihlkw Trustee
	Gary Cox	Nass Camp & Surrounding Areas

<b>Also in attendance:</b>	Robert Clifton	Superintendent of Schools
	Paul Mercer	Secretary Treasurer
	Sharlene Grandison	Executive Assistant - Recorder

**Absent:**

1. **PROTOCOL:**

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

3. **DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

The Chair declared quorum.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  
R02-1621**

That the Board of Education approved the February 4, 2025, Agenda as presented.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Azak

Carried

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2025

**R02-1622**

That the Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board held on February 4, 2025 be approved.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Cox

Carried

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

No business arising from the minutes

7. **PRESENTATION:**

7.1 Culturally Grounded Counseling Program

Presenters: Keane Tait & Morgan Monkman

- Discussed culturally grounded counseling in Nisga'a School District 92
- Introduced a grounding practice for students.
- Highlighted collaboration with Nisga'a Valley Health.
- Focused on identity, connection, and self-care.
- Developed strategies for integrating language and culture into counseling.
- Encouraged partnerships with external agencies for student support.

Comments:

- Trustee Azak and Trustee Morven-Hansen expressed appreciation for the collaboration and student-centered approach.

7.2 Nisga'a Teachers' Union

Presenter: Derek Azak

- Discussed alignment of professional development days with School District 82.
- Addressed concerns about staffing shortages, lack of substitute teachers, and student support.
- Raised concerns about virtual board meetings limiting transparency and participation.

8. **EDUCATION:**

Superintendent

8.1 Superintendent Update – February 2025

- Provided updates on the strategic planning process.
- Community engagement meetings scheduled for May.
- Teacher and administrator evaluations underway.
- Job descriptions for senior leadership roles being finalized.
- Highlight student participation in District Hoobiye and cultural celebrations.

**R02-1623**

That the Board of Education receive and file the Superintendent's February 2025 report as presented.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Cox

Carried

## 8.2 Indigenous Education Director's Report

Tanya Azak

- Provided updates on language educator meetings and curriculum integration.
- Highlights upcoming Nisga'a Author Series.
- Announced cultural days scheduled for each school.

### **R02-1624**

That the Board of Education receive and file the Indigenous Education report for February 2025 as presented.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Morven-Hansen

Carried

## 8.3 2025/2026 School Calendar Approval

Superintendent Clifton presented for approval, the 2025/2026 School Calendar.

### **R02-1625**

That the Board of Education approve the 2025/2026 School Calendar with adjustments to align professional development days with School District No. 92 (Coast Mountain).

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Azak

Carried

## 9. **BUSINESS:**

Secretary Treasurer

### 9.1 Annual Amended Budget

#### **R02-1626**

Secretary-Treasurer Mercer requested approval of three readings in one sitting for the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Cox

Carried

### AMENDED ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW

A Bylaw of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92 (NISGA'A) (called the "board") to adopt the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024/2025 pursuant to section 113 of the School Act, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act").

1. The Board has complied with the provisions of the Act, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry of Education and Child Care Policies respecting the Amended Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw.
2. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2024/2025.

3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2024/2025 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$15, 757.939 for the 224/2025 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the Act.
4. Statement 2, 4, and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

**R02-1627**

READ A FIRST TIME THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025;

**R02-1628**

READ A SECOND TIME THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025;

**R02-1629**

READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBURARY, 2025;

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Cox

Carried

9.2 Auditors MNP LLP Letter

- Auditor's engagement letter from Myers, North, Penny & Co. reviewed.
- Board Chair authorized to sign engagement letter.

9.3 School Water Testing Report

- Water quality tests conducted by First Nations Health Authority.
- Minor lead and copper concerns at some locations; mitigation strategies implemented.

10. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

10.1 Reviewing Governance Policy

- Governance policy review scheduled for April.
- New policies being drafted.

11. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

11.1 BCPSEA – Representative Trustee Winnie Morven-Hansen

Trustee Morven Hansen will be attending a bargaining workshop in Vancouver.

11.2 Provincial Council – Trustee Carl Azak

Trustee Azak reported on BCSTA meeting discussions on tariffs, Victoria School Board concerns, and trustee leadership programs.

12. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

12.1 Business – Chair Update

Chair: Trustee Carl Azak

- Discussed financial reports, policy reviews, and strategic planning.
- Alternate trustee to be determined.

12.2 Education – Chair Update

- Committee formation and membership still in progress.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

13.1 No correspondence received.

14. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:**

- Questions from Derek Azak regarding projected budget deficit, staffing expenditures, and the Education Committee.
- Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer provided responses.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned 7:38 pm.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Azak

Carried

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Certified correct,  
George Nelson,  
Board Chair

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Certified correct,  
Paul Mercer,  
Secretary Treasurer



# NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

## MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.2

<b>Action:</b>		<b>Information:</b>	X
<b>Meeting:</b>	Regular	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	April 1, 2025
<b>Topic:</b>	Indigenous Education Update – April 2025		
<b>Background/Discussion:</b>			
Indigenous Education Update for April 2025 attached.			
<b>Recommended Action:</b>			
For information only			
Presented by: Director of Indigenous Education & Early Learning			



# Director of Instruction's Monthly Update M'maal 2025



## Nisga'a Language & Culture Family

**Elder in Residence** continued guidance, mentorship and leadership to all educators within the Nisga'a School District by

- ❖ Currently vacant.

**Helping Teachers** continues to promote inclusion of Nisga'a language and culture, while fostering inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students by

- ❖ Currently focusing on: Support educators in embedding Nisga'a values, and teachings into curriculum practices, modeling song and dance leadership to build capacity and continued collaboration with the district student counselor.

**District Principal of Indigenous Education** – The District Principal plays a vital role in advancing Indigenous education initiatives, ensuring cultural responsiveness, and fostering inclusive learning environments.

Key duties could include:

### Cultural and Community Engagement

- Collaborate with Indigenous elders, knowledge keepers, and community members to support cultural teachings and traditional knowledge in classrooms.

### Instructional Leadership

- Develop and implement strategies to integrate social-emotional learning through Indigenous ways of being, promoting well-being and resilience.
- Provide professional learning for staff to enhance their understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems, trauma-informed practices, and culturally responsive teaching methods.

### Program Development and Support

- Guide schools in developing land-based learning opportunities and activities that reflect Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Support the inclusion of Indigenous content across subject areas while aligning with BC curriculum requirements.

By weaving Indigenous knowledge, cultural teachings, and social-emotional learning into district-wide practices, the **District Principal of Indigenous Education** ensures that Indigenous students thrive while all learners benefit from a deeper understanding of Indigenous perspectives.



NESS Totem Pole

# Director of Instruction's Monthly Update M'maal 2025



## Update on Compassionate Systems

The Nisga'a School District will be host to a Foundations II – Compassionate Systems Workshop

Dates: May 28 – 30, 2025

Place: TBA

Website: <https://systemsawareness.org/program/foundations-ii-awareness-nisgaa-fmay2025>

For more information on Compassionate Systems:

- Center for Systems Awareness - [www.systemsawareness.org](http://www.systemsawareness.org)
- MIT Systems Awareness Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology - <https://systemsawareness.mit.edu>

## Nisga'a Author Series

The Nisga'a School District was host to Samantha Beynon (her husband and her child) as a part of the Nisga'a Author Series.

On March 10, Samantha Beynon Author of *Oolichan Moon* visited the Nisga'a school district. Samantha is from Kxeen Island (Prince Rupert), lives in Victoria, BC, on the unceded territory of the Lekwungen and Wánec peoples. She is Nisga'a and Ts'msyen and comes from Wilp Axdii Wil Luugooda and the Ganada clan in Gingolx.

Students were highly engaged during the Nisga'a author's reading, demonstrating curiosity and attentiveness throughout the presentation. The author's storytelling captivated the audience, weaving together elements of Nisga'a language, culture, and personal experiences. Students actively participated by asking thoughtful questions, sharing reflections, and connecting the stories to their own learning. The author's ability to blend traditional knowledge with relatable themes encouraged meaningful dialogue, fostering a deeper appreciation for Indigenous perspectives. This interactive experience not only enriched students' understanding of Nisga'a heritage but also inspired them to explore their own cultural identities and storytelling practices.





# Director of Instruction's Monthly Update M'maal 2025



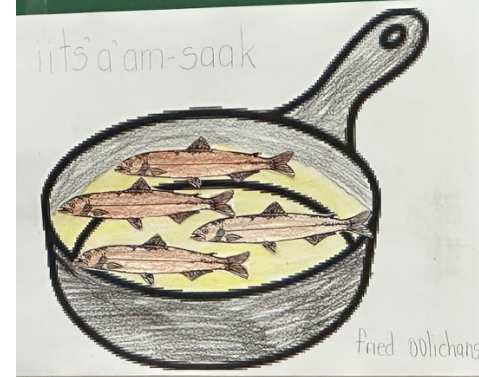
## District Cultural Days & Hobiye at Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School

We were very excited to celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nisga'a School District Cultural Day at NBES (Community Hall) on Thursday March 13, 2025. Schools traveled to NESS for an unforgettable event, filled with song and dance and educational activities that were focused on the Oolichan harvest. The Na Aksa Gylak'yoo School from Kitsumkalum join the activities and shared their songs and dance with our students and staff.

Below are the dates for each school that will host a cultural day in the months to follow, these days will also be filled with song and dance, story and traditions. :

- ⇒ April 17, 2025 – AAMES Laxgalts'ap
- ⇒ May 13, 2025 – GES Gitwinksihlkw

*Please mark your calendars, as we would be honoured if you can join us on these days!*





## NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

### MEETING AGENDA ITEM 10.1

<b>Action:</b>		<b>Information:</b>	X
<b>Meeting:</b>	Regular	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	April 1, 2025
<b>Topic:</b>	Field Trip Policy & Regulation - Draft		
<b>Background/Discussion:</b>			
Draft Field Trip Policy & Regulation attached.			
<b>Recommended Action:</b>			
Presented by: Superintendent			

## Nisga'a School District No. 92

### Field Trip Policy

#### A. Policy

The Nisga'a School District No. 92 is committed to enhancing student learning through experiential, curriculum-based field trips that broaden academic, cultural, and social horizons. Recognizing the educational value of learning outside the classroom, the district shall ensure that all field trips are conducted in a safe, well-organized, and culturally respectful manner, in full compliance with applicable provincial legislation, district policies, and local community values.

This policy establishes the expectations, procedures, and responsibilities to ensure all field trips are lawful, safe, and equitable, adhering to the British Columbia School Act, the Workers Compensation Act, and the Motor Vehicle Act.

The Nisga'a School District is committed to experiential learning, safety, and legal compliance. This policy provides a clear framework for conducting responsible field trips, maximizing both educational value and student well-being.

#### B. Purpose

1. **Educational Enhancement:** To integrate off-site experiences that align with BC's curriculum and learning goals.
2. **Risk Management:** To identify, assess, and mitigate hazards associated with field trips.
3. **Legal Compliance:** To ensure adherence to provincial, local, and district regulations governing student safety and liability.
4. **Stakeholder Communication:** To provide clear communication among educators, parents/guardians, and all participants regarding the purpose, procedures, and safety measures of field trips.

#### C. Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to all field trips and educational excursions when students participate under the authority of the Nisga'a School District, including those arranged by schools, community partners, or external educational organizations under the district's oversight.

## D. Definitions

1. **Field Trip:** Any structured learning experience conducted off school property that supports curricular objectives.
2. **Field Trip Organizer:** A teacher or designated staff member responsible for planning, coordinating, and supervising the field trip.
3. **Participants:** All students, teachers, and support staff involved in a District-sponsored field trip.
4. **Parent/Guardian Consent:** Informed written or electronic authorization obtained from a parent or guardian before participation, detailing the itinerary, risks, and responsibilities.

## E. Regulation

### 1. *Field Trip Planning and Approval*

1.1 **Curriculum Alignment:** All field trips must clearly support BC's prescribed learning outcomes.

#### 1.2 **Approval Process:**

- **Level 1-2 Trips:** Must receive written approval from the School Administration, with proposals submitted 14 days in advance.
- **Level 3 Trips:** Require Superintendent or Director approval, submitted one month in advance.
- **Level 4-5 Trips:** Require Board of Education approval, with a proposal submission four months in advance.

#### 1.3 **Risk Assessment:**

- A comprehensive risk assessment must be completed for all field trips.
- Risk mitigation strategies must address transportation, supervision, environmental hazards, and student needs.

#### 1.4 **Documentation Requirements:**

Field trip proposals must include:

- Objectives and educational outcomes.
- Detailed itinerary and timetable.

- Risk assessment and mitigation plan.
- Emergency procedures and contact information.

### **1.5 Board Oversight:**

- Level 4-5 trips require Education Committee review and Board of Education approval at a public meeting.

## **2. Supervision and Staffing**

### **2.1 Chaperone Requirements:**

- The minimum staff-to-student ratio must comply with District safety guidelines.
- All accompanying personnel must receive training on student supervision, emergency response, and behavior management.

### **2.2 Pre-Trip Briefing:**

- Organizers shall conduct a pre-departure safety briefing covering emergency protocols, conduct expectations, and risk management.

## **3. Risk Management, Health, and Safety**

### **3.1 Risk Mitigation:**

- Conduct a detailed risk assessment covering transportation, site safety, and emergency response.
- Develop an emergency response plan tailored to the trip location.

### **3.2 Health Considerations:**

- Document all students' medical conditions, allergies, and special needs.
- Ensure first aid kits and emergency contact information are accessible.

### **3.3 Supervision:**

- Adequate supervision is mandatory, in accordance with District-mandated ratios.
- Additional personnel must be arranged based on participant needs.

## **4. Emergency Preparedness & Procedures**

### **4.1 Every field trip must have a documented emergency plan, including:**

- Designated supervisory roles for staff.

- Communication protocols for emergency services and parent notification.
- Evacuation routes and assembly points.

#### **4.2 Incident Reporting:**

- Any incidents must be reported to the District Office and WorkSafeBC, where applicable.
- Corrective actions shall be implemented promptly.

### **5. Consent and Communication**

#### **5.1 Informed Consent:**

- Obtain written or digital consent from parents/guardians, including detailed trip information, risks, costs, and emergency contacts.

#### **5.2 Communication Plan:**

- Maintain regular updates during the trip via pre-determined communication methods.
- Provide parents with emergency contact information and safety procedures.

### **6. Transportation**

#### **6.1 Regulatory Compliance:**

- All transportation must comply with BC's Motor Vehicle Act and School Act requirements.
- Vehicles must be properly maintained and inspected.

#### **6.2 Driver Qualifications:**

- Only qualified, licensed drivers with necessary safety training shall be employed.

#### **6.3 Insurance and Liability:**

- The district shall ensure adequate liability insurance coverage.
- Parents/guardians shall be informed of insurance limitations and their role in risk management.

### **7. Financial Provisions**

#### **7.1 Fee Structure:**



- Costs must be clearly outlined before trip approval.
- Fees must be established fairly and transparently.

#### **7.2 Financial Assistance & Equity:**

- The district shall ensure equitable access to field trips in accordance with the BC Human Rights Code.
- Financial assistance or fee waivers shall be available for students in need.

#### **7.3 Accounting:**

- All collected funds must be properly managed, recorded, and audited in accordance with District financial policies.

### **8. Compliance and Policy Review**

#### **8.1 Regulatory Adherence:**

- Field trips must adhere to BC provincial laws, district policies, and health and safety standards.

#### **8.2 Periodic Review:**

- This policy shall be reviewed regularly by the District Education Committee to ensure compliance with emerging best practices, safety standards, and community feedback.



## NISGA' A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

### MEETING AGENDA ITEM 11.3

<b>Action:</b>		<b>Information:</b>	X
<b>Meeting:</b>	Regular	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	April 1, 2025
<b>Topic:</b>	Board Chair’s Report – Ministry of Education – Partner Liaison Meeting		
<b>Background/Discussion:</b>			
Board Chair’s Report for the Ministry of Education – Partner Liaison Meeting held on March 6 and 7, 2025 attached.			
<b>Recommended Action:</b>			
Presented by: Board Chair			

## Board Chairs/Partner Liaisons Meeting March 7, 2025

The first day consisted of just the Board Chairs being together and for the second day it was all together with Senior Admin. This was done with a purpose in mind, and I really enjoyed the format.

The Board Chairs meeting consisted of the morning being focused on Conflict and Conflict Resolution. The presenters did a great job in engaging the room and it was clear that all the Board Chairs were very much a part of the presentations.

After lunch we moved into a panel of Trustees who had a focus on Bargaining. The Collective Agreement with Teachers as well as the support staff. Personal insights and questions made the panel a very informative one.

Questions from the floor garnered a moment when it was asked if Districts should have a School Trustee sitting at the bargaining table. It was then decided that there would be a show of hands from the Board Chairs on whether their district had a Trustee at the Bargaining Table or not.

From the Panel, one said yes, one said no and the other two said it depends and were in the middle. Then the show of hands made it clear that the districts who do not have a Trustee at the bargaining table were in the majority.

The final part of the first day had the Board Chairs network at our table and there was a BCSTA Director who led the session with three questions. Good, bad and what can we learn from each other. The table I was on had one district that had one of their schools burn down and they had to relocate about 250 students and staff while another had their by-election canceled. It got heavy in that moment, but it really pointed out that while we have our problems and challenges, we are not alone in that and there are others who are having a tougher go.

Overall, the first day with the Board Chairs went very well for the conflict and conflict resolution session lent itself to the bargaining and job action portion of the afternoon.

Day two saw everyone come together, and I was happy to see Paul and Robert on my table when the day began. This was by design. First, we heard from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, then we got updates from them on such things as cyber security and Indigenous Education.

The afternoon consisted of a working session where the trifecta of Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer and Board Chair worked together to answer questions posed by the moderator.

The highlight for me as Board Chair was seeing our ST, Paul, stand up and speak to Bill 40 and Indigenous Education and he encouraged everyone in that big room. I do not want to misquote or get his words wrong so at the end of this report, I would appreciate it if Mr. Mercer reiterated his words for the Board because he was the only Speaker to get a round of applause for his comments.

I am still so proud of that moment, and I know that when we come together with our standing committees, we can strengthen things like our policy review cycle.

It was a great couple of days, and I appreciate that Paul and Robert were there. Shout out to Robert for his strength to be there while he is not 100%.

On a final note, I was able to turn in a signed Nomination Form for the BCSTA Board of Directors.