



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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 – 6:30 pm

A G E N D A

1. PROTOCOL			
2. CALL TO ORDER			
3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM			
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2024	Motion		
5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:			
5.1 Regular Meeting – October 8, 2024	Motion	Attachment	Page 1-5
5.2 Special Regular Meeting – October 9, 2024	Motion	Attachment	Page 6-8
6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:			
6.1			
7. PRESENTATION:			
7.1 NESS	Verbal		
8. EDUCATION:			
SUPERINTENDENT			
8.1 Superintendent Report	Information	Attachment	Page 9-14
8.2 Nisga'a Enhancement Report – Director of Education	Information	Attachment	Page 15-17
8.3			
9. BUSINESS:			
SECRETARY-TREASURER			
9.1 Request for Proposal	Information	Verbal	
9.2			
9.3			
9.4			
10. POLICY DEVELOPMENT:			
10.1			
11. TRUSTEE REPORTS:			
11.1 Board Meetings	Information	Verbal	
11.2 Trustee Representatives	Information	Verbal	
11.3 Indigenous Education Committee Report	Information	Attachment	Page 18-19
12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:			
13. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:			
14. ADJOURNMENT:			

Next Board Meeting – December 10, 2024 - Virtual



NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5.1

Action:	X	Information:	
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	November 19, 2024
Topic:	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board – October 8, 2024		

Background/Discussion:

Minutes as attached.

Recommended Action:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 8, 2024 be approved.

Presented by: Board Chair

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 – 6:30 PM

In attendance:	Winnie Morven-Hansen, Chair Danica Moore Carl Azak Gary Cox	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee Laxgalts'ap Trustee Gitwinksihlkw Trustee Nass Camp & Surrounding Areas
Also in attendance:	Matthew Monkman Robert Clifton Paul Mercer Sharlene Grandison	Superintendent of Schools Incoming Superintendent of Schools Secretary Treasurer Recording Secretary
Absent:	George Nelson	Gingolx Trustee

1. **PROTOCOL:** Acknowledgement for Wilps Ksdiyaawak and Wilps Gwiixmaaw on the loss of family members.

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

3. **DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

Board Chair declared quorum.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

R02-1601

That the Board of Education approve the October 8, 2024, Agenda as presented.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Cox

Carried

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

5.1 Minutes of September 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

R02-1602

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on September 10, 2024, be approved as presented.

Trustee Cox/Trustee Azak

Carried

5.2 Minutes of September 24, 2024, Special Regular Meeting Minutes

R02-1603

That the Minutes of the Special Regular Meeting of the Board held on September 24, 2024, be approved as presented.

Trustee Cox/Trustee Azak

Carried

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

7. **PRESENTATION:**

8. **EDUCATION:**
Superintendent

8.1 Superintendent Report – October 2024

Superintendent Monkman presented his October 2024 Report:

- Professional Learning – October 20th a Non-instructional day, Professional learning Chairperson, Kimi Hisanaga, organized a day of Nisga'a language learning for district staff.
- Revitalization of band Program – the district has engaged Bryce Cotton to teach band classes at Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School. The district has redirected \$10,000 of funding towards the purchase of some additional instruments to augment the program.
- Nisga'a School District Social Media Account – This month the district refreshed its FaceBook page as a communication platform for the community, staff and students. The page has been rebranded as "Nisga'a School District No. 92 – Gilmuxw" (to tell news – pass on information).
- USport Basketball Teams – University basketball teams that came in the valley visited school sites and engaged with students while learning about this place and Nisga'a language and culture. It was an amazing opportunity for our learning to connect with post-secondary basketball players and the organizers of this event are applauded for bringing them into the valley.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Students and staff around our schools acknowledged September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with events and activities. NESS along with GES marched to Nisga'a Lisims Government building where powerful speeches by youth and community members were delivered.
- Poles Provided to Nathan Barton Elementary – October 3rd, the PRGT (Nisga'a Lisims/Western LNG) company delivered a cedar pole in three sections to NBES. This was received in a traditional ceremony by Chiefs of the community. The sections will be used for a carved pole and other carving projects.

8.2 Nisga'a Learner Enhancement Report

Director of Indigenous Education & Early Learning – Tanya Azak
Indigenous Education Family:

- Elder in Residence – provides guidance, mentorship and leadership to all educators within the Nisga'a School District

- Helping Teacher – promotes inclusion of Nisga’a language and culture, while fostering inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students.
- Support Teacher – focusses on supporting all Nisga’a learners in language and culture.

Indigenous Education Council – In collaboration with senior management, we are learning about and supporting the establishment of an IEC. Letters for nominees have gone out. November 1st will be the appointment of these members. First gathering is scheduled for November 1, 2024. IEC Gathering November 12, 2024. Goals for the month: review the IEC materials in preparation of the 1st IEC gathering.

Early Learning:

StrongStart BC

Ready Set Learn (RSL) Program

Highlights from September:

- Each school hosted a “Walk back to school” events
 - Orange Shirt Day NESS & GES
 - Donation of cedar poles to NBES
 - Language & Culture Classes Thursdays at 7PM on Zoom (begins Oct. 10)
- Unity Day Planning for the 50th Anniversary, first meeting has happened.

9. BUSINESS:

Secretary-Treasurer

9.1 Lava Rock Removal - NESS

- Lava rock should not be on the building
- Is sacred
- Removal will help clear the negative energy from the school
- Have a ceremony to bring the lava rock back where it belongs
- Get an architect estimation for removal
- Get full story on why it was installed in the first place

R02-1604

That the Board of Education approve the Investigation on the removal and cultural return of lava rock facing on Nisga’a Elementary Secondary School.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Cox

Carried

10. POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

No policy development.

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS:

No Trustee Reports.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

No correspondence.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:

No public in attendance.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Trustee Azak/Trustee Cox

Carried

Certified correct,
Winnie Morven-Hansen,
Board Chair

Certified correct,
Paul Mercer,
Secretary Treasurer



MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5.2

Action:	X	Information:	
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	November 19, 2024
Topic:	Minutes of the Special Regular Meeting of the Board – October 9, 2024		

Background/Discussion:

Minutes as attached.

Recommended Action:

THAT the Minutes of the Special Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 9, 2024 be approved.

Presented by: Board Chair

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 – 4:00 PM

In attendance:	Winnie Morven-Hansen George Nelson, Chair Danica Moore	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee Gingolx Trustee Laxgalts'ap Trustee
Also in attendance:	Matthew Monkman Robert Clifton Paul Mercer Sharlene Grandison	Superintendent of Schools Incoming Superintendent of Schools Secretary Treasurer Recording Secretary
Absent:	Carl Azak Gary Gox	Gitwinksihlkw Trustee Nass Camp & Surrounding Areas

1. PROTOCOL:

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared a quorum

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

R02-1605

That the Board of Education approve the October 8, 2024, Agenda as presented.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Moore

Carried

5. 2023/2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Auditor presented the 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements.

R02-1606

Whereas School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) Board of Education reviewed the 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements with the Auditors' firm Vohorra Chartered Accountants.

Whereas School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) Board of Education confirms acceptance of the 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Therefore, be it resolved that School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) approve the 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements for submission to the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

Trustee Moore/Trustee Nelson

Carried

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Moore

Carried

Certified correct,
Winnie Morven-Hansen,
Board Chair

Certified correct,
Paul Mercer,
Secretary Treasurer



NISGA'S SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.1

Action:		Information:	X
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	November 19, 2024
Topic:	Superintendent Report - November 2024		

Background/Discussion:

Superintendent Report – November 2024 attached.

Recommended Action:

For information only

Presented by: Superintendent



Nisga'a School District No. 92

Respect § Responsibility § Compassion § Honesty § Fairness

Date: (Gwilatkw) November 2024

Re: Superintendent Report to Board of Education

In Closing ...

For this, my final report to the Board of Education in my role as Superintendent of Nisga'a School District, I would like to provide some reflection on the last eleven months of my experience. While the school district certainly faces challenges, I see enormous potential for a positive future for learning within the schools on the Nisga'a nation. The long history of the Nisga'a holding high value for education is part of the foundation on which the re-awakening will be built. When the district was formed 50 years ago and the nation came together to raise the Unity Pole in front of their new school, it was a powerful moment that the visionary leaders brought about so that children would no longer need to leave the valley for education.

In my brief time as Superintendent I have experienced a positive response to a desire to work together and open lines of communication between the school district, villages, agencies and NLG. As communication and trust has been built, agencies that serve students have engaged with the district to work collaboratively - most notable so far has been Nisga'a Valley Health. In conversation with other entities, whether it be a recreation department, or Nisga'a Language Authority, we all agree that we want the same thing – flourishing young people with the best life chances possible. This working-together, and walking-together will shape a fertile landscape for learning.

The district continues to provide learning opportunities for administrators and other staff to expand their capacity while holding all staff accountable to professional standards. The continuation of these efforts will result in the best possible conditions for learners in our schools. In these challenging employment times, we must also continue to pay attention to the conditions that will support the recruitment and retention of experienced and engaged educators and support staff.

As I conclude my time as your Superintendent, it does my heart good to know that Liimiiuum Halaayt (Robert Clifton) will lead the next phase in the journey of Nisga'a school district. At his core, Robert reflects the core values that guide the ethical decision making framework - because of that, it adds to my optimism for the future of learners here on the Nisga'a nation.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Monkman,
Superintendent for School District 92, Nisgaa

(The following are some updates from schools. Like the uniqueness of each of our school sites, the updates from administrators came in different formats from each school. These provide a small taste of what is happening at Nisga'a, SD92 schools.)

School Updates to Superintendent

Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School

Curricular Learning Focus

- Nisga'a Language: First Nations A.S.K. Me Learning Essentials Program, K-7.
- Literacy: New Community/School Initiative: Guardian & Child Open Library Mornings - every morning, the library is open for guardians to sign out books from the GES library with their child to support reading at home.
- Music: Instrumental Band & Guitar
- Arts: Student Photography

Supporting Core Competencies

- 8 Keys of Excellence. Each month, a school gathering and school-wide experiential activity centered around a key; So far: September - all keys overview, October - Integrity/Wilxo'oskw, November - Failure leads to success/Aniihitkw.
- Local land based learning - e.g., collaboration with Spirit North (community tree identification, local river walks, local rock identification) and community members (e.g., Mushroom picking with Kimberly Azak, Gitwinksihlkw parent)

Nicole Seah, Vice Principal

Gwilatkw 2024 Board Update:

At Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School, we adjusted our schedule to accommodate Family time at both the elementary and secondary wings of our school. The purpose of this is two-fold:

- *providing flexibility for learning - in the elementary wing, our focus is on numeracy and our students have option and opportunity to move within the classes to meet their needs for additional support or extension in numeracy, number sense and deepening our ability to work with numbers, data and becoming more numerate; in the secondary wing, our focus is on Career Life Education 10 and Career Life Connections 12 - both required courses for graduation, all students who need the courses as well as providing an opportunity for our grade 9s to complete the course prior to grade 10 have the time and support to complete the courses - both of these courses are distance learning courses - students who have completed these credit courses have additional opportunity for various coursework or their own inquiry; and*
- *providing opportunity for students and teachers to offer support, connection and movement among family spaces - teachers, students and classrooms - this also provides us opportunity for family meetings, guest presentations and time for open conversation among students and teachers.*

Our Social Justice 12 class has made use of the secondary family time to generate discussion and open an opportunity for our secondary family to provide input, direction and curiosities to move their coursework forward - this student collaboration is amazing because the class does not meet on Han'iigwial'hl sa - when family time occurs.



Yoga buddies Kindergarten to grade 5,



Unity Pole creations - L. Robinson's class,

Rosetta Doolan, Principal

Alvin A. McKay Elementary School



ADST/Steam Wonderful Wednesday



In our school when we go to the gym for anything we end up dancing our tribes to the gym. We are so very incredibly blessed to have Sheldon Martin coming into our school to work with Mrs. Rai and our language program.



Jessica McKay, Vice Principal



MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.2

Action:		Information:	X
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	November 19, 2024
Topic:	Nisga'a Enhancement Report - November 2024		
Background/Discussion: Nisga'a Enhancement Report – November 2024 attached.			
Recommended Action: For information only			
Presented by: Superintendent/Director of Learning, Indigenous Education/Early Learning			



Indigenous Education & Early Learning

Nisga'a School District

Tanya Azak – Director of Learning, Indigenous Education & Early Learning

Indigenous Education Family

November 15, 2024

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

- ❖ Creating a land-based learning framework, using past and current experience to guide the creation
- ❖ Providing learning opportunities in classrooms and with teachers to infuse language and culture into the curriculum – traditions, arts, & culture (drum & rattle making, ceremony, circle talks, storytelling, etc.)

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

- ❖ Working in collaboration with the four schools and the district counselor to include language and culture in the inclusive education practices. For example, providing services through Nisga'a ceremony and practices.
- ❖ Weekly schedule includes teaching alongside classroom teachers to support the inclusion of language and culture in all subject areas, building capacity by modeling the instructional practices; therefore, educating the students and the teachers at the same time

Helping Teacher continues to focus on supporting all Nisga'a learners in language and culture by

- ❖ Providing language learning with all learners – students and adults
- ❖ Weekly schedule includes teaching alongside language teachers and classroom teachers to support the inclusion of language and culture in all subject areas, building capacity by modeling the instructional practices; therefore, educating the students and the teachers at the same time

- ❖ Creating training opportunities and resources for educators that promote infusion of Nisga'a Language



Indigenous Education: continue to provide leadership for Nisga'a enhancement by

- ❖ Coordination of the Indigenous Education Council – preparing for the establishment of the new council
- ❖ Supporting Language & Culture staff – providing guidance with training, yearly goals and curriculum development
- ❖ Utilizing training opportunities to assist in the leading of the Early Development Instrument and Middle Years



Development surveys. Each school will participate in the surveys, the information will create information promotes *“Learning from children directly— in their own voices— provides actionable data to support the design and implementation of programs, practices and policies that promote children’s social and emotional health and well-being”*

- ❖ Creating information channels for schools to move forward and organize themselves to be ready to administer the surveys

Early Learning: an agreement with the Ministry of Education to provide Early Learning programs: Strong Start and Ready Set Learn

- **Strong Start BC (SSBC)** – This year our goal is to provide SSBC Outreach Programs.
 - ❖ Employee – we continue to work on the need to hire a SSBC Outreach worker
 1. Met with CCRR Terrace to discuss how we can work together to provide services to early learning
- **Ready Set Learn (RSL) Program** – Providing learning opportunities in the transition phase before entering kindergarten
 - ❖ Training and planning are being organized
 - ❖ Updated program in progress



Highlights from October

- Successful Unity Day Celebration
- Language & Culture Classes Thursdays @ 7PM on Zoom

T’ooyaksiy Nisim, Gabihl hiy.



NISGA' A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

MEETING AGENDA ITEM 11.3

Action:	X	Information:	
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	November 19, 2024
Topic:	Indigenous Education Committee Report		

Background/Discussion:

Indigenous Education Committee Report attached.

Recommended Action:

For information only

Presented by: Trustee George Nelson (IEC Rep)

Trustee Report
BCSTA Indigenous Education Committee

The BCSTA IEC met on Friday, October 25, 2024, and I attended virtually.

Out of this meeting there was a lot of great discussion regarding the national discussion on Indigenous Education that the Canadian School Board Association CSBA is taking the lead on.

- The 2024 conference has already gone by.
- The 2025 conference will be in Manitoba and the IEC is hoping to send a Co-Chair
- The 2026 conference will be hosted by BC in Whistler.

The discussion leading up to the announcement that the 2026 conference will be held in Whistler was a great one. Indigenous Education is being discussed at a national level and I like that it is representative of Reconciliation.

Two members of the BCSTA IEC will be a part of the planning committee for the 2026 conference.

I don't know if the Nisga'a School District has any interest in attending this either as a Board or sending delegates. It is still too far away to consider the logistics of but it is a question I feel we can ask ourselves right now.

The BCSTA IEC will look to connect with our neighbouring province initially (IE Alberta) and there is discussion that could see the genesis of a National Indigenous Education Committee. Again, this is a step forward toward Reconciliation.

Next was an update from the Provincial Learning Committee BCSTA PLC

It was here that the committee heard of the initiative to have a student delegation from Nisga'a perform Oh Canada in Nisga'a as well as do a few songs out in the foyer.

Exciting to know that our students will have this opportunity.

Discussion then centred on the AGM and the possibility of having our Grease being showcased not only for the cultural relevance but shared with delegates at the AGM that is held every April. There was discussion regarding The Grease Trail and the Cultural Relevance, heard from the Trustee from Quesnel that there is a literal story of a barrel that was leaking grease and created a literal trail. I would ask Admin to bring this to the Cultural Department to see if anything can be done for the 2025 BCSTA AGM in April.

The remainder of the meeting was business such as Motions for the AGM, Knowledge Series teams, future meeting and strategic planning.

One motion of note to the BCSTA Board of Directors to change the name of the IEC to the Indigenous Education Advisory Council. The rationale behind this motion is to ensure there isn't confusion that Bill 40 may create with their IEC's that the Bill mandates.

George Nelson, Trustee Rep.