



**NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Virtual: [Zoom Meeting](#)**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 – 5:30 pm

A G E N D A

1. PROTOCOL			
2. CALL TO ORDER			
3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM			
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JANUARY 7, 2024	Motion		
5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:			
5.1 Regular Meeting – December 10, 2024	Motion	Attachment	Page 1-7
5.2			
6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:			
6.1			
7. PRESENTATION:			
7.1			
8. EDUCATION:			
SUPERINTENDENT			
8.1 Superintendent Update	Information	Attachment	Page 8-14
8.2 Indigenous Education Update – Director of Indigenous Education & Early Learning – Tanya Azak	Information	Attachment	Page 15-16
8.3			
9. BUSINESS:			
SECRETARY-TREASURER			
9.1			
9.2			
9.3			
10. POLICY DEVELOPMENT:			
10.1 Review and Revision of Governance Policy	Information	Verbal	
11. TRUSTEE REPORTS:			
11.1 BCPSEA			
11.2 Provincial Council			
12. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:			
12.1 Business – Chair Update			
12.2 Education – Chair Update			
13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:			
14. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:			
15. ADJOURNMENT:			

Next Board Meeting: February 4, 2025 - Virtual



NISGA'S SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5.1

Action:	X	Information:	
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	January 7, 2025
Topic:	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board – December 10, 2024		

Background/Discussion:

Minutes as attached.

Recommended Action:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on December 10, 2024 be approved.

Presented by: Board Chair

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

TUESDAY, December 10, 2024 – 4:00 PM

In attendance:	Winnie Morven-Hansen Danica Moore Carl Azak Gary Cox George Nelson, Chair	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee Laxgalts'ap Trustee via Teams Gitwinksihlkw Trustee Nass Camp & Surrounding Areas Gingolx Trustee
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Also in attendance:	Robert Clifton Paul Mercer Sharlene Grandison Tanya Azak	Superintendent of Schools Secretary Treasurer Recording Secretary Director of Instruction of Indigenous Education & Early Learning
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Absent:

1. PROTOCOL:

Board Chair Nelson acknowledged condolences to Wilps Sgat'in on the passing of a family member.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 p.m.

3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Board Chair declared a declaration of quorum.

4. TRUSTEE ELECTIONS:

4.1 Board Chair – Secretary Treasurer, chairing this portion of the meeting

Trustee Nelson expressed interest in the Board Chair seat.

Call for Nominations for Board Chair –

Trustee Nelson do let your name stand? Trustee Nelson: Yes

Trustee Moore expressed interest in the Board Chair seat.

Second and third time called for nominations. Nominations closed.

George Nelson: 3
Danica Moore: 1

George Nelson nominated as Board Chair.

Secretary Treasurer hand over the Chair to Trustee Nelson.

4.2 Vice-Chair

Nominations open for Vice-Chair.

Winnie expressed interest in the Vice-chair seat.

Second call for nominations
Third call for nominations
Nominations closed.

Trustee Winnie Morven-Hansen in by acclamation.

4.3 Trustee Representatives

Trustee Morven-Hansen:

Motion to keep BCSTA Provincial Councillor and BCPSEA Reps the same -
Trustee Azak and Trustee Nelson.

Trustee Nelson expressed his thoughts on BCPSEA Rep and that if someone else was interested, it is ok with him.

Trustee Morven-Hansen expressed interested. She is the BPCSEA Rep.

Business Committee Chair

Trustee Morven Hansen recommended Trustee Azak.

Board Chair:
Trustee Azak, do you let your name stand?

Trustee Azak: Yes

Education Committee Chair

Expressed interest – Trustee Morven Hansen

Board Chair, anyone else interested. None.

Business Committee Chair: Trustee Carl Azak
Education Committee Chair – Trustee Morven Hansen

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

R02-1610

That the Board of Education approve the December 10, 2024, Agenda as presented.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Cox

Carried

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:**

6.1 Minutes of November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting

R02-1611

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on November 19, 2024, be approved as presented.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Morven-Hansen

Carried

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

No business arising from the November 19, 2024 minutes.

8. **PRESENTATION:**

No presentations.

9. **EDUCATION:**

Superintendent

9.1 Superintendent Update

- Building relationships
- Aligning vision with Boards current strategic plan
- Operational excellence – 2025 continue to address improvements
- Excited to work with the Board
- Supporting the new strategic plan
- Committed to this district...

R02-1612

That the Board of Education receive the Superintendent's Update.

Trustee Cox/Trustee Azak

Carried

9.2 Strategic Plan

Superintendent Clifton gave an update on the Strategic Plan.

- Survey to go out to communities
- Survey to be reviewed by Board before it goes out
- Survey will be out for a month

9.3 Director of Instruction/Indigenous Education

What is happening:

Acknowledge Knowledge Keeper Alvin Azak who departed the district for another position in the valley,

Education family:

- Myself and two helping teachers, meet once a month
- This month we discovered that there is a 'lull', teachers aren't asking for help as much
- Themes
- Supporting language teachers, using Askme document, first nations
- Teachers are trained,
- Video classrooms support
- More experienced language teachers can offer
- Offering classroom visits
- Compassionate systems: in talk with, she would like to offer workshop in the valley, still in the early stages.
- Planning to gather all members that have been trained, to offer opportunities to participate.....
- If there is specific things you would like me to speak about, let me know.

Trustee Azak acknowledged Knowledge Keeper Alvin Azak.

Trustee Morven-Hansen gave appreciation to Tanya for all the work she does on behalf of the children of our district.

10. **BUSINESS:**

Secretary Treasurer

10.1 Financial Report

Secretary Treasurer Mercer gave an overview of the Financial Report.

10.2 2023/2024 Statement of Financial Information

For consistency with the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act, respecting Public Accounts reporting, a Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) must be submitted by each school district within six months following the corporation's fiscal year end. School Districts are defined as corporations as outline in the Financial Information Act.

Reference the attached 2023/2024 School District Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report.

R02-1613

That the Board of Education approve the 2023/2024 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) for the year end June 30, 2024.

Trustee Morven-Hansen/Trustee Cox

Carried

11. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

11.1 Ad Hoc Work Working Group

Superintendent recommendation for an Ad Hoc Working Group struck to begin review of the Governance Policy.

Trustee Azak would like to be a part of this group. This should be done every year.

12. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

12.1 Board Meeting Date Change

Board Meetings will now be held on the first Tuesday of of the month.

12.2 BCSTA Provincial Council Report – Trustee Azak

Trustee Azak gave report on his attendance at the Provincial Council meeting:

- Non representative for each district.
- 60 in attendance
- Different updates,
- Motion 6 – non voting student representative, that barely passed, has moved forward
- Email re survey how it's going to look for districts, not mandatory, but an option – sending a student as a non-voting rep. taking a student from the north would be extra cost.
- Funding BCSTA gets every year, this past year 153,000 that wasn't spent.
- Holding funds for now....
- Reimbursement for committee rep attendance – claims sent?

13. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
No correspondence.

14. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD – 8:04**

No public in attendance.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Certified correct,
George Nelson
Board Chair

Certified correct,
Paul Mercer,
Secretary Treasurer



NISGA 'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.1

Action:		Information:	X
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	January 7, 2025
Topic:	Superintendent Report – January 2025		

Background/Discussion:

Superintendent Report – January 2025 attached.

Recommended Action:

For information only

Presented by: Superintendent

Superintendent's Monthly Update January 2025



A Message from the Superintendent

Amaa saa,

It is a privilege to present my first report of the new year. As we return from Winter Break, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the district's activities in late November & December and share the progress made as we embark on this next chapter together.



Robert Clifton at the NESS blanketing ceremony at the beginning of the school year.

December Highlights

Across the district, schools hosted a variety of celebrations that highlighted the cultural richness and shared spirit of connection in our communities. These events were a testament to the collaborative and caring environment we foster for all learners. As I shared with the board last month, my commitment remains firm: to honor the traditions and aspirations of Nisga'a people and land, to lead with a mission of providing outstanding education that supports Nisga'a children and youth in becoming who they were meant to be. Together, we will action the strategic direction provided by this Board to create meaningful and lasting impact for all learners.

Immediate Priorities

In collaboration with the Board and our district team, we have identified three immediate priorities that guide our work:

Building Relationships – Strengthening connections with staff, families, and community partners to foster collaboration and mutual trust.

Strategic Planning – Actively engaged in the process of creating a new Strategic Plan to lay the groundwork for a renewed vision and priorities for the next three – five years.

Operational Excellence – Enhancing systems, structures, and staffing processes to ensure a seamless transition into the second half of the school year.

Looking Ahead

January is a time of renewed energy and purpose. Over the coming weeks, I will continue listening, learning, and assessing opportunities to advise and support the Board in shaping a new strategic plan that reflects the aspirations of our district.

In closing, I extend my sincere appreciation for our work together. I am energized by the opportunities before us and remain fully committed to serving our learners, caregivers/community and staff in pursuit of excellence and equity for all learners.

T'oooyak̓siy̓ h̓iin!,

Robert Clifton
Superintendent of Schools



Superintendent's Monthly Update January 2025



Strategic Plan 2025 – Process Begins & Survey Launch

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Strategic Planning Cycle, a vital step in shaping the future of education in our district. This process is designed to gather insights and ideas from our community, ensuring that the Board of Education's new strategic plan reflects the hopes and aspirations of everyone we serve. The survey launched on December 19, 2024, and will remain open until January 31st. A letter was sent to all partner groups through email as well as posted on the district's Facebook page. It was also shared that the board will be holding Community Engagement Events for in-person or virtual forums to collaborate and share ideas as well as Focus Groups to participate in focused discussions where the board of education and senior leadership will be visiting schools to listen and learn.



Survey participation reminder, shared on social media Facebook channel.

BCSSA Conference for Learning and Leadership

Members of the senior leadership team attended in November. The pre-conference offering Superintendent Clifton attended was facilitated by **Dr. Kevin Godden and Ray Velestuk**: **"It's not just about the money"**. The partnership between superintendent and secretary-treasurer is essential to learning. How do successful superintendent/ST teams synergize to realize the district's most valued outcomes? The pre-conference offering Director Azak and District Principal Jorda attended was facilitated by **Dr. Balan Moorthy**: The need for an anti-oppressive mindset: **Intersectional implications in Leadership**. Lessons learned from Balan's research entitled "Living and Writing into Being Truth and Reconciliation: The Experiences of Five Indigenous Women and Two Allies."

All three attended the conference which explored how education systems benefit from intentional stewardship of identity and belonging. Keynotes which featured the following speakers:

- **Andy Hargreaves**: dive into the complexities of identity with insights from his latest research.
- **Andrew Stobo Sniderman & Douglas Sanderson** will explore the intricate interplay between the identities of Indigenous people in Waywayseecapo, Ukrainian immigrants, and government policies as told in their acclaimed book, [Valley of the Birdtail](#).
- **Dr. Gwendolyn Point**: Gain a unique perspective on identity and intersectionality within the BC educational landscape from a well-respected and well-recognized Stó:lō leader, mentor, and cultural advisor.

Superintendent Clifton also presented at the conference, a session entitled **"Self-Location: Circles of Belonging, Connection & Responsibility, Situating Ourselves in the Work of ReconciliACTION"**: Dive into a transformative journey of self-reflection and understanding. Explore your personal beliefs, worldview, and identity's influence in time and place. Delve into your ancestral stories, family narratives, and the concept of chosen and extended family. What does it mean to be in-relation? Awaken to your biases, privileges, and blind spots. This workshop, with multiple entry points, invites you to contribute to the calls to action towards **reconciliACTION**, enriching the narrative of restoring relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Superintendent's Monthly Update January 2025



FSA Marking

A team of school administrators and senior leaders completed the district's evaluations for the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). FSAs are administered to Grade 4 and 7 students and the results provide parents, teachers, schools, school districts and the ministry with important information on how well students are progressing in the foundation skills of Literacy and Numeracy. For more information visit: [Foundation Skills Assessment \(FSA\) - Province of British Columbia](#)



New District Staffing Appointments

Nisga'a School District is pleased to announce the following appointments. Jeremy Rempel began his new role as the Manager of Information Technology on December 1, 2024. Martha Swinn will be joining the school board office full-time beginning January 1, 2025 as the District Principal of Human Resources. Joining our educational leadership team is Bryce Recsky. He will begin his new role on February 1st, 2025 as the Director of Instruction – Learning & Innovation. Finally we welcome Laura Ganyo to the district. Her first day will be February 1st and she will step into Martha Swinn's principal position at Alvin A. McKay Elementary, three days a week. The other two days a week she will take on the responsibilities in her role as a District Principal – Curriculum & Instruction.

Multi-Factor Authentication – Security

The Nisga'a School District is committed to enhancing the security and privacy of its digital systems and information. As part of this commitment, we are implementing Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) across all district platforms. MFA adds an essential layer of protection by requiring users to verify their identity through logging in with their password, plus a secondary confirmation via a mobile device. This initiative aligns with our responsibility to safeguard sensitive data, ensuring that our students, staff, and community can confidently access secure systems. The work to complete this essential layer of security began mid-December and as of the beginning of January, over half of Nisga'a School District employees have been onboarded. In the coming weeks, Jeremy Rempel will supervise the completion of adding an additional layer of security to safeguard our IT systems.



Superintendent's Monthly Update January 2025



Winter Celebrations

Across the district, schools hosted a variety of celebrations that highlighted the cultural richness and shared spirit of connection in our communities. These events were a testament to the collaborative and caring environment we foster for all learners. Gitwinksihlkw Elementary, Alvin A McKay Elementary, Nathan Barton Elementary and Nisga'a Elementary Secondary schools hosted special events in December to strengthen connections with learners, caregivers and communities. A big thank-you to all staff members for their dedication in organizing and hosting these wonderful events across the district!

Erase = Expect Respect & A Safe Education: Resources for Parents & Caregivers

There are several provincial resources available through “erase” to draw to the attention of parents and caregivers:

Erase – Mental Health & Wellness

<https://bit.ly/eracementalhealth>

Erase – Substance Use

<https://bit.ly/erasesubstanceuse>

Erase – Bullying

<https://bit.ly/erasebullying>

Erase – Racism

https://bit.ly/erase_racism

Erase – Online Safety

<https://bit.ly/eraseonlinesafety>

Erase – Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI)

<https://bit.ly/erasesogj>



Upcoming Dates

January 6 – Schools Reopen

January 7 – Board Meeting

January 8 – Administrator Meeting

January 21 – Business Committee Meeting

Feb 14 – Non-Instructional Day (Professional Development Day)

Feb 17 – Family Day (No School)



Superintendent's Monthly Update

January 2025



Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School Band

Update from Charity Peal

SCENE 92 LOCATION 1

NISGAA ELEMENTARY SECONDARY SCHOOL, LISIMS, BC

#GRBNSS
#MAJAGALEE

FRAME 1



Our Dream

We began with scheduled classes for Grades 8, 9 and half of the Grade 10s - the second group will have band in the second semester.

FRAME 2



Classes

The students and Conductor Mr. C held regular classes from genuugwiikw through gwilatkw when they were asked to perform at our Winter Concert.

FRAME 3



Ensemble

In gwilatkw, Conductor Mr. C held the beginning ensemble practices - joining classes together with the support of all staff & students.

FRAME 4



Practice

Students practiced - in school and at home. Students continued to attend regular classes & ensemble practice.

FRAME 5



Gitlaxt'aamiks Request

We received a request from Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government to have our band play the night of the Lighting ceremony & night before the concert.

FRAME 6



Our Dream

What a NIGHT! At our big Winter Concert we had approximately 40 of 70 students and their parents attend - it was amazing <3

In genuugwiikw, our Grade 8, Grade 9 and half of our Grade 10 students began learning to read music and play instruments.

In gwilatkw, our staff was curious about the band performing at our Winter Concert on luut'aa 19, 2024.

Our Band teacher began to organize and instruct with the intent to join all 3 classes for a mass performance.

During the 2 weeks before the Winter Concert, Mr. C asked for staff support to have ensemble practices - our staff organized! We ran an altered schedule for 2 days to allow our 70 band students to practice all together while students had opportunity to select coursework and receive assistance and support from teachers.



NISGA 'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.2

Action:		Information:	X
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	January 7, 2025
Topic:	Indigenous Education Update		

Background/Discussion:

Indigenous Education Update – January 7, 2025 attached.

Recommended Action:

For information only.

Presented by: Director of Indigenous Education & Early Learning



Indigenous Education & Early Learning

Nisga'a School District

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

Indigenous Education Family

January 7, 2025

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

- ❖ Currently vacant.

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

- ❖ Offering specific classroom support to ease the pressure of teachers having to create opportunities for support 100% of the time. Such as:
 1. Traditional circle time
 2. Nisga'a Art
 3. Song & Dance
- ❖ All opportunities are created with the intention to create a sense of comfort infusing Nisga'a content into all curriculum areas. I do – we do – you do
- ❖ Continue to work alongside the school district counselor to provide culturally sensitive opportunities in the area of student services.
 1. Will be working with NVHA to bring traditional wellness training into the schools in mid- January.



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

- ❖ Creating resources for Language teachers to support the use of a universal language program (ASKME) across the district
- ❖ Offering language program (ASKME) training and support to build confidence and capacity

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



- ❖ Coordination of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) – preparing for the establishment of the new council – This is currently in progress.
- ❖ Local Education Agreement (LEA) – currently in progress

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 – currently in progress.
- **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 December

- Winter Concerts in each school, Language and Culture is evident in all school performances
- Language & Culture Classes - will continue into the new year

T'ooyaksiy Nisim, Gabihl hiy.



Superintendent's Monthly Update

January 2025



This is an extension of our Family Time on Han'igwilal'hl sa where students have flexibility and build confidence and responsibility in how and what they work on and seek assistance from teachers.

Our band received a request to perform at the Git Midiik Auditorium after the lighting ceremony in the Nisga'a Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks the night before the Winter Concert. While this was short notice request and not all students could make the performance, it was an amazing opportunity for students and our Conductor, Mr. C. The students played 2 songs and received tremendous encouragement from the community.

At our Winter Concert, there were about 40 of our 70 students who performed, and our band and conductor put on a awesome performance! They were empowered and played with integrity and pride.

We want to acknowledge and thank the Board of Education and our previous and current Superintendents for supporting our efforts in band, music and learning here at Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School.

We want to thank the parents and families for their support - our children have great supports - they practiced . . . they practiced at school and at home in order to perform for our communities.

We also want to recognize and appreciate our Conductor - Mr. C . . . You are doing an amazing job with our children and we thank you for your dedication and determination.

Sa'aamhl wilsim' - continue with this great work!

