



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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 – 6:30 pm

A G E N D A

<p>1. PROTOCOL</p> <p>2. CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM</p> <p>4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JANUARY 16, 2024</p> <p>5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: 5.1 Regular Meeting – December 12, 2023</p> <p>6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: 6.1</p> <p>7. PRESENTATION: 7.1 Provincial School Outreach: Working in Partnership with Nisga'a School District & Community – Vince White/Olga Jorda</p> <p>8. EDUCATION: SUPERINTENDENT 8.1 Superintendent Report 8.2 Nisga'a Language & Culture Report – T. Azak 8.3</p> <p>9. BUSINESS: SECRETARY-TREASURER 9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4</p> <p>10. POLICY DEVELOPMENT: 10.1</p> <p>11. TRUSTEE REPORTS: 11.1 11.2</p> <p>12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:</p> <p>13. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:</p> <p>14. ADJOURNMENT:</p>	<p>Motion</p> <p>Motion</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information Information</p>	<p>Attachment</p> <p>Attachment</p> <p>Verbal</p> <p>Attachment Attachment</p>	<p>Page 1-5</p> <p>Page 6-7 Page 8-11</p>
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Next Board Meeting – February 13, 2024 – Virtual



NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

<u>MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5.1</u>			
Action:	X	Information:	
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	January 16, 2024
Topic:	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board – December 12, 2023		
Background/Discussion:			
Minutes as attached.			
Recommended Action:			
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on December 12, 2023 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 12, 2023 – 6:30 PM

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

Also in attendance:	Jill Jensen	Superintendent of Schools
	Paul Mercer	Secretary Treasurer

Absent:

1. **PROTOCOL**

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

3. **DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

There is a declaration of quorum.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

R02-1565

That the Board of Education approve the December 12, 2023, Agenda as presented.

Trustee Desson/Trustee Nelson

Carried

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

5.1 Minutes of November 21, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

R02-1566

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on November 21, 2023, be approved.

Trustee Azak/Trustee Moore

Carried

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

No business arising from the November 21, 2023 Minutes.

7. **PRESENTATION:**

7.1 NESS Student - Ethnomath

Ness students and chaperones travelled to Hawaii to attend a 2023 Ethnomath Symposium.

Ethnomath:

Intent – To deepen connections across the Pacific between educators and learners committed to co-creating ecological and social justice oriented mathematical experiences within their communities and beyond.

The Board thanked the students for their presentation.

Hope to continue to provide such opportunities for more students.

8. **EDUCATION:**

Superintendent

8.1 Superintendent Report

Superintendent's Update to the Board:

- Attend with Trustees the BCSTA Trustees Academy in Vancouver November 22-25.
- Celebrating Student Learning and Leadership –
- Students participated in an Ethnomath Symposium with Students from Alaska and Hawaii.
- Compassionate Systems Awareness – Student Leadership
- Provincial School Outreach
- Literacy
- Graduation Pathways

9. **BUSINESS:**
Secretary-Treasurer

9.1 Housing/Maintenance Report

Housing and Maintenance Report for December 7, 2023, report to the Board.

For information only.

10. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

10.1 Policy 4 – Appendix: Trustee Code of Conduct Sanctions – 2nd, 3rd & reading

First reading was done at the November 21, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Now looking for 2nd, 3rd, and final reading.

R02-1567

That the Board of Education approve second, third and final reading for Policy 4 - Appendix Trustee Code of Conduct Sanctions as presented.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Moore

Carried

11. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**
No Trustee Reports

12. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
No correspondence received.

13. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:**
No public questions.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Trustee Desson/Trustee Azak

Carried

Certified correct,
Winnie Morven-Hansen,
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 16, 2024
Topic:	Superintendent's Report to the Board		

Background/Discussion:

Superintendent's Report to the Board dated 16 Kaliyee (January) 2023.

Recommended Action:

For information only

Presented by: Superintendent



Nisga'a School District No. 92

Respect § Compassion § Integrity § Patience § Teamwork § Curiosity § Creativity § Sayt K'ilim Goot

MEMO

To: Board of Education
From: Superintendent of Schools
Date: 16 K'aliiyee (January) 2024
Re: Superintendent Report to Board of Education

Staffing Updates

In addition to the change of superintendent, there have been a number of additional teachers hired, school and district administrative changes in the past month. Everyone I have met and spoken with are eager to support students throughout the system and move learning forward.

Trades Opportunities

Hearing that the board was interested in seeing more trades opportunities in the valley, an application has been submitted for a summer welding camp for junior aged students. Such camps are fully funded by the Canadian Welding Bureau and run for a week where students learn safety, practice welding techniques and incorporate indigenous culture in their days. In addition, we have been in contact with Coast Mountain College who are hosting a carpentry foundation at NESS starting this February.

Library Learning Commons

The district has been looking into the role of school libraries in the district with a report conducted on NESS and GES. In response to interest from one of our new district teacher-librarians and school administrators regarding learning more about the movement from traditional school libraries to "library learning-commons", a meeting will be held in later January to present how such a shift supports the board strategic plan goals around student literacy and information literacy in the modern world.

Verbal Report

As this is my first week in the district, this report is brief, but I will have additional information to share through an oral report at the board meeting on Tuesday, January 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Monkman,
Superintendent for School District 92, Nisga'a





NISGA 'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.2

Action:		Information:	X
Meeting:	Regular	Meeting Date:	January 16, 2024
Topic:	Language & Culture Report		

Background/Discussion:

Language & Culture Report – K'aliyee 2024, attached.

Recommended Action:

For information only

Presented by: District Principal of Indigenous Education



Nisga'a School District No. 92 Language Update

Respect § Compassion § Integrity § Patience § Teamwork § Curiosity § Creativity § Sayt K'ílím Goot

From: District Principal of Indigenous Education

Date: K'aliyee 2024

Re: Board of Trustees Report

Nisga'a School District No. 92 has a Strategic Plan (2021-2025) that guides the work of the district. The plan is posted on the district website. [SD92 Strategic Plan](#)

Vision Statement

The Board of Education embraces Sayt K'ílím Goot (the belief in One Path, One Heart, One Nation). The board is committed to having students in School District 92 Nisga'a learn and understand Ayuukhl Nisga'a (our nation's oral history and language) and believes that learning should occur through Yuuhlimk'askw (knowledge transmission through counsel, lectures, and storytelling). Our Nisga'a way is to live in community and to care and to show respect for ourselves and for the ways of others.

Our first strategic priority is **LIP WILAA LOOM** and our goal is to nurture a sense of belonging, pride, and confidence in identity. We support and encourage a system that recognizes, celebrates, and honours the gifts of every student. We want to see **Nisga'a language spoken and Nisga'a culture lived in our schools every day**. We are committed to this and know that together, with families and community, we can build strong and healthy environments for our children. Dim daxgat nuumh.



Language & Culture Curriculum Update

- Nisga'a language curriculum is in its early stages of being updated. The current curriculum is dated 2005. In many cases the language teachers have created learning environments that align with the current BC curriculum, however the curriculum document does not align.

- The BC curriculum website has sample documents for the creation of a language program, this document is a compilation of the sample Indigenous language as a second language, the French and Spanish as a second language documents and the current Nisga'a curriculum document.
- SD #92 Educators & board of trustees will be asked to review and offer feedback before the document is finalized.
- Below is an example of the draft Nisga'a curriculum document.



Area of Learning: NISGA'A

Kindergarten

BIG IDEAS

A new language is acquired by listening to and reproducing the models introduced by the teacher.	Observing codes of politeness, knowing how to listen and letting others speak are practices that facilitate communication and promote respect.	Images convey meaning and facilitate the understanding of a text.	Each letter has its own graphic representation and its own sound.
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Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following, using oral, written and visual formats:</i></p> <p>Exploring and Reflecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become involved in activities and discussions in order to develop a sense of belonging to the class through the use of the Nisga'a language • Actively participate in listening and reading to facilitate understanding of the text • Make connections between personal knowledge and one's learning • Make predictions based on visual formats • Recognize and name the characters and objects represented in visual formats • Recognize the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds <p>Creating and Communicating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate ideas and emotions spontaneously, using learned vocabulary • Respond to the teacher's instructions verbally and non-verbally • Interact with others while respecting communication strategies • Use non-conventional writing and drawing to convey a message • Write the letters of the alphabet 	<p><i>Students are expected to be able to know and understand the following in various contexts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – active listening – turn-taking in a conversation – expressions of courtesy and greetings • cultural elements • elements of a story: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – characters – settings – events • text organization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – text elements • phonemic awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – letter sounds – syllables – rhymes • spelling conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – letters of the alphabet – capital letters

We continue to:

- Infuse First Peoples Principles of Learning and Indigenous worldviews and perspectives in all that we do.
- Acknowledge that many Nisga'a staff have valuable knowledge they can share; we have silent and non-silent speakers who we want to encourage to speak the language more. As well as utilizing these experts in the creating learning opportunities for staff and students.
- Update the Language and Culture vision statement, this will be a collaboration of educators, board, community and students.
- We are dedicated to growing our personal and collective ability to speak Nisga'a language and live Nisga'a culture daily.

- Share the learning responsibility with community partners, such as Nisga'a Lisim Government, Nisga'a Valley Health and Nisga'a Village Governments.

"The only wrong way to speak a language is not to speak it."

Where are we at for 2024 Language Instruction

- Language and culture continue to be a priority
- We have certified language teachers in all schools
- All students receive dedicated Nisga'a language instruction (Nisga'a language class) K-9 and students in grades 10 -12 have the option to take Nisga'a language and culture classes, including dual credit through WWNI
- Nisga'a language increasingly visible at all district sites
- Increased Nisga'a language use by ALL staff
- Nisga'a language infused into all aspects of curriculum – ongoing
- Creation of Board Authorized Courses focused on language, land, and culture - ongoing
- Contracted support from Kyle Peruniak (working with Lori Hyrniuk) to develop land-based curriculum and work directly with our staff to build confidence and capacity in getting students outside and learning on the land
- Language is learned by doing, being, living and through conversation in addition to learning in a traditional classroom setting
- We have few (if any) adults working for school district who are confidently proficient in speaking Nisga'a but we are ALL looking for opportunities to grow our conversational fluency

"For the first time I feel confident in showing up as my whole Nisga'a self and my students are thriving in all areas of the curriculum because of it."

(SD92 Classroom Teacher)