



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

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023 – 6:30 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 OCTOBER 17, 2023</b>	Motion		
5. <b>ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:</b>			
5.1 Inaugural Meeting – September 7, 2023	Motion	Attachment	Page 1-2
5.2 Regular Meeting – September 12, 2023	Motion	Attachment	Page 3-9
6. <b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:</b>			
7. <b>PRESENTATION:</b>			
7.1 --			
8. <b>EDUCATION:</b>			
SUPERINTENDENT			
8.1 Report to the Board	Information	Attachment	Page 10-13
8.2 Language & Culture – Tanya Azak	Information	Attachment	Page 14-18
8.3			
9. <b>BUSINESS:</b>			
SECRETARY-TREASURER			
9.1			
9.2			
9.3			
9.4			
10. <b>POLICY DEVELOPMENT:</b>			
11. <b>TRUSTEE REPORTS:</b>			
11.1			
11.2			
12. <b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:</b>			
13. <b>PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:</b>			
14. <b>ADJOURNMENT:</b>			

**Next Board Meeting – November 21, 2023 - Virtual**



## 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>	October 17, 2023
<b>Topic:</b>	Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting – September 7 2023		

#### **Background/Discussion:**

Minutes as attached.

#### **Recommended Action:**

THAT the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board held on September 7, 2023 be approved.

Presented by: Board Chair

**NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OFFICE**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 – 11:00 AM**

**In attendance:** Winnie Morven-Hansen Chair Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee

**Also in attendance:** Jill Jensen Superintendent of Schools  
Kory Tanner Secretary-Treasurer  
Sharlene Grandison Recording Secretary  
Paul Mercer Director of Operations

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:23 a.m.

**2. WELCOME – Paul Mercer**

Welcome speech and transfer of talking stick.

**3. Swearing In of Gitwinksihlkw Trustee – Carl Azak**

Carl Azak sworn in and reading of Oath.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

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Certified correct,  
Winnie Morven-Hansen,  
Board Chair

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Certified correct,  
Kory Tanner,  
Secretary Treasurer



**MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5.2**

<b>Action:</b>	X	<b>Information:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Regular	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2023
<b>Topic:</b>	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board – September 12, 2023		

**Background/Discussion:**

Minutes as attached.

**Recommended Action:**

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on September 12, 2023 be approved.

Presented by: Board Chair

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

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 – 6:30 PM**

<b>In attendance:</b>	Winnie Morven-Hansen Chair George Nelson, Chair Edward Desson  Carl Azak	Gitlaxt'aamiks Trustee Gingolx Trustee Nass Camp & Surrounding Area Gitwinksihlkw Trustee
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<b>Also in attendance:</b>	Jill Jensen Kory Tanner Sharlene Grandison	Superintendent of Schools Secretary-Treasurer Recording Secretary
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<b>Absent:</b>	Danica Moore	Laxgalts'ap Trustee
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**1. PROTOCOL**

Board Chair acknowledges Wilps Gwin Gyoo and Axdiwiluugooda for the loss of family members.

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm

**3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

Board Chair declared a declaration of quorum.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**R02-1551**

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

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Desson

Carried

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

5.1 Minutes of June 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

**R02-1552**

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on June 13, 2023, be approved.

Trustee Desson/Trustee Azak

Carried

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

No business arising from the June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

7. **PRESENTATION:**

7.1 2022/2023 Year End Audited Financial Statements – Auditors

Steve Vohora LLP presented the 2023/2024 Year End Audited Financial Statements.

8. **EDUCATION:**

Superintendent

8.1 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Review

The focus is on the educated citizen and ensuring that our students are ready for work, post-secondary, and careers they choose. Our priorities for the year are literacy, numeracy, a sense of belonging, well-being, identity, and graduation pathways.

**R02-1553**

That the Board of Education approve the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Review for 2023 as presented.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Desson

Carried

8.2 Annual Work Plan

Superintendent Jensen presents the Annual Work Plan 2023/2024 for approval.

**R02-1554**

That the Board of Education approve the 2023/2024 Annual Work Plan as presented.

Trustee Desson/Trustee Azak

Carried

9. **BUSINESS:**  
Secretary-Treasurer

9.1 2022/2023 Year End Audited Financial Statements

The Auditor has completed a final review of the Financial Statements and Notes to the Statements prior to the September 12, 2023, Board Meeting. The Statements must be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Education by September 30, 2023.

Also attached is the School District No. 92 (Nisga'a) Discussion & Analysis of Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2023. (for information only)

**R02-1555**

That the Board of Education approves the 2023/2023 Audited Financial Statements Version: 2808-2056-9074 of Nisga'a School District 92 as presented.

Trustee Desson/Trustee Nelson

Carried

9.2 Minor Capital

The 2024/2025 Minor Capital Plan as outlined by the ministry of Education's Resource Management Division addresses funding requests for capital projects which involves new space, replacements, renovations, site, acquisitions, seismic mitigation projects and bus purchases. Boards of Education are expected to have a School District Facilities Plan in place that supports projects being submitted to the Ministry for capital investment considerations. The minor submission is attached.

**R02-1556**

That the Board of Education approve the 2024/2025 Minor Capital Plan as presented.

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Azak

Carried

9.3 Director of Operations Report

Director of Operations report for September 2023 for Board review. Information only.

10. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**  
No policy development.
11. **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**  
No Trustee reports.
12. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**  
No correspondence received.
13. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:**

Sheri Stewart:

Assessments on Students -

How often is this done throughout the year? My daughter was in grade 7 last year, grade 8 this year.

- concerns around COVID and how many days they missed; they missed a lot of instruction time during those 2 – 3 years.

My concern is where they are at and hoping they can catch up.

Currently, what's provided is just hot water at the school, NESS and our kids bus up there and I was hoping they have an area for a microwave. We did request that last year, but because there was limited supervision, it was kind of...wasn't approved.

Superintendent Jensen:

Your question about assessment and regarding COVID, we hear a lot about that. One this we need to remember is the globe experience COVID. Students all around the world were away from school for a period of time. It is a concern and something that school systems everywhere are looking at and paying attention to.

There should be assessments going on regularly with classroom teachers, if that is something you would like more information about talk with the teachers and school administration.

Bullying:

Violence at the school. The impact is has on the students. They're mental, emotional and physical well-being. We do need to work together on teaching lateral kindness and understanding, training the children, teachers on building healthy relationships. Also, I read in your report on the building, community building, just question on the social media, I know a lot of people are going through a lot.....mental health, seeing posts, disrespectful comments. I hope that media policy would be enforced.

Superintendent Jensen:

I'm glad that you mentioned the lateral kindness and healthy relationships, I



believe that is how we need to address things. I struggle with the word bullying because it doesn't tell me what's happening. Are there unkind words, are there threats, is it physical harm? It helps if we can name what is happening rather than saying bullying to help move forward. We are doing what we can to help build compassionate and caring spaces in our school. It is something we all need to work on, and work with families to do. There's not a quick fix there, that's some deep work that needs to be done by each of us individually and collectively together.

The social media, that is something we take very seriously, and we have procedures in place. If there is something you come across or anyone else comes across that is inappropriate, we need you to report it to us and we will follow-up.

Lunch Hour:

Secretary Treasurer Tanner

The Ministry has given the district what they call the feeding futures fund, as the auditor talked about the special purpose funds, it will be one of them. We have hired a district food program coordinator who has big plans for lunch time for NESS for those students, event to the fact of getting them all their food safe and getting them involved, if they want to be in there, just helping and having food available for them. The .... of this feeding futures is breakfast, snacks, lunch. Whatever family's needs or students need while in school. Before definitely it was a body issue, didn't have enough bodies for that. My hope is that students will start use that more than going to the store. Watch for that, she's already started, it's already been happening.

Superintendent Jensen:

If Village Government or the community has things, they would like to contribute to help with that. I'm sure that our employee would love to get in touch with you and talk and learn more about what the students need and what the parents are hoping, because they are along ways from home.

#### 14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm

Trustee Nelson/Trustee Azak

Carried

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Certified correct,  
Winnie Morven-Hansen,  
Board Chair

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Certified correct,  
Kory Tanner,  
Secretary Treasurer



## NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

### MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.1

<b>Action:</b>	X	<b>Information:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Regular	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2023
<b>Topic:</b>	Report to the Board		

#### **Background/Discussion:**

Superintendent's Report to the Board dated 17 Xlaaxw 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

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### MEMO

**To:** Board of Education  
**From:** Superintendent of Schools  
**Date:** 17 Xlaaxw 2023  
**Re:** Report to Board of Education

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### Walks to School

Each of our schools, in collaboration with their communities, hosted a walk to school. Community members walked their children to school and handed over responsibility for teaching them to our staff. The walks are a beautiful example of school and community working together for the benefit of children. We look forward to a year of learning and growing together.

### Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Our schools marked the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation in different ways. At Nathan Barton, the intermediate class spend the month of September learning about the harms of residential and day schools, the impacts of colonization, and the importance of learning our true history as we work towards reconciliation. They designed t-shirts and hearts that focused on "aayin" (to heal) and "ax'aayin" (all heal; reconciliation). Truth and Reconciliation reminds us that EVERY CHILD MATTERS, every single one.

### District Song & Dance Celebration

On September 21, all our elementary schools came together to celebrate Nisga'a song and dance. Each school presented two or three songs – drumming and dancing in full regalia. It was an incredible celebration of and demonstrated pride in Nisga'a identity.

### Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School

Gitwinksihlkw Elementary's gym addition is complete!! And it is awesome! The community held a blessing of the gym on October 11 at 1:00 pm. The school has never had a gym and this addition allows students daily access to a facility where they can dance, play, and learn the benefits of active living.

### Enrollment

School	Enrollment
Nathan Barton Elementary School	35
Alvin A. McKay Elementary School	65
Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School	22
Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School	233
	<b>355</b>

## Literacy

Teachers were engaged in literacy, specifically, supporting students in growing the essential skills necessary to become a reader, as well as reading strategies. Children should be reading and being read to everyday. We encourage all families to be involved in reading at home.



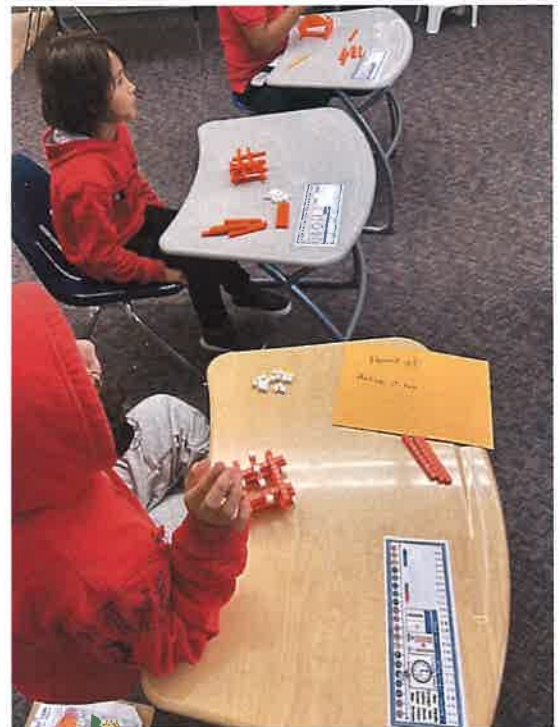
## The Reading Power Strategies



## Numeracy

We are working with Nikki Lineham, *Educating Now*, to support us in cultivating our skills in teaching numeracy. During Nikki's visit in September she:

- Introduced and reinforced the power of number talks across K-12 Math classrooms.
- demonstrated the importance of conceptual and visual understanding of mathematics to build underpinnings of mathematical thinking.
- reinforced that all educators are numeracy teachers regardless of grade/curriculum.
- demonstrated the power of creating collaborative learning classrooms with formative assessment integrated in instruction, in order to create safe, inclusive classrooms that give opportunities for ALL to learn.
- shared the importance of building reflection into learning.
- introduced us to [Educating Now](#), a resource for staff.





## PATHWAY TO GRADUATION



### BC DOGWOOD DIPLOMA GRADUATION CHECKLIST

#### REQUIRED COURSES | 80 CREDITS MINIMUM

13 Core (52 Credits) | 7 Electives (28 Credits Minimum)

At least 16 credits must be at the Grade 12 level

#### GRADE 10

- ☐ English First Peoples 10 or English 10
- ☐ Math 10
- ☐ Science 10
- ☐ Social Studies 10
- ☐ Physical Health Education 10
- ☐ 2 Electives

#### GRADE 10, 11, 12

- ☐ Arts Education 10, 11, or 12 or  
Applied Design, Skills and Technologies  
(ADST) 10, 11, or 12
- ☐ Career Life Education
- ☐ Career Life Connections

#### GRADE 11

- ☐ English First Peoples 11 or English 11
- ☐ 3 Electives

#### GRADE 11 OR 12

- ☐ a Math 11 or a Math 12
- ☐ a Science 11 or a Science 12
- ☐ a Social Studies 11 or a Social Studies 12

#### GRADE 12

- ☐ English First Peoples 12 or English 12
- ☐ 3 Electives

#### PROVINCIAL GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS

- ☐ Numeracy 10
- ☐ Literacy 10
- ☐ Literacy 12 (2020/2021)



Explore  
Learning First Peoples  
Classrooms Resources

[fnesc.ca/lfp](https://fnesc.ca/lfp)

Helping students discover and follow their passions in preparation for a career is an essential component of high school. Nisga'a Elementary Secondary is working to develop ways to support students' interests.

The BC Curriculum offers flexibility to students in creating their graduation pathway. Recognizing the difference between Dogwood graduation requirements and post-secondary program requirements is critical for students as they plan their high school program. Parents & students should review program progress at least **3 times each year** in grades 10, 11, and 12.

**Graduating from high school with a Dogwood Graduation Diploma does NOT guarantee entry into post-secondary.** Students need to know the requirements of the program they wish to enter. Requirements vary from institution to institution and from program to program.

Grade 9 students are already beginning to work on their graduation pathways, learning about the requirements and thinking about work and career interests.

If you have ANY questions about the graduation program or post-secondary program, contact:

Mark Koebel [mkoebel@nisgaa.bc.ca](mailto:mkoebel@nisgaa.bc.ca) Principal

Charity Peal [cpeal@nisgaa.bc.ca](mailto:cpeal@nisgaa.bc.ca) Principal

We have had several adults contact the district about completing the Ministry requirements for graduation to attain their Dogwood. If you know of anyone who is interested, please contact:

Jill Jensen [jjensen@nisgaa.bc.ca](mailto:jjensen@nisgaa.bc.ca) Superintendent



## NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92

### MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8.2

<b>Action:</b>	X	<b>Information:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Regular	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2023
<b>Topic:</b>	Language & Culture Report		

**Background/Discussion:**

Language & Culture Report – October 17, 2023, attached.

**Recommended Action:**

For information only

Presented by: Superintendent



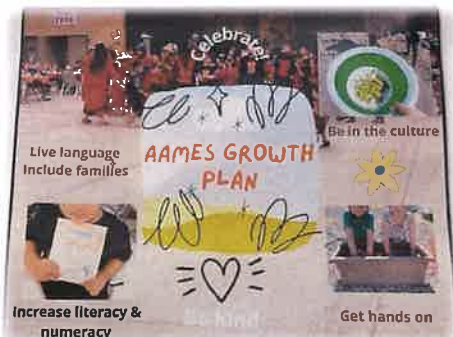
## Language & Culture – Nisga'a School District # 92

Tanya Azak – District Principal Indigenous Education

October 17, 2023

### **Language & Culture is offered and taught to all grades (K-12)**

- Students receive dedicated language instruction with a Nisga'a language teacher, they also hear language throughout the day from classroom teachers, educational assistants, principals, elders, and other staff.
- Language and culture is infused into everything we do, it is not just a subject we learn, but our identity. Therefore: through adult commitment, learning, and growth, all students are exposed to Nisga'a Language and Culture content on a regular basis in all their learning settings.
  - This may include (but not limited to):
    - Art (weaving, beading, carving, painting, etc.),
    - Music (drumming, singing, dancing, etc.),
    - Curriculum (outdoor or place-based learning, storytelling, poems, cross-curricular, independent inquiry, etc.)
    - Play (games, stories, song and dance, inquiry, etc.)
    - Cultural activities (food harvesting (oolichans, plants, salmon, berries, cedar), feasting, traditions and areas, ceremonies, Nisga'a calendar, etc.)



- Currently we have a certified language teacher in every school.
- The Chief Atahm First Nations Language Essentials (ASKME) training is offered to all language teachers, currently 3 language teachers



are trained and using the ASKME program to supplement their programs.

- **District Principal Indigenous Education** – language and culture oversight includes:
  - Encourage and support all language and culture learners, students and adults
  - Update and elevate existing resources created by language experts,
  - Create or attain new resources that connect to cross curricular and infusion
  - Making connections with learning partners within the Nisga'a district and partners outside of the Nisga'a district
  - Create and support language and culture learning opportunities, students and staff



- **District Elder in Residence**
  - The resident elder and other elders from the communities are often invited to join classes and groups to share wisdom and knowledge. The resident elder visits each school once a week.
  - Provides support to educators and works with all schools and all students
  - Co-Teaching Nisga'a Grade 11/12
  - Creation, and translation support with any and all learning opportunities and materials.

- **BC Curriculum** requires the infusion of First Peoples Principles of Learning and Indigenous worldviews and perspectives. We have a curricular obligation to teach Nisga'a language and culture to all students.



- All staff are encouraged to incorporate Nisga'a language into their day and grow their personal knowledge and use of Nisga'a language, all staff have the opportunity to seek support from other educators, community partners, resident elder and District Principal of Indigenous Education.
- We are identifying many Nisga'a staff and community members that have valuable knowledge to share; we have silent and non-silent speakers who we want to encourage to speak the language more and learn alongside of the

students. We are creating a database of all language and culture champions to come into the schools and teach and guide students in learning about their culture and language

- Nisga'a language increasingly visible at all district sites, it can be seen on labels, wall posters, pictures, books, computer games, writing, and most importantly spoken form students and teachers
- Nisga'a School District # 92 has 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. Supporting existing resources, lessons created by teachers by offering additional resources, ideas, etc. targeted to on the land learning
  - For example, educators are using the traditional Nisga'a harvesting seasonal calendar as a guide for instruction, creating units and lessons based on what is harvested currently
- NLG Language Directorate, has been supporting language and culture in the Nisga'a School District through resource organization and updating, offering supplies and cultural services
- Along with language and culture infusion for our students learning, many of the learning opportunities that are offered to the adults are infused with Nisga'a language and culture as well, recently Peter Senge (Co-founder of the Center for Systems Awareness) visited the Nisga'a District and gathered with community members to introduce and discuss Compassionate Systems, this was held at the NESS smoke house, with



participants around a fire.

- Knowledge keepers are important to our students and staff, NESS has created a learning group with elders and community members, they have been gathering at Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School since W'ii Hoon 2022. It began with a connection with the Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department of Nisga'a

Lisims Government and NESS in hopes of creating a connection between the Nisga'a Nation and our

schools. They have discussed many concerns about Nisga'a language learning, the current reality about Nisga'a language learning and their aspirations for the future of Nisga'a language learning - each and every time they have gathered. Elders & Knowledge Keepers have connected with children - Kindergarten to Grade 7 sharing songs and stories, Grade 12 students who discussed their education and their paths for the future and Grade 10 & 11 students who shared what they hope for the years to come at school. Many of the Elders & Knowledge Keepers engaged in the Introductory Workshop for Compassionate Systems in K'aliyee 2023. Also, a large group travel to and participate in the Chief Atahm Language Institute in Xmaay' 2023. Learning and conversations revolve around Nisga'a language and our children . . . our future is their future, and their future is ours . . . they are moving forward with a living and breathing group who is united in the pursuit of a strong future for our children and for all. They have gathered in W'ii Hoon 2023, and this marked a year of gathering together! The group met with and had a Compassionate Systems session with Peter Senge this past month and look forward to strengthening and supporting the Youth & Elder & Knowledge Keeper connections.

