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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2017  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Kathy Kennedy, Chairperson (Gold River)  
Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot)  
Fern Eastcott (Tahsis)  
Ken Pringle (Gold River)  
Gwen Alsop (Zeballos)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor  
Annie James, Human Resources Administrator/Recorder  
Two Staff Members

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**2017:R-011** MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Eastcott  
AND RESOLVED:  
*"TO approve the agenda."*

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**2017:R-012** MOVED: Trustee Eastcott, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson  
AND RESOLVED:  
*"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 14, 2017."*

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Nil.

**PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:**

a. **Mr. Wayne Alsop, Principal, Zeballos Elementary Secondary School**

This past year Zeballos School piloted a unique Alternate Shop Program, developed as a short-term remedy to help a group of high school students who were struggling with school and finding little success. The most likely prognosis was that they would drop out before graduating. The idea was to remove them from regular academic classes in the mornings and place them in a pre-trades program where they would do better with hands-on learning in practical situations. The goal was to help students build self-respect, engage in learning and learn to talk out issues. In the fall, NSOP supported a trip to Camp Homewood where the students focussed on team-building and leadership. This was both challenging and great fun. The students first learned to use small tools safely, such as hammers, hand saws, chisels, and files. Then, they learned to safely use hand-held power tools such as an electric sander, drill and jig saw. As the year progressed, the class worked on a variety of building projects. Cultural projects made from cedar were a good beginning, and students cut paddles and burned designs into wooden plaques. Furniture was of interest to the group, and so students built tables, stools, desks, and benches.

Student engagement was high. Students who had previously refused to complete any math worksheets were eager to use tape measures to determine how long a piece of wood they had to cut. Often students worked together which was something that many had difficulty doing in classroom groups.

Attitudes began to change. Swearing had been a problem in the fall but soon faded altogether. A group spirit developed where students worked together with a teacher on projects of their choice.

When the teacher was busy, older and more capable students often helped those who were waiting for the teacher.

The biggest change over five months was the growth in confidence and self-respect. Students could see what they had accomplished, and were proud of themselves. Often, at the beginning of class, students would sit around talking and they were holding the project that they had worked on yesterday. They discussed relative merits of the work and suggested what would be best to do next. Mr. Alsop noticed that they were most critical of their own work.

Students wanted to return to “normal” more academic classes and so they have been placed back into their classrooms, one at a time. They received a schedule for re-entry and told that it was to enable the teachers to better meet their needs. There was no argument. The gradual placement allowed the students to enter a classroom which has established rules and work ethic, without disrupting the class. As all the students return to their classes, it allows Mr. Alsop to go with them to support the transition.

The program was developed to meet the needs of six students who had created a culture in opposition to the classroom teachers’ intents. At one time there were up to nine students in the program, which is now down to three and these will return to academic classes after Spring Break.

What Mr. Alsop has learned:

1. Treat them like adult students. (They are considered adults in their community.)
2. Listen more than I talk.
3. Find ways for them to learn based on their interests.
4. Introduce new ideas and plans.
5. Make learning FUN!

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Chair, SD5 (Southeast Kootenay)
- Roycan Language Laboratories
- BC School Trustees Association
- Superintendent Tarasoff, SD84
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Education
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Chair, SD28 (Quesnel)
- SD69 (Qualicum)
- Claire Trevena, MLA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- Copy of Letter to Honourable Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary, re Regional Rural Education Review Process
- Company’s New Art Technology
- Subscribe to Headlines: Daily News for Trustees
- 2017-2018 School Calendar for Distribution to Board, Staff and Parents, with Cover Letter Requesting Feedback
- Additional Information re Student Learning Grant
- BCSTA Media Release: BCSTA Pleased BC Budget Speaks to the Importance of Public Education - Now Looking to Province to Complete Commitments on Bargaining and Student Enrollment
- Key Action 3: Ensure the Supporters of Public Education are Registered to Vote!
- BCSTA February 2017 Provincial Council – Evaluation Survey – Expense Claim
- The Education Leader: Issue 13 – Sector Leaders Put a Spotlight on Public Education
- BCSTA Correspondence: Teacher Recruitment and Retention for Northern, Remote and Rural School Districts
- Key Action 4: Share Videos from our Sector Leaders Speaker Series / Invite Local Sector Leaders to Speak in Your District
- Copy of Letter to Honourable Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary, re Rural Education Strategy
- VISTA Spring Conference 2017 – Business Meeting Agenda Package
- Claire Talks About Public Education in Her Budget Speech
- BCSTA Correspondence: Teresa Rezansoff to Premier Clark re Further Supports for Refugee Students
- Update: CSBA Congress 2017 and National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education

- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- BCSTA
- CUPE Local 2769
- Ideas for Engaging Your District in the Upcoming BC General Election
- Reminder – BCSTA’s 113<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – Registration will Close at 4 pm on Friday, March 24
- Key Action 5: Join the Poster Campaign!
- Proposed Calendar

**2017:R-013** MOVED: Trustee Pringle, SECONDED: Trustee Alsop  
AND RESOLVED:  
*“TO receive and file the correspondence.”*

### **REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:**

Chairperson Kennedy reported on the discussion on one legal issue, three labour issues, the dust collection system at Gold River Secondary School which is well underway and will be finished after Spring Break, and the rate of pay for Non-Certified Persons On Call which has been raised to \$160 per day, with no School Calendar adjustment. The Board decided to take a moderate approach when developing the upcoming preliminary budget for 2017-2018. As a result of the SCC decision, the government has provided additional funds for this school year, and School District 84 received enough funding to support an additional 2.0 FTE of Learning Assistance Resource Teacher time which was filled by internal teachers. Last but not least, the District is currently undergoing a Ministry of Education Special Education audit.

### **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

#### **a. School Reports**

Trustee Eastcott reported that the Captain Meares high school students have had a busy month with several opportunities to participate in sports including NSOP trips to Mount Cain and two to Mount Washington – as well as most of them travelling to Gold River to participate in the Annual Basketball Jamboree. Thank you to Steve Larre and Gold River Secondary School for hosting and organizing this event.

Several of the high school girls are busy fundraising and getting ready for some exciting travel opportunities - Ashley and Shannon are participating in the Ontario exchange organized by Mr. Rockwell, and Andrea and Marion have been selected to travel to China this summer for the Beijing Summer Camp.

North Island College held its annual open house this week and six students travelled to Courtenay to learn about post-secondary opportunities and, as always, it was a great opportunity to learn about the range of options from which to choose. The elementary students have also been hard at work. The intermediate class has been working on a cross-curricular study of owls including reading *Owls in the Family* in Language Arts and dissecting owl pellets in Science. The primary class has been doing a cross-curricular study blending Math and Art by creating Origami shapes in art that they made into mobiles.

Pink Shirt Day was celebrated this month with a school-wide assembly and activity where everyone wrote inspiring messages of inclusion and acceptance on paper “t-shirts,” which were displayed on a clothes line in the main hallway. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Farm to School Lunch program celebrated Saint David’s Day, a national holiday in Wales. Welsh Rarebit, which is basically cheese sauce on toast, and roast leeks were on the menu and daffodil and leek corsages were presented to the staff.

Ms. Malthouse has been busy presenting a “Fun with Watercolours” workshop for the community this month. Approximately 15 people signed up for the series of classes hosted by the Tahsis Literacy Society. The TLS provided all the class materials and also made a generous donation of supplies to Ms. Malthouse’s art program at the school.

Chairperson Kennedy reported on the February 22<sup>nd</sup> PAC meeting at Gold River Secondary School, which had a lively turnout of upbeat ladies (and Principal Johnson). The meeting started with approval of a donation of \$1300 to the basketball team for their upcoming Island travel and, in exchange, they will be asked to help at the Basketball Jamboree on March 2-3 in Gold River. The PAC will also be cooking for the event – and the PAC accounts are holding healthy. Principal Johnson reported that the school year is now half-way done, and 60 students received awards at the recent

Awards Ceremony. Several exchange students will be heading home soon. Three students had their Remembrance Day art projects chosen as winners and their drawings will continue on to the Legion Art Finals for further judging. Electronics in school have been a problem and the Principal will be discussing this with the students.

The March 9<sup>th</sup> Science Fair, led by Mrs. Kornylo, was another wonderful event. Mrs. Andrews and Chairperson Kennedy judged the Grade 10-12 students' quirky and technical displays, with several dealing with the human brain. Chairperson Kennedy enjoyed them all and commented on how she felt proud, once again, to see how talented and hardworking the students can be. "Campbell River Animal Parties" were to arrive in the afternoon with a display of live bugs, spiders and snakes for the students to enjoy, another event that was partly funded by PAC.

Upcoming events include the GRSS French Ambassadors' speeches to Ray Watkins and Gold River Secondary on March 14<sup>th</sup> (they will be travelling to France during the Spring Break to promote School District 84), the RCMP day-long visit on March 14<sup>th</sup> to speak to students in their classrooms – with associated costs supported by a PAC donation, an Easter event on April 11<sup>th</sup> coordinated by Mrs. Kornylo, and the next PAC meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

b. **District Health and Safety Committee Report**

Trustee Pringle reported on the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, which opened with a brief roundtable update of OH&S meetings and activities at all worksites. Old business included a review of the incident/injuries and violent incidents from 2015-2016 to date. The violent incident definition and report form was reviewed and the form will be updated for the website. The OH&S reps were again reminded of their entitlement to eight hours of annual training. New Business included the 2016 Safety Review and upcoming new legislation regarding participation in investigations, evaluation of joint committees and minimum training requirements for new joint committee members and safety reps. Information regarding the 2017 premium rate for SD84 was provided, and this meeting's winner of the "Find a Hazard" draw was Kim Anderson from Captain Meares School who reported that the moss growing on the school sidewalk had become very slippery when wet, and the situation was rectified. A reminder to all employees to report any hazards to their Supervisor and to enter the 'Find a Hazard' draw. The next meeting is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.

c. **BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council Meeting**

Chairperson Kennedy reported on this well-attended meeting of February 17-18, focussing on "Education is the Key". Friday evening started with public health, children and exercise, and the creative ways schools are adding these to the agenda. Mr. James Hursthouse with "DiJi BC" spoke on the digital media sector and designing video games. He suggested introducing children to technology as soon as possible as it is their future. The average pay in the video game design industry is \$84,000 year. Mr. Bernard Richard, representative for children and youth, spoke on children in care. Ms. Isobel Mackenzie, seniors' advocate, discussed the effect that educated people have on seniors in care. Pharmacists, doctors, caregivers, etc., all contribute to living a healthy life in a healthy manner. Mr. James Rout from BCIT explained problem-solving and how to enter the workforce for students. Two students in Grades 11 and 12 spoke about their education experiences and explained how teamwork makes all accountable, strong education and teachers will shape the lives of students, and how everyone remembers a teacher who made a difference in their education. Saturday was the Provincial Council meeting and trustees looked into cost cutbacks on upcoming meetings and went over the financial spending, and from there debated motions for the rest of the afternoon.

d. **Vancouver Island School Trustees Association Spring Conference**

Chairperson Kennedy and Trustees Hanson and Pringle attended this very informative Association meeting hosted by SD 70 (Alberni) and held in the Black Rock Resort in Ucluelet. Delegates were greeted with a First Nations welcome and introductions from SD70. The program started with Mr. Don Avison speaking on "Trends in Aboriginal Education, a Path to Reconciliation". Don is the BC government lead negotiator in the First Nations Tripartite Education Agreements. His talk was very enlightening and he was pleased to have comments and questions from the crowd. Mr. Avison's

concerns are graduation rates and children in care, and the struggles students face from these situations. Saturday morning's theme was "Making Outside Agencies Inside Agencies" and Superintendent Greg Smyth introduced several speakers who discussed such things as learning science on a Christmas tree farm, the Ucluelet Aquarium, the ultimate classroom on the West Coast, connecting students to wildlife, co-existing with carnivores, and junior basic wildlife technicians (there is so much going on your own community to study and work, and to be aware of in terms of wildlife). SD70's schools have several programs to support students, one being a drop-in youth clinic in the high school specializing in sexual reproductive health, health discussions for youth, health procedures, healthy relationships and lifestyles, smoking, drugs, and on-site therapy with varied hours to work around the students' schedules. Another supportive initiative is to have the first day of high school for Grade 8 students only, to give them an opportunity to acclimatize to their new surroundings.

The remainder of the day was the VISTA business session. The next VISTA meeting will be hosted by SD71 (Comox Valley) on September 29-30, 2017.

e. **Working Relations Committee Meeting**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor reported on the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Unfinished business included the handbook for new teachers, TTOC call-out and teacher-in-charge, with no new information to report at this time. The spring staffing process was discussed, including how specialist positions will be filled, and more information will be known once the Memorandum of Understanding has been ratified by the provincial parties. The Employer and VIWTU reps agreed to meet on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for further discussions. The International Program and proposed dormitory at Ray Watkins Elementary School was another topic of discussion, as well as the continued concern about the TTOC shortage in School District 84. The rate of pay for Non-Certified Persons on Call will be brought forward to the next Board meeting for discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a. **School Calendar 2017-2018**

The proposed School Calendar for 2017-2018 has been circulated for feedback. The Curriculum Implementation Committee has requested that the first CI Day be scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> to allow for some available speakers. Therefore, September 8<sup>th</sup> will be changed to "NIS" and November 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the Professional Development Day which was originally scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Another date change for 2017-2018 will be the February Board meeting, which will be rescheduled to February 5, 2018. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor recommended approval of the School Calendar with the aforementioned changes.

**2017:R-014**    MOVED: Trustee Eastcott, SECONDED: Trustee Pringle  
AND RESOLVED:

*"TO adopt the 2017-2018 School Calendar with the changes as presented."*

The 2017-2018 School Calendar will now be issued and distributed to staff, students and parents.

b. **Regional Meeting to Review Rural Education**

The Parliamentary Secretary, Linda Larson, is currently touring the Province to consult with rural communities to find out about 'ruralness' and to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer/Operations Supervisor attended the February 17<sup>th</sup> consultation meeting in Courtenay and, although Ms. Larson was not available for this particular meeting, her representatives were in attendance to gather information. 'Rural' means different things for different people; i.e. there is 'remote' and there is 'rural remote' and it is important that people understand the difference. For example, people from the Comox Valley were talking about transportation and not enough busses, while people from Gold River were saying, 'Public transportation? What is that?' Comox Valley would talk about the lack of facilities for French Immersion, and the people from North Island would say, 'What's that?' It became very clear

that there are 'rural cities' which are small cities with unique issues, and there is 'remote rural BC' which is a completely different ball game and people received that message very clearly. One of the important issues raised was the need to recognize that the majority of First Nations, who are living on reserve, are in rural remote settings. Another strong point made was that the farming area of Surrey, which may be referred to as 'rural', receives services that are not available to other rural communities so there has to be a differentiation other than farming. There was general discussion about the infrastructure and recognition of what a good job rural communities and education systems are doing to overcome the barriers.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Preliminary Budget 2017-2018**

The Board has directed a moderate approach to building the 2017-2018 preliminary budget while maintaining a reasonable surplus. The Ministry will announce the preliminary operating grant on March 15th. With a moderate approach, there is a certain amount of items on the buffet table, the temporary positions sit off to the side, the "nice to have" items sit on the dessert table and – as the budget gets clearer - more dishes make their way onto the table. The budget is affected by the grant announcement, the audit in August, and the enrollment in September. The preliminary budget will be introduced in April and hopefully ready to adopt in May.

b. **Requests for Funding Support**

Throughout each year, School District 84 receives an average of 10 requests for funding support from outside organizations and these requests are gathered together and presented to the Board once or twice a year. This meeting's presentation included: (1) BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association request for \$399 towards the Fire Fighters' Burn Fund; and, (2) Royal Canadian Legion request for \$260 towards the 'Military Service Recognition Book'. Of the two requests, the Trustees all agreed that, given that the Royal Canadian Legion is local and provides financial support to the students of School District 84, the request for \$266 would be approved.

### **SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER/OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:**

a. **Enrollment Report**

The enrollment is holding steady at 426 FTE.

b. **Operations Report**

The dust collection installation at Gold River Secondary School has been slightly delayed because of the weather. One of the District Carpenters spent the last three weeks in Zeballos to cover for an absence and appreciation was expressed for both District Carpenters who work very hard and do a great job about being proactive. The team is looking forward to summer and time for bigger projects. With the help of summer student labourers, a new roof will be constructed in Kyuquot along with a number of other repairs and the sprucing-up of teacherages.

d. **Finance Warrants**

As at February 28, 2017, eight months or 66.6% of the 2016/17 fiscal year, and six months or 60.0% of the school calendar year has elapsed. The budget amounts shown in this Finance Warrant report are the 2016/17 Amended (Final) Budget amounts based on the September 30, 2016 actual enrollment for 2016/17.

Year to date revenue and expenses to the end of February 2017 is trending appropriately and within the total budget for the School District.

At the end of June 30, 2016, the District had an Operating surplus of \$1,092,000 carried forward from 2015/16 to 2016/17, of which \$693,000 has been allocated and \$399,000 is unallocated. To the end of February 2017, \$3,763,000 or 65.3% of the Ministry Operating Grant has been received. To date, the Ministry Operating Grant is trending appropriately as budgeted.

To the end of February 2017, \$1,534,000 or 50.7% of the 2016/17 school year (LEA) Local Education Agreement has been recorded. At this time, the School District is awaiting the final nominal roll from INAC to reconcile the LEA billing for the balance of the school year.

To the end of February 2017, the total salaries and benefits expenditure is trending slightly to a surplus amount of \$353,000 based on a prorated budget for the school year. The budget amounts shown are based on the Amended (Final) Budget that was approved in January 2017. To the end of February 2017, service/supplies expenditures is in a balance as budgeted on a prorated budget basis.

Note: For this finance warrant, the expenditures are estimated to be understated by approximately \$100,000 due to service/supplies expenditures and purchase cards expenditures not being recorded for February because they have not been received or processed, due to the early writing of this finance warrant.

Based on strictly actual revenues less actual expenditures, the School District is recording a small surplus of approximately \$180,000 for the year to the end of February 2017. With appropriated surplus of \$692,000 included in the actual analysis, the February 2017 actual can be restated with as a surplus balance of \$873,000.

At the end of the 2015/16 fiscal year, the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) had a surplus of \$589,000 being brought forward to 2016/17. To the end of February 2017, the AFG has a surplus of approximately \$42,000 remaining.

To date, \$786,000 of expenditures has been incurred to the end of February 2017. Major expenditures incurred in AFG are:

- \$18,000 for Salary & Benefit charge out from Operating
- \$20,000 for Ministry NGN upgrade
- \$11,000 for development of Capital Plan and Long Range Facilities Plan
- \$624,000 for the CMES Roofing
- \$63,000 for KESS Playground Equipment
- \$50,000 for various LED lighting upgrades

Future major AFG and Capital projects include:

- continue with LED lighting fixture upgrades
- refurbishment of teacherages (employee housing) at ZESS
- dust collection system at GRSS wood shop
- boiler upgrade at GRSS from diesel fuel to wood pellet

To the end of February 2017, \$111,000 of funds is remaining on the Zeballos School Replacement School capital project. The District is seeking approval from the Ministry to utilize this balance to be used for the GRSS boiler upgrade.

**TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:**

Nil.

**PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:**

Nil.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS:**

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 4 pm, in the School Board Office in Gold River. The public is invited to attend. Any requests for additions to the agenda should be forwarded to the School Board Office two weeks prior to the meeting. Note: Board meeting minutes are posted on the District's website at <http://www.sd84.bc.ca/board-meetings-school-district-84>.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Kennedy declared the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.