



**SD70 PACIFIC RIM BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MINUTES
5:00 pm – September 15, 2020
Administration Office – Port Alberni**

Trustees P. Craig, C. Washington, S. Leslie, J. Bennie, L. Ransom, R. Buchanan, C. Watts (by phone)
Administration: G. Smyth, B. Witte, L. Cheetham, J. Sexton
P&VP: S. Petersen

Call to Order – 5:05 pm Trustee Craig in the Chair.

Trustee Craig acknowledged the Tseshaht and Hupacasath people on whose territory we live, work and learn.

Questions/Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Buchanan and seconded by Trustee Washington that the Agenda of September 15, 2020 be approved with the addition of the following:

14.2 BCSTA/VISTA – Trustee Craig

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Declaration – Nil

1.0 Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Leslie and seconded by Trustee Ransom that the minutes of June 9, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

2.0 Announcements of the Chair

- Trustee Craig welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the school year.

3.0 Good News from the Schools - Nil

4.0 Trustee Statements

- Trustee Buchanan commented on hearing happy kids going to and from school today.
- Trustee Washington commended all district staff on all the work that has been done during the current Pandemic.

5.0 Petitions/Delegations/Presentations - Nil

6.0 Staff Reports

- 6.1 Audited Financial Statements 2019-20

Lenora Lee from KPMG presented the 2019-20 Financial Statements.

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Watts that the Board approve the 2019-20 Financial Statements as presented.

CARRIED

6.2 Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent provided his monthly report including an update on school start-up – *attached*.

6.3 Expenditures for May 2020

Moved by Trustee Leslie and seconded by Trustee Buchanan that the expenditures for the month of May 2020 be approved as follows:

Description	May
Supplies and Services	\$719,606.52
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,858,559.00
	\$4,578,165.52

CARRIED

6.4 Expenditures for June 2020

Moved by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Bennie the expenditures for the month of June 2020 be approved as follows:

Description	June
Supplies and Services	\$877,005.05
Salaries and Benefits	\$4,041,662.95
	\$4,918,668.00

CARRIED

6.5 Expenditures for July 2020

Moved by Trustee Watts and seconded by Trustee Leslie that the expenditures for the month of July 2020 be approved as follows:

Description	July
Supplies and Services	\$1,204,286.26
Salaries and Benefits	\$2,554,445.25
	\$3,758,731.51

6.6 Expenditures for August 2020

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Watts that the expenditures for the month of August 2020 be approved as follows:

Description	August
Supplies and Services	\$1,185,362.92
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,569,805.47
	\$2,755,168.39

CARRIED

6.7 USS/UES Seismic Upgrade

The Superintendent showed photos highlighting the progress of the USS/UES seismic project.

6.8 Disposal of Property

The Secretary-Treasurer provided details on the public consultation process to dispose of a piece of district property next to EALC currently leased to the Community Arts Council which the City of Port Alberni wishes to purchase. Trustees directed Mr. Cheetham to proceed with the process.

7.0 Executive Committee Reports - Nil

8.0 Unfinished Business/New Business - Nil

9.0 Policy Development - Nil

10.0 Correspondence – Action Required - Nil

11.0 Correspondence – For Information - Nil

12.0 Board Committees - Nil

13.0 Internal District Committees - Nil

14.0 External or Community Committees

14.1 Port Alberni Museum & Heritage Commission – *Trustee Craig*

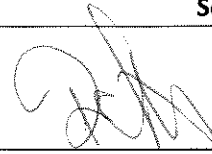
14.2 BCSTA/VISTA – *Trustee Craig*

Audience Question Period

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 13, 2020 at 4:00pm at Bamfield Community School.



Trustee Craig, Chair



L. Cheetham, Secretary-Treasurer



Superintendent's Report September 15, 2020

Start Up

Lots of prior communication regarding Stage 2 Restart Plans and Health and Safety measures, so my report will highlight the first days of having students in attendance.

- Schools welcomed the opportunity to have two days of staff orientation and two days of student orientation, the latter seeing students return in reduced numbers to better facilitate learning new expectations, behaviours and routines.
- Schools have adapted well, and it has been a good start given the circumstances
- Buses are running as usual and we are seeing many parents choose to transport students in private vehicles as recommended under COVID19 guidelines

Determining student enrolment as of September 15 is challenging given the number of families who have adopted a “wait and see” approach before committing to send their child back to class. Overall trends:

- Majority of students have returned to full-time, in-class instruction
- Some students and families have opted for Distributed Learning or Homeschooling and have been withdrawn from their neighbourhood school
- Other families have indicated they will be in a better position to decide on their child's program in the next week or two
- There are also families who have suggested they are not ready to transition back to school and have sought an alternative option to in-class, DL or homeschooling. A large portion of this group are Indigenous learners who seek a community-based approach while they consider transitioning back to a regular classroom at a later date
- Partially offsetting the reduced number of students returning to school is an increase in new registrations in many of our schools
- In the end, we expect to see a reduction in the number of students we projected to be in classrooms in September yet remain hopeful that these students will be captured by other SD70 programs such as CHOICES DL.

Our restart plans are based on the belief the best place for students intellectually, socially and emotionally is in schools with their peers and teachers, and we continue to find ways to help students and families transition to a classroom setting as soon as possible. As with any lengthy absence, the longer it takes to return to a regular environment the harder the transition; thus, an emphasis on full-time, in-class instruction as soon as possible.

Going Forward

Decisions need to be made as to where students are enrolled as of September 30, 2020. This is the traditional funding snapshot date and we want to have an accurate record of both where

students are and where they intend to be in the 2020/21 school year. This is especially important for those elementary students who have yet to commit to in-class instruction and for secondary students who have clearly indicated they won't be attending for the first quarter. This is more than simply a funding question as it has an operational impact on efforts to keep classroom spaces open to support student transitions at a later date.

Air Quality

Compounding a COVID19 restart is the impact of fire smoke of air quality in our Pacific Rim communities. We continue to monitor the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) and to follow recommendations regarding strenuous outdoor activities, but note at this time there have been no orders from the PHO, MHO or Minister regarding school closures due to smoky air conditions.