



SD70 PACIFIC RIM BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MINUTES
5:00 pm – October 12, 2021
Administration Office – Port Alberni

Trustees P. Craig, S. Leslie, J. Bennie (via Zoom), L. Ransom (via Zoom), R. Buchanan, C. Washington, C. Watts
Administration: G. Smyth, B. Witte, L. Cheetham, J. Messenger G. Roe
P&VP: N. Seredick

Call to Order – 5:00 pm Trustee Craig in the Chair.

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

Questions/Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Watts that the Agenda of October 12, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Declaration – Nil

1.0 Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Buchanan seconded by Trustee Washington the minutes of September 14, 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

2.0 Announcements of the Chair

3.0 Good News from the Schools

- Nick Seredick presented highlights from Bamfield Community School. Teachers presented a video entitled “Journeys” via Zoom.

4.0 Trustee Statements

- Trustee Washington attended VISTA via Zoom along with the other Trustees and attended the AW Neill renaming ceremony.
- Trustee Buchanan also attended the renaming ceremony as did Trustee Craig.
- Trustee Craig attended the exhibit at USS on September 30th for the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation with Trustee Leslie. Trustee Bennie and Ransom watched the live feed.
- Trustee Craig attended the session on Trauma Informed Practice hosted by teacher Erin Koszegi.

5.0 Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

5.1 Bamfield Community School – *Sally Mole*

6.0 Staff Reports

6.1 Superintendents Report

The Superintendent will provide his monthly report – *attached*.

6.2 Expenditures for August 2021

Moved by Trustee Bennie and seconded by Trustee Washington that the expenditures for the month of August 2021 be approved as follows:

Description	August
Supplies and Services	\$2,795,875.65
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,563,445.20
	\$4,359,320.85

CARRIED

6.3 District Report to Minister & Strategic Plan

The Superintendent provided an overview of the District Report to Minister of Education and the Strategic Plan – *attached*.

6.4 2021-22 Minor Capital Plan

The Director of Operations presented the 2021-22 Minor Capital Plan to be submitted to the MoE for consideration. Project requests include various roofing and HVAC upgrades as well as Playground equipment for AES. This Plan requires approval from the Board.

Moved by Trustee Watts and seconded by Trustee Leslie that the Board approve the 2021-22 Minor Capital Plan as presented.

CARRIED

7.0 Executive Committee Reports

7.1 September 22 and October 6, 2021.

8.0 Unfinished Business/New Business - Nil

9.0 Policy Development - Nil

10.0 Correspondence – Action Required – Nil

11.0 Correspondence – For Information

11.1 copy of the Westerly New dated September 22 and 29, 2021.

11.2 copy of the Ha-Shilth-Sa dated September 9 and 23, 2021.

12.0 Board Committees

12.1 Policy & Governance Committee of the Whole – *minutes of September 28, 2021.*

13.0 Internal District Committees

13.1 BCSTA/VISTA – *Trustee Craig*

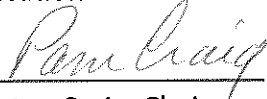
14.0 External or Community Committees

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

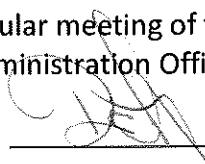
Audience Question Period

- CUPE Vice President Andrew Schneider asked Mr. Roe when he expects to hear about the Minor Capital Plan to which he replied that he expects to receive word in February.
- A parent asked about the status on vaccinations and masks in schools. Trustee Craig provided an explanation. The parent presented the Board with a “Vaccine” Notice of Liability – Minor/Concerned Citizen.
- ADTU President Cindy Hewitt asked if teachers will receive time to prep for district wide assessments. Mr. Smyth replied that he will take this under consideration.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on November 9, 2021 at 5:00pm in the Administration Office.



Trustee Craig, Chair



L. Cheetham, Secretary-Treasurer



Superintendent's Report October 12, 2021

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

I am very pleased with activities at Tsuma-as Elementary, ADSS and USS that made September 29 and 30 days of reflection, understanding, healing, and positive action. The largest of these activities was the renaming of Tsuma'as Elementary School as it was livestreamed to classes across the school district. We are grateful to a number of people who helped us do this the right way: elected chiefs, hereditary chiefs, Nuu-chah-Nulth Tribal Council leadership, elders, residential school survivors, Elder Council, and a host of individuals who made this an extremely successful day. Ucluelet Secondary School also hosted a new exhibit titled "Escaping Residential Schools: Running for Their Lives". This amazing exhibit was on loan from the Legacy of Hope Foundation and was the first time the exhibit has been on display in Canada. The exhibit was open to students and members of the public and was strongly attended. Not to be overshadowed, ADSS also unveiled a stylized "A" logo that was created by Gina Sutherland and now figures prominently throughout ADSS. Collectively, a lot of hard work generated some amazing events.

COVID19 – Investigating cases and notifying communities

Island Health is responsible for investigating possible COVID19 exposures, identifying close contacts, and determining the type and extent of any notification arising from a confirmed school exposure. Typically, high risk contacts will be notified by Island Health and directed to self-isolate for a specified period, while others in the class will receive a letter advising students to self-monitor for COVID19 symptoms. General notification of a school exposure, cluster, or outbreak is posted to the Island Health website. [COVID-19 in Schools | Island Health](#).

At the school level, Island Health informs us of any confirmed COVID19 cases, and we support Island Health's investigation of potential exposures and help in the distribution of notification letters to classes where there has been a confirmed COVID19 exposure. While there might be rumours of COVID19 or social media posts from families, it is only when a case is confirmed by Island Health's COVID19 Monitoring Team that the school is officially notified and the exposure investigation process begins. For confidentiality reasons, we will not disclose information on who has COVID19 or who has been identified as a high-risk contact, nor will we discuss social media posts or rumours regarding other potential COVID19 cases.

Schools are notifying their school community when there is a confirmed exposure, cluster, or outbreak posted to Island Health's website. The notice is provided to be transparent with the school community and should not be taken that a child has been exposed to COVID19 or that children should be kept home as a result of an exposure in another class. Unless parents have been directly contacted by Island Health or received a letter regarding an exposure in their

child's class, we encourage parents to continue with daily health checks and continue to send their child to school.

COVID19 – Impact on attendance

A two-week scan of attendance between September 22 and October 6 showed very high rates of student absence in most schools. Some of this can be attributed to students needing to self-isolate following a COVID19 exposure but attendance rates suggest a combination of seasonal cold/flu and general concern about COVID19 exposures have driven absentee rates. This is similar to December 2020 when a number of school exposures led to families keeping their children home for a short period of time. We continue to support learners while absent and remind parents of the daily demand on teachers to provide regular, in-person instruction means there is a limit to which classroom learning activities can be reasonably 'packaged' and sent home.

An exposure event at Bamfield Community School saw attendance plummet to 15% with concerns that the exposure might grow into something greater. Given the high rate of absenteeism and concern regarding the replacement of staff should they contract COVID19, the school has temporarily shifted to virtual learning through Friday, October 15. This decision reflected the geographic uniqueness of Bamfield and the logistics of maintaining in-person learning.