



**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, S. Manson, L. Morphet, M. Fryer  
**P&VP:** D. Maher

**Call to Order** – 5:04 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 November 9, 2021, be approved.*

CARRIED

### Conflict of Interest Declaration – Nil

#### 1.0 Adoption of Minutes

*Moved by Trustee Buchanan seconded by Trustee Leslie the minutes of October 12, 2021 be approved.*

CARRIED

#### 2.0 Announcements of the Chair

- Trustee Craig acknowledged Trustee Buchanan on her 25<sup>th</sup> year as Trustee.

#### 3.0 Good News from the Schools

- Trustee Craig thanked schools for all their work planning Remembrance Day ceremonies.

#### 4.0 Trustee Statements

- Trustee Craig commented on various events she attended this past month.

#### 5.0 Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

- 5.1 ADTU – *Cindy Hewitt*
- 5.2 CUPE – *Andrew Schneider*

#### 6.0 Staff Reports

- 6.1 Superintendents Report

The Superintendent provided his monthly report – *attached*.

Representatives from Tseshaht Council also shared concerns relating to the monitoring of ADSS washrooms and invited Trustees to a meeting with Tseshaht Council.

6.2 Expenditures for September 2021

*Moved by Trustee Watts and seconded by Trustee Leslie that the expenditures for the month of September 2021 be approved as follows:*

Description	September
Supplies and Services	\$3,349,559.39
Salaries and Benefits	\$2,686,560.79
	<b>\$6,036,120.18</b>

CARRIED

6.3 Expenditures for October 2021

*Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Watts that the expenditures for the month of October 2021 be approved as follows:*

Description	October
Supplies and Services	\$3,170,897.97
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,734,458.22
	<b>\$6,905,356.19</b>

CARRIED

6.4 Gill Elementary School

Mr. Smyth provided some background on the former Gill Elementary School. He noted that the school closed in June 2015 and has been used for storage and temporary space for a few community groups. According to the asset management program, the school is ranked poorly. He recommended to proceed with the process to dispose of the building and property. Next step is to engage in the public process on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

6.5 Learning Services

Mr. Messenger reported on various district initiatives such as the Strategic Plan focusing on literacy, numeracy and well-being. He noted that Sandra McAulay has been hired as District Curriculum Resource Teacher as well as 2fte school-based teachers for literacy and numeracy. Mr. Messenger also highlighted the new website [www.sd70.bc.ca](http://www.sd70.bc.ca)

**7.0 Executive Committee Reports**

7.1 October 20 and November 3, 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 Ha-Shilth-Sa dated October 7 and 21, 2021.

**12.0 Board Committees**

**13.0 Internal District Committees**

13.1 BCSTA/VISTA – *Trustee Ransom & Trustee Craig*

13.2 Alberni Clayoquot Health Network – *Trustee Washington*


**14.0 External or Community Committees**


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

**Audience Question Period**

- Various members of the audience voiced their concerns about masks and vaccinations for school-aged children.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on December 14, 2021 at 5:00pm in the Administration Office.

  
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Trustee Craig, Chair

  
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L. Cheetham, Secretary-Treasurer



## Superintendent's Report November 9, 2021

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### **Concerns Regarding Monitoring of ADSS Washrooms**

A joint letter to parents from Rob Souther, ADSS Principal, and myself was drafted to help respond to social media concerns regarding the monitoring of ADSS washrooms. Mr. Souther received some parent complaints in response to what was posted on social media, and I was contacted by Tseshaht First Nation leadership regarding this issue. The letter to parents (attached) rejects the notion that washroom monitoring has been "inappropriate, excessive, or invasive" and is clear that school administrators and staff are **not** looking under washroom stalls or through cracks in bathroom partitions as alleged. School administrators have the unenviable task of monitoring school washrooms to address inappropriate behaviours and to ensure student well-being and are fulfilling these obligations in the least intrusive and most respectful way.

### **MCFD Family Contract Extension**

We are pleased to confirm the Early Years Services contract between MCFD and Pacific Rim School District has been extended for another three years. Operating out of the Family Hub at EJ Dunn Elementary, Pacific Rim Children and Families is the early learning branch of SD70 and partners with other agencies and organizations to provide onsite and outreach programming to enhance connections between families, early care and learning professionals, primary educators, and community partners. Thus, the Family Hub has become a 'one stop shop' for families to connect with each other and with a variety of family supports. The school district's partnership with MCFD is unique among other and speaks to the district's ongoing emphasis and support for early learning programs and services.

### **District Learning Services Department**

District and school-based staff remain grateful for the Board's support in re-establishing a District Learning Services Team. Mr. Messenger will talk more about how additional staffing and resources will support the district's strategic plan to improve literacy, numeracy and well-being outcomes, but it is important to note the hiring of a District Resource Teacher (Sandra McAulay) and school-based literacy and numeracy leads are vital to improvement efforts.

### **Mental Health Initiatives**

Pleased to have co-developed a support staff training program that will increase staff knowledge and understanding relating to youth mental health issues. Professional learning opportunities will focus on strengthening our understanding of and response to youth mental health issues, and how to assist students in navigating to the appropriate mental health services professionals.

The district is also piloting a Mental Health Navigator position(s) to provide further support to school administrators, school counsellors, and district counsellors as they collectively address student mental health issues. Positions are currently targeted at ADSS and EALC.

### **Elementary Cross Country**

On Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, approximately 150 elementary students participated in an inter-school cross country event. We are pleased that extra-curricular activities curtailed by COVID19 are once again being slowly reintroduced and are extremely happy that the recent spate of rain held off that afternoon. Ongoing COVID19 concerns prevented some schools from participating and COVID19 protocols meant students, staff and parents did not gather and mingle as in previous years, yet it was good to see students outdoors and participating in extra-curricular activities. Special thanks to the District Elementary Sports Council and the numerous administrators and teachers that organized the event.

### **Salmonid Program**

It is also very pleasing to see local school field trips happening, and the local Salmonids in the Classroom program has seen a visit from every valley elementary school. Thanks to Darrin Olson, EJD Principal, and community volunteers Scott Kenny and Art Halsall for their support and dedication to this program. We remain grateful for the support of community volunteers such as Mr. Kenney and Mr. Halsall, without whom it would be extremely difficult to offer the educational programs connected with salmonid recovery programs.