



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, April 17, 2024
School Board Office

MINUTES

Present: Jaclyn Miller, Dale Lawson, Maureen Mason

Also in attendance: Jay Yule (Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

Regrets: Rob Hill, Kirsten Van't Schip

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 by Chairperson Miller.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PRESENTATIONS: GIJE Program – C. Gordon

C. Gordon provided a presentation to the board regarding the successes of the GIJE program. The program emphasizes experiential learning with a strong identity-based approach, enabling students to earn graduation credits alongside practical applications and licenses. Gordon showcased various activities, including students preparing food sourced from their environment for elders and agencies supporting the program.

The GIJE Program is a land-based, experiential, and culturally immersive program. It honours Indigenous knowledge and ways of being and doing to provide students with a safe, holistic, and identity affirming education while offering credits towards their graduation. This is achieved through engaging and relevant learning opportunities. The course provides a strengths-based approach with exposure to broad experiences while creating space for individual student gifts, interests, and mastery as a way to build students sense of belonging, identity, and success.

The curriculum encompasses a range of activities, from wilderness first aid training to hunting and archery practice, fostering a transformative process for students. Notably, the program aims to involve the RCMP in challenging or high-risk field trips. Through non-linear and cyclical learning methods, students engage in activities like hide tanning, butchering meat, and transforming fish skins, all while teaching and collaborating with their peers. This approach has resulted in increased attendance rates and greater investment from students, evident in their pride in accomplishments.

Assessment strategies prioritize equity and holistic integration of student input and community involvement, with a focus on qualitative reporting over quantitative measures. The Resiliency, Identity,

and Self-Esteem (RISE) assessment allows students to track their progress in various metrics, reflecting the program's commitment to individualized support. Despite a vulnerable student demographic, the program celebrates successes including enhanced community connections, collaboration, and the active involvement of elders. Overall, the GIJE Program demonstrates a promising model for student engagement and empowerment. C. Gordon expressed thanks for the support of both the board and the Tla'amin Nation.

qathet Community Justice (qCJ) Youth Restorative Action – S. Brown

S. Brown, Executive Director of qathet Community Justice (qCJ), accompanied by Chelsea Friesen, Youth Restorative Action Coordinator, and youth representatives Panagiota Rounis and Abi Welp-Ellis, delivered a presentation on the qathet Community Justice (qCJ) Youth Restorative Action Program. The team outlined the program's core components, which include education, community building, and casework through a restorative justice model. Emphasizing collaborative decision-making, the restorative justice model involves affected parties in determining consequences rather than imposing them externally. The presentation detailed various youth program activities such as school presentations and community engagement efforts.

The Youth Restorative Action team has presented to grade 8 students for the past three years and has hosted sessions for professional development focusing on Circles. The YRA aims for greater integration of youth into schools, particularly with grade 8 students transitioning to Brooks, seeking to support students through Circles, fostering open communication, and trust-building. There's a plan to concentrate efforts on grade 8 circles and student integration this year. The program has received positive feedback, with students expressing that restorative justice practices would have been beneficial in elementary school.

The team highlighted overlapping ties between the goals of qCJ Youth Restorative Action Program and the board's strategic plans. Future plans involve expanding the program to elementary levels and building capacity to prepare students for restorative justice processes. Volunteers, typically aged 14 to 27, are recruited based on their interests, with opportunities for involvement in social justice classes and receiving an honorarium for their work.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

"Happy to have the students back in school after Spring Break and back into routine as we look forward to the next two months before Summer Break.

Yesterday, Jay Yule, Jessica Johnson and myself met with Tla'amin education managers and directors as part of the first step in establishing the Tla'amin Education Agreement oversight team. The TEA is meant to be a living document that serves as a core shared accountability mechanism to build a positive and constructive relationship to support and promote Tla'amin language, culture, and the educational outcomes of Tla'amin students. The oversight team is there to ensure that we're living up to our commitments and that the TEA is being used and implemented at the school district level. We had a productive and positive meeting and I look forward to more in future.

Maureen, Dale, Steve, and I are heading to Vancouver tomorrow for the Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees Association. We're looking forward to the keynote speaker this year - Riaz Meghji, a human connection expert, who will be highlighting how to create engaged and connected cultures through the power of candid conversation. There will be sessions related to AI and coding, the upcoming election period, anti-racism, leading with evidence, using board workplans, and then the voting session for the motions that are being brought forward for this year.

On May 9th, qathet School District is hosting its second annual Health and Wellness Conference for Grade 7 students who are transitioning to high school. This event aims to help prepare students with information, tips, and ideas on how to get ready for this important transitional time in their lives. I look forward to popping in and seeing some lively engagement!"

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Regular meeting agenda of April 17, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Regular meeting minutes of March 13, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS

3.a) March 13, 2024 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which included personnel.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

4.a) BC Ferries Engagement and Update Report – March 27, 2024

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the correspondence listed in item 4.a) be received.

STATUS: CARRIED

5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

5.a) Board to J. Kennedy and Students – District Student Council

The outgoing correspondence was provided for information.

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) BAA Course - Self Efficacy and Resilience

Director of Instruction, A. Burt, introduced a newly developed Board/Authority Authorized Course titled "Self-Efficacy and Resilience." The asynchronous course targets students facing challenges in school engagement due to mental health issues, attendance concerns, substance use, or other community-related factors. Focused on core competencies, students will cultivate self-awareness, social awareness, self-regulation, interpersonal skills, and personal health and wellness.

The program emphasizes core competencies as its cornerstone. It is envisaged that a school-based team would recommend this course for a student, with the case manager or school counselor acting as the enrolling teacher.

6.b) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 5, 2022, to March 31, 2024

The report was provided for information.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the BAA course titled Self Efficacy and Resilience be approved and adopted as outlined.

STATUS: CARRIED

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Superintendent of Schools' Report be received as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

7.a) 2024/2025 Provincial Grant Information

S. Hopkins presented estimated operating grant details for the 2024/2025 school year. The district anticipates receiving \$41 million in ministry grants, comprising both block and supplemental funding. Ministry funding primarily dictates budget planning for the upcoming school year.

A detailed summary of grants was included in the agenda package. During the discussion, there was inquiry into Community LINK funding. S. Hopkins clarified that historically, Community LINK funding supported food programming and supplemental services for vulnerable populations. However, with the ministry now providing specific funding for food programs (Feeding Futures Fund), Community LINK funding is directed towards supporting before and after-school care programs beyond the funded portion.

A draft budget for the 2024/2025 school year will be presented to the board in May.

7.b) 2024/2025 Capital Plan Response Letter & Bylaw

S. Hopkins provided an update on the ministry's ongoing consideration of an addition at Edgehill Elementary. The district's business case for this addition has been submitted for review, and further developments are anticipated in the coming months.

J. Formosa shared details of approved minor capital projects aimed at enhancing sustainability across the district. These initiatives include an HVAC update at Henderson Elementary and the replacement of gas boilers with electric heat pumps. The transition to electric heat sources is expected to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, a comprehensive lighting upgrade is planned, which will involve replacing lighting fixtures and domestic hot water tanks at Henderson Elementary to achieve additional energy savings.

7.c) Month End Financial Report as at March 31, 2024

S. Hopkins reported that the monthly financial report is on track when compared to the same period last year.

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT Capital Bylaw No. 2024/2025-CPSD47-01 be adopted in support of the projects as outlined.

STATUS: CARRIED

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Secretary Treasurer's report be received as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) The April Committee of the Whole meeting was cancelled for lack of quorum.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) Provincial Review of Trustee Codes of Conduct

9.a.i) Correspondence of August 1, 2023

9.a.ii) Provincial Policy Criteria

9.a.iii) Comparison of Local Policy to Provincial Criteria

9.a.iv) Policy 4 – Trustee Code of Conduct with Prospective Edits

9.a.v) Policy 4 – Appendix – Trustee Code of Sanctions (for information)

S. Hopkins presented proposed edits to the Trustee Code of Conduct to ensure alignment with provincial criteria. Initially, it was noted by the province that the board lacked language pertaining to sanctions. However, after discussions with

ministry representatives, it was clarified that the board's language on sanctions was indeed included in an appendix to the policy.

Trustees agreed that the suggested edits were appropriate according to provincial criteria and voiced their support for the change.

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT updates to Policy 4 – Trustee Code of Conduct be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

During the media question period, a representative inquired whether the district's goal was to achieve carbon neutrality across all its schools. S. Hopkins replied that carbon neutrality is an ongoing initiative for the board. The district is striving to achieve this goal by balancing infrastructure improvements, taking into account the aging infrastructure of its schools. Hopkins further explained that the ministry offers financial support for these improvements based on the submissions made through capital planning.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

STATUS: CARRIED



J. Miller
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/er