



# School District #49 (Central Coast)

## REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: November 09, 2021

Time: 6:09 PM

Location: Board Office Board

Room

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### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Trustees: Nicola Koroluk, Chair  
Marisa Blewett, Trustee  
Frank Johnson, Trustee (Teleconference)  
Crystal Anderson, Trustee (Teleconference)  
Christina Hoppe, Trustee

Staff: Stephen Dishkin, Superintendent  
Helen Zhao, Secretary Treasurer

Guests: Lisa Tallio (Teleconference)  
Crystal Tallio (Teleconference)  
Samuel Schooner (Teleconference)  
Marshall Hans (Teleconference)  
Doris Muise (Teleconference)  
Cheyenne (Teleconference)  
Kara (Teleconference)  
Other unidentified guests (Teleconference)

The meeting was called to order at 18:09 hours, November 09, 2021

The Board chair acknowledged that the meeting was being Held on Traditional Nuxalk Territory.

### **ADOPTION of AGENDA**

MOVED/SECONDED Marisa Blewett/Christina Hoppe

That the Board accepted the agenda items

CARRIED

### **ADOPTION of MINUTES**

MOVED/SECONDED Marisa Blewett/Christina Hoppe

That the Board accepted amended minutes on October 12, 2021

CARRIED

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

#### **Enrollment**

There are 219 students enrolled in October.

### **Equity Scan**

Equity scan will start in January and complete in May. The second round of orientation will be also scheduled on November 26. The scanning team is going to identify the gaps in the School District. Superintendent encouraged the public to provide inputs.

### **LEA agreement**

Second section of discussion is scheduled in January. Superintendent thanked the Nuxalk nation for their dedication to the process.

### **Trustee Variance**

MOVED/SECONDED Nicola Koroluk /Christina Hoppe

To enter the process of requesting a change to the trustee variation in the Bella Coola Valley

Rationale:

School District 49 Central Coast is comprised of 3 First Nations. Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuik and Nuxalk. The current system has 1 trustee in Wuikinuxv, 1 trustee in Bella Bella/Denny Island and 3 trustees in the Bella Coola Valley.

Trustee Koroluk is asking for the Board apply to have the boundary within the valley changed so that one seat will be allocated to the Nuxalk Reserve which currently are included in the Regional District electoral area D.

The Nuxalk Nation is a unique community that falls within the governance of the Nuxalk Council. According to the 2011 census data, provided by the CCRD approximately 1/3 of the eligible voters for the CCRD live on the reserve.

Election Data received from the CCRD break down the population of the three electoral areas as such:

Area C Augsburg Church east 588

Area D Augsburg Church West to Tatsquan Creek, including the 2 reserves 384

Area E Townsite (west) 95 A

Total 1067

School district election does not separate out trustees into the electoral areas, but rather elects in 3 positions from the entire Bella Coola valley.

Seats on a Board of Education should represent the distinct communities for the area in which it governs. The perspective of the Nuxalk Community has not been represented at the board table for many years, and many decisions are made at the table without this perspective being fully understood. For example, Nuxalk elected Council passed a motion instructing member to stay at home during Covid outbreaks last year. There was no one on the Board who was directly impacted by this yet approximately 50% of our students were. I cannot pretend to understand how this impacted our staff and students.

A Nuxalk voice at the table would bring a distinct perspective to the table that would allow for meaningful dialogue among the board, in the same way that Trustee Johnson is able to bring forward his experience of living in Wuikinuxv

Other School Districts, such as the Stikine have a trustee represented from each community.

It is essential that the education sector lead the way in terms of truth and reconciliation, both in the education of our students and communities, but also in inclusion, diversity, and recognition of systemic racism. The consequences of Residential Schools have damaged families and communities and have left many not trusting the education system. For the last 2 years the Nuxalk Council has been asking for a Nuxalk seat at the board table. A fair boundary change is a way to insure a fair and equal voice for the Nuxalk at the Board table while meeting all the requirements of a democratic system.

There is 1 year left in this Board's term, if we work now to address the unequal representation of our communities, I believe we can make historic changes that can only benefit the educational experience of all our students. The Province of BC is moving forward to ensure Indigenous voices are heard through the Tripartite agreement and Truth and Reconciliation. If we move forward, we can help better the public education system in the Central Coast so that all our students thrive.

Lisa Tallio commented that she would like to see Nuxalk nation to be part of solution discussion instead of informing the solution to Nuxalk nation. Samuel Schooner requested the Board having further discussion with Nuxalk council and consultant before submitting the request.

MOVED/SECONDED Crystal Anderson/ Marisa Blewett

That the Board postpone the motion to enter into the process of requesting a change to the trustee variation in the Bella Coola Valley

CARRIED

### **Covid Vaccination**

Superintendent presented information about staff vaccination mandate.

Board will not move forward at this time to create a vaccine policy but encourages all employees to get vaccinated. It is safe and is the best defense against Covid.

Marshall commented that the capacity limit of getting medical attention in the community needs to be factored in the consideration by the Board. Wilma commented that the Board should look at the steps of the process with consideration of keeping school open and staffing shortage. Lisa Tallio commented to look at other areas with demographic like Bella Coola. Samuel Schooner recommended to have rapid testing available at schools.

### **Admin Report**

Superintendent went over the admin report with the Board.

MOVED/SECONDED Crystal Anderson/Marisa Blewett

That the Board accepted Superintendent report

CARRIED

## **SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT**

### **Amended Budget Review**

Secretary Treasurer presented the amended budget review. \$424k operating loss is budgeted by the end of June of 2022 based on student enrollment number and staffing level as of September of 2021. Consultation process is going to start soon.

### **Policy**

Draft policy 480 selection of learning resources was presented.

MOVED/SECONDED Crystal Anderson/Marisa Blewett

That the Board of Education put forward the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the policy

CARRIED

### **Capital Update**

Capital project list was presented. Lisa Tallio commented to take true and reconciliation into consideration when consult the public with building new timber frame structure for undercover play area at BCE.

### **First Nation Student Transportation Plan**

The plan with Heilstuk nation was presented. Heilstuk nation has verbally agreed to sign it.

MOVED/SECONDED Marisa Blewett/Christina Hoppe

That the Board of Education approved First Nation student transportation plan with Heilstuk nation

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED Christina Hoppe/Marisa Blewett

That the Board of Education accepted the Secretary Treasurer report

CARRIED

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Health & Safety Committee**

The next meeting will be held on November 17.

### **Questions and Comments**

## **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD TO THE IN CAMERA MEETING**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED/SECONDED Nicola Koroluk/ Christina Hoppe

That the regular meeting adjourns at 19:52 hours November 09, 2021

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Chairperson

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Superintendent