



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84
HELD ON MONDAY MAY 11, 2026
KYUQUOT ELEMENTARY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KYUQUOT, BC**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Arlaine Fehr, Chairperson (Gold River)
Allison Stiglitz (Tahsis) (online)
Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot)
Katie Unger (Gold River)

ALSO PRESENT: Stephen Larre, Superintendent
Gillian Leask, Secretary Treasurer
Ellena Gjesdal, Executive Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT: 2

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chairperson Fehr acknowledged and gave thanks that we work, play and live on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples, Ehattesaht-Chinehkint, Nuchatlaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h First Nations, and that the meeting is being held on the treaty territory of the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h First Nations.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2026:R-021 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda"

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2026:R-022 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Unger
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the amended minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 13, 2026."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.



Tahsis, while secondary students took part in a North Island Outdoor Pursuits Bushcraft experience on Quadra Island. Ongoing preparation for the District Cultural Sharing Day included regular trips to Gold River, highlighting strong district connections. A key highlight was the Basketball Play Day in Zeballos, made possible through community support from Nootka Reforestation, providing students with valuable athletic and social experiences.

- II. **GRSS:** April was a busy and productive month at GRSS, highlighted by a Parent/Teacher night on April 7 that included a parent feedback survey. Students are currently engaged in district assessments, surveys, and scholarship preparations, while also participating in enrichment opportunities such as the Regional Science Fair and Provincial Assessments. Looking ahead, students are preparing for the District Cultural Event at GRSS on May 13, and a recent highlight was the Grad trip to Vancouver from May 1-3 to Vancouver.
- III. **KESS:** As above
- IV. **RWES:** The school continues to demonstrate strong academic progress, with approximately 90% of intermediate students reading at grade level. Staff are also working diligently to further improve reading comprehension and writing proficiency. April included several health-focused initiatives, with a dental hygienist visiting classrooms and the Lion's Club providing vision screening for all students. Community connections were strengthened through a family dance organized by the Reveller's seniors group, featuring the Old Time Fiddlers. Students also showcased their creativity, with the **Grade 6–7** class delivering an entertaining synchronized swimming parody at the April assembly. Additionally, all 18 participating Grade 6–7 students successfully completed the CORE hunting programme, earning their wilderness certificates, with some also achieving their junior firearms licence.

b. Working Relations Committee

The committee did not meet this month.

c. BCSTA Annual General Meeting – April 9-11, 2026

Thursday, April 9 - Board Chair session - Trustee Troubles Extravaganza, Session took board chairs through 4 exercises where decisions had to be made under pressure. The scenarios were intentionally exaggerated to highlight common pitfalls. The Wi-Fi uprising, The Partisan Divide, The Audit Scandal and The Family Connection. Keynote – Clara Hughes, Olympian spoke about her life and challenges.

Friday, April 10 - VISTA Breakfast meeting with Minister Beare. Topics of discussion as follows; Continues work on school safety, All graduation rates are up, Decline in literacy and numeracy, Kindergarten screening for literacy, Strengthen codes of conducts, Recruitment and retention – putting dollars to it, Expedited International teachers' certification, \$5 million to mental health grants, Changed legislation to have childcare on school grounds, and Policy Review for Boards of Education. Board Policy Review Advisory Committee shared a best practice resource developed collaboratively to support boards of education in reviewing and modernizing their policy manuals. The document provides practical guidance, tools, and exemplars to help guide boards' work on policy development. This resource respects local board autonomy, recognizing that each board is best positioned to make decisions based on the communities they serve. The following was discussed; Recommend 4 year update cycle, Divide into , Policy and administrative procedures, Ministerial Orders will say if they are for policy or a/p, School Act must be policy, Policy is the why and the what, A/P is the how, Resource is "live" update on the BCSTA Portal, Concurrent Sessions, "How Are We Doing? Report": Education outcomes of Indigenous learners, School Safety and Emergency Management, Defending School Districts: A Live Ransomware Crisis Experience, Ransomware attack lifecycle has 7 stages, Have a communication plan, Do not overshare, Be truthful, Cybersecurity framework:



1. Identify – what are we trying to protect, e.g. student records
 2. Protect
 3. Detect – a risk
 4. Respond – how to react to an attack
 5. Recover – feedback and review risk and improve IT
- Have multiple controls and integration

Governing Through an Election

Concurrent Sessions (2) - Owning the Message: Communicating with Confidence and Clarity, Feeding the People, Raising the Next Generation: Indigenous Foods and Child Development, Continuous Improvement: Board Communications by doing the following: Demonstrate accountability and transparency, Build trust and confidence, Does the district have a communications policy or A/P on communications?, Advocacy to MLA, community, etc., Lobbying – influence legislation, e.g. MLA, MP, Senators, Activism – protests, e.g. public.

The Key Works of Trustees, Their Powers and Responsibilities (School Act 101)

Provincial Council Meeting

- Business meeting to approve the Draft Budget
- Appointing auditors

Saturday, April 11 – AGM - Meeting run by Parliamentarian - Voting for Substantive motions done electronically by Board Chairs, all other motions voted by hand with scrutineers as needed.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

As attached from April 27 and 28th, 2026 in Kyuquot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. 2026/27 Annual Budget

Secretary Treasurer Leask presented the annual budget, noting that wage increases have not been incorporated into the budget as the offsetting funding has not yet been confirmed. Confirmed funding and wage increases will be incorporated into the amended annual budget, which will result in a significant increase in both operating revenue and wage expenses. This will also distort monthly budget reporting until the amended annual budget is passed, as actual wages will be higher than budgeted wages. The 2026/27 annual budget draws from accumulated surplus, similar to the 2025/26 amended annual budget. The district still has sufficient accumulated operating surplus to maintain service levels, however operating revenues will continue to decrease due to ongoing funding protection, while expenses will continue to increase. Therefore, in the long term, cost-saving decisions will need to be made.

2026:R-24 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“TO have all three readings of the bylaw in one.”

2026:R-25 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
AND RESOLVED:
“THAT the Board of Education approve the Annual Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,240,331 as presented “



b. Policy 1 – Foundation Statements

Superintendent Larre reported that the proposed amendments to Policy 1 have been circulated for feedback. Any feedback received will be reviewed at the June meeting.

c. 2026 School Trustee Elections

2026:R-023 MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson
 AND RESOLVED:

‘TO appoint Gillian Leask, Secretary Treasurer, as Chief Elections Officer and Ellena Gjesdal, Executive Assistant, as Deputy Chief Elections Officer for the 2026 School Trustee Election for Vancouver Island West School District 84.’

NEW BUSINESS

a. AP 150 Emergency Preparedness

Superintendent Larre reported that the AP was updated per provincial guidelines.

b. Indigenous How are we doing report

Superintendent Larre presented the report, commenting on the district's efforts to improve attendance.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Superintendent’s Report – as attached

NTC Grad dates have changed to June 5-6. Principal Rockwell will attend on behalf of the District.

b. Secretary Treasurer’s Report – as attached

Secretary Treasurer Leask thanked Assistant Superintendent Johnson and IT staff for their work on cybersecurity resilience.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

Nil.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Nil.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on June 8, 2026, at 4:00 pm, at the House of Unity, Tsaxana. The public is invited to attend. Any requests for agenda additions should go to egjesdal@viw.sd84.bc.ca two weeks prior to the meeting. Board meeting minutes are posted on the District’s website at sd84.bc.ca/about-sd84/board-meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm



Certified Correct:

*Chairperson
Arlaine Fehr*

*Secretary-Treasurer
Gillian Leask*