



**SD70 (ALBERNI) BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MINUTES
5:00 pm – January 14, 2020
Administration Office, Port Alberni, B.C.**

Trustees P. Craig, C. Washington, S. Leslie (by phone), J. Bennie, L. Ransom, C. Watts (by phone)
Administration: G. Smyth, B. Witte, L. Cheetham
P&VP: M. Fryer

Call to Order – 4:57pm Trustee Craig in the Chair.

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

Questions/Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Bennie and seconded by Trustee Watts that the Agenda of January 14, 2020 be approved with the addition of the following:

- 3.3 ADTU Teacher Librarian Association – *Liz Bill*
- 6.4 2020-21 School Calendar – *Greg Smyth*
- 13.1 Teacher Pro D – *Trustee Bennie*

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Declaration – Nil

1.0 Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Ransom that the minutes of December 10, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

2.0 Announcements of the Chair

3.0 Good News from the Schools

- 3.1 ACRD Child Care Planning Team – *Marcie DeWitt, Tracy Smyth*
- 3.2 ADSS Social Justice (Equality) – *Anne Ostwald*
- 3.3 ADTU Teacher Librarian Association – *Liz Bill*

4.0 Trustee Statements

- Trustees highlighted events in December as well as Totem Tournament.

5.0 Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

6.0 Staff Reports

6.1 Superintendent’s Report

The Superintendent provide his monthly report – *attached*.

6.2 Expenditures for November 2019

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Ransom that the expenditures for the month of November 2019 be approved as follows:

Description	November
Supplies and Services	\$574,950.03
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,430,581.33
	\$4,005,531.36

CARRIED

6.3 Expenditures for December 2019

Moved by Trustee Watts and seconded by Trustee Leslie that the expenditures for the month of December 2019 be approved as follows:

Description	December
Supplies and Services	\$338,372.07
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,762,960.21
	\$4,101,332.28

CARRIED

6.4 2020-21 School Calendar

The Superintendent presented a draft school calendar for 2020-21 based on the 2019-20 school year. – *attached*.

7.0 Executive Committee Reports

7.1 January 8, 2020.

8.0 Unfinished Business/New Business - Nil

9.0 Policy Development

9.1 Policy Adoption – P106: Board/District Communication

Moved by Trustee Bennie and seconded by Trustee Washington that the Board adopt P106: Board/District Communication.

CARRIED

9.2 Policy Adoption – P 612: School Libraries

Moved by Trustee Bennie and seconded by Trustee Washington that the Board delete P612: School Libraries.

CARRIED

9.3 Policy Adoption – P 620: Community Speech Services

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Ransom that the Board delete P620: Community Speech Services.

CARRIED

9.4 Notice of Motion – P134: Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Bennie and seconded by Trustee Watts that the Board serve Notice of Motion to amend P134: Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

CARRIED

9.5 Notice of Motion - P600: Curriculum Implementation

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Bennie that the Board serve Notice of Motion to delete P600: Curriculum Implementation, including the addition of UNDRIP to Regulation 1.6.

CARRIED

9.6 Notice of Motion – P602: Communicating Student Learning

Moved by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Watts that the Board serve Notice of Motion to introduce P602: Communicating Student Learning.

CARRIED

10.0 Correspondence – Action Required

11.0 Correspondence – For Information

11.1 copy of the Westerly News dated December 4, 11, 18 2019 and January 1, 2020.

11.2 copy of the Ha-Shilth-Sa News dated December 12, 2019.

12.0 Board Committees

12.1 Policy and Procedure Committee – *minutes of January 7, 2020.*

13.0 Internal District Committees

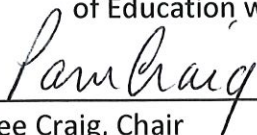
13.1 Teacher Pro D – *Trustee Bennie*

14.0 External or Community Committees

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

Audience Question Period

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:12p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on January 14, 2020 at the Administration Office at 5:00 p.m.



Trustee Craig, Chair



L. Cheetham, Secretary-Treasurer



Superintendent's Report
January 14, 2020

6.1

Supreme Court Case

School District 70 (Alberni) has recently received the ruling of the Honourable Mr. Justice Thompson of the British Columbia Supreme Court dismissing a petition seeking a declaration that a smudging demonstration at an elementary school by an Indigenous elder interfered with the petitioner's religious freedoms and the religious freedoms of her children.

With one third of SD70 students self-declaring indigenous ancestry, it is important that we continue to deepen the awareness, appreciation and understanding of Indigenous culture for all students. Teaching students about Indigenous culture, history, traditions and practices is part of our BC curriculum and the events in this case were designed to teach students about smudging by having them observe a smudging demonstration in a classroom.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Thompson stated:

[94] I conclude that these smudging and hoop dancing demonstrations were in no way — either by design or in their execution — an expression of the School District's beliefs or an expression of religious favouritism. Rather, the organization of these events reflected a gathering momentum to incorporate the teaching of Indigenous worldviews and perspectives. I accept the evidence ... that the smudging or anything that the Elder said could not be construed as trying to make someone else believe what the Elder believed — when the Elder spoke, she used words like "our tradition is" or "we believe." And, arranging for students to observe hoop dancing, even if the dancing is accompanied by an Indigenous prayer, cannot reasonably be interpreted as the School District professing, adopting, or promoting religious beliefs.

...

[95] ... The facts in this case do not permit any reasonable conclusion other than that that the School District and its representatives neither favoured nor hindered any particular religious belief and that the JHES events did not violate the state's duty of neutrality.

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Enrolment Projections

Enrolment projections for 2020/21 school year suggest a modest increase of approximately 60 students from 2019/20, split equally between elementary and secondary-aged students. After the 2020/21 school year enrolment is projected to level off before decreasing in 2029.

On the West Coast, Ucluelet Secondary will continue to see larger incoming cohorts of Grade 8 students driving total population close to 300 students within the next 10 years. While UES enrolment is projected to level off within 10 years, Wickaninnish enrolment shows signs of increasing for the next 5 years before levelling off. District staff is already looking at WCS capacity and, utilizing avenues through both seismic mitigation and school capacity programs, exploring ways to increase WCS capacity both short and long term.

In the Alberni Valley there remains sufficient capacity across the one secondary school and six elementary schools to accommodate valley enrolment projections.

School Registration 2020/21 School Year

Registrations for the 2020/21 school year start on Monday, February 3, 2020. Registration procedures are outlined in Board Policy 500 and its various Appendices relating to timelines, documentation and catchment areas.

As in previous years, were mindful of the tension between enrolment projections and catchment areas and know that out-of-catchment requests will not be entertained at all Valley elementary schools. At this time the only certainty is that AW Neill Elementary and EJ Dunn Elementary will again accept out-of-catchment requests.

John Howitt Grade 5's win \$1000.00 All About Me (My Blueprint) Scholarship

Students in Ms Jeffrey's Grade 5 class recently received a \$1000.00 scholarship from My Blueprint. As Ms Jeffrey said in an email to me:

The assignment was to watch a five-minute tutorial on how to use the WE video app on Edwin. The video was supposed to inform viewers why they like using All About Me and why our class deserves to win the \$1000 dollar Scholarship Contest. Each student created a video we then we viewed and selected one to represent us in the contest. I am so proud of this class.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FORM - GENERAL

2020/2021 CALENDAR

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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28						

MARCH						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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30	31					

JUNE						
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■ Instructional
 ■ Non-Instructional
 ■ Vacation Period
 ■ Statutory Holiday