



**SD70 (ALBERNI) BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MINUTES
5:00 pm – December 10, 2019
Administration Office, Port Alberni, B.C.**

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

Formal Call to Order – *Lindsay Cheetham*

Superintendent Greg Smyth assumed the chair and asked for nominations for Board Chair.

Election of Chair

Moved by Trustee Ransom and seconded by Trustee Leslie that Trustee Craig remain as Board Chair.

CARRIED

Call to Order – 5:07pm 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 Leslie and seconded by Trustee Washington that the Agenda of December 10, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Declaration – Nil

1.0 Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Buchanan and seconded by Trustee Washington that the minutes of November 12, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

2.0 Announcements of the Chair

3.0 Good News from the Schools - Nil

4.0 Trustee Statements

- Trustee Buchanan is entering her 24th year as Trustee.
- Trustees commented on the various events attended.

5.0 Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

3.1 Presentation of the 2018/19 Governor General’s Academic Medal to Sarah Higginson – *Rob Souther*

3.2 International Education

Marc Fryer and Dave Scott provided an update on the International Education Program, including current enrolment (13 students) and the three-year plan that will see the program grow to approximately 80 students. Mr. Scott has been retained to provide advice and mentorship during the rebuilding of the International Education program.

6.0 Staff Reports

6.1 Superintendent’s Report

The Superintendent provided his monthly report – *attached*.

6.2 Strategic Planning and Priorities

As a follow up to the recent BCSTA Academy, the Superintendent provided an update on the current Strategic Priorities and District Education Plan as a prelude to the development of the 2020 plan starting in January 2020.

6.3 Expenditures for October 2019

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

Description	October
Supplies and Services	\$872,157.33
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,569,258.77
	\$4,441,416.10

CARRIED

6.4 Statement of Financial Information

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the 2018-19 SOFI report- *attached*.

Moved by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Watts that the board accept the 2018-19 SOFI report as presented.

CARRIED

7.0 Executive Committee Reports - Nil

8.0 Unfinished Business/New Business

8.1 Name Change

The Superintendent provided a brief update on the name change consultation process, highlighting a recent meeting with USS PAC and noting feedback will continue to be received up the February Board meeting. Feedback should be submitted via namechange@sd70.bc.ca.

8.2 SD70 Trustee Scholarship Fund – *Trustee Craig*

9.0 Policy Development

9.1 Policy Discussion – P106: Board/District Communication

This Policy was served Notice of Motion on November 12, 2019 and is now up for discussion.

9.2 Policy Discussion – P 612: School Libraries

This Policy was served Notice of Motion on November 12, 2019 and is now up for discussion.

9.3 Policy Discussion – P 620: Community Speech Services

This Policy was served Notice of Motion on November 12, 2019 and is now up for discussion.

10.0 Correspondence – Action Required

11.0 Correspondence – For Information

11.1 copy of the Westerly News dated November 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2019.

11.2 copy of the Ha-Shilth-Sa News dated November 21, 2019.

12.0 Board Committees

13.0 Internal District Committees

13.1 BCSTA – *Trustee Ransom*

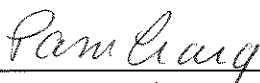
14.0 External or Community Committees

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

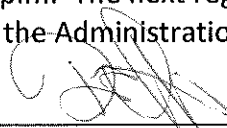
Audience Question Period

- Chris Gow commented on the name change process.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.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 December 10, 2019

Supreme Court Case

A lot of attention has been paid to the Constitutional challenge that was heard in BC Supreme Court the week of November 18-22, 2019. The School District will continue to refrain from public comment until a decision is rendered other than to address a couple of lingering issues or questions in our community. First, we want to be clear that no student was cleansed or smudged. Instead, students in three classrooms observed an elder cleanse the three classrooms – an educational opportunity to learn more about Indigenous culture and traditions. Second, the petitioner's request of the school district and, ultimately of the Supreme court, would tacitly impose a definition of 'religion' on Indigenous spirituality and culture – something that the school district was not willing or able to do. This explains the reason for the issue to be in Supreme Court and why legal proceedings also included submissions from the BC Attorney-General and Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. Finally, the cost of litigation was not borne by SD70.

EJD Weekly Assembly

Very pleased to experience an EJD Elementary Monday morning assembly on December 9th. The weekly assembly helps start the week in a good way: it builds positive school community, orients students to the week ahead, acknowledges individual students, and celebrates togetherness through the signing of We are Strong. Most impressive is the increasing role students play in the morning assembly and the opportunity for students to develop their personal, social and cultural competency.

January 31 Curriculum Implementation Day

District staff are working with the ADTU and NTC in planning for the January 31, 2020 Curriculum Implementation Day, the focus of which will be on Indigenous Education on SD70. Preliminary plans include a keynote session for all staff, followed by breakout sessions on specific topics with the afternoon reserved for schools to work on their school plans as they relate to Indigenous Education. The latter includes increasing academic success for Indigenous learners as well as increasing the understanding and awareness of all students of Indigenous culture, worldviews and perspectives.