

GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, September 27th, 2023 Sunset
Elementary, Port Hardy – 5:00 pm.
MINUTES

Attendance:

Jason Voth	VINTA	Serena Lansdowne	AJES
Jill Brown	Retired/TTOC	Sarah Soltau	FRES
Tammy Bono	SES	Melanie Demoe	PHSS
Holly Kunstar	PHSS	Fran Jenkins	SES
Ricki McCrae	NISS	Nimfa Casson	NISS
Bob Heaton	SES	Darcy House	PHSS
Michelle Sedola	EVES	Colette Doan	EVES
Jeanine Nicholson	SVES	Robert Head-Chen	SES
April Rogers	NISS	Teresa Wadhams	CHES
Heather Jack	SES	Kevin Ogren	SES
Michelle Fletcher	SES	Joel Dyck	PHSS
Shawn Gough	SES		

1. Call to Order. Shawn Gough, Chair: 5:08 PM.
2. Review/adoption of agenda dated September 27th, 2023.

MOVED: Ogren/Demoe

That the agenda of September 27th, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Review/adoption of minutes dated January 26th, 2023.

MOVED: Demoe/McCrae

That the minutes of January 26th, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Business:

- a) Commitment to Solidarity read as reminder

- b) Robin Toczak introduced herself and explained a bit about her current and past positions. Mentioned that soon if not already you will be receiving your first pay check with the increases. Bargaining plan – End of June 2025 contract ends. Start to set objectives and train bargaining teams. Start of May is the first training. Bargaining is a cycle. Talk to table officers about what is working and what is not. Teacher shortage is a common topic. The province has been woken up to the shortages of teachers. What is going to be done to alleviate the stresses on current teachers and what is going to attract and keep new teachers. Some things being done are funding for mentorship and accessibilities. There is no immediate solution to the shortage of teachers. The issues within the schools of staff being made to do other jobs, losing preps and not knowing what position you will be in each day is a common right now.

Reporting order, lots of anxiety with it's roll out. They did not intend for it to create more work for teachers. The ministry is putting out decent materials to explain the changes. If parents are wanting more information of these changes direct them to the ministry. It is not a teacher's responsibility to explain the new reporting order to parents. Reporting order does not have to be a comprehensive report on each student. Confusion on what is enough, find it very open ended and each district has different expectations on the direction. It should not be an additional job.

Teacher Aids being pulled from classrooms needing support and moved to other classrooms. Special education manual is on hold at the BCTF. Employers are prioritizing where to move the support due to shortages. Members Feel bargaining is not working because they are not getting the support due to lack of staffing and no compensation. BCTF is looking for remedy with people instead of pay.

Members asking why functional closures are not happening with the shortage of staff in the schools.

Teachers and support staff are getting burnt out doing double duties with no compensation. The reason given for no school closure is the children need a safe place to go and it was embarrassing to the current School Board office chair.

Teachers are pressured to be there with no support. When can a teacher call it an unsafe workplace? Before calling in an unsafe workplace make sure you call the VINTA president to go over the situation you are currently experiencing. The VINTA president has a plan in place for these situations and has contacts that need to be made. WorkSafe will ask about safety in the classroom – a child hiding under a desk will be considered safe. WorkSafe is concerned about safety not about whether they are learning or not. If you have an abundance of students in your classroom the classroom expectations can be altered. Your lesson plan for the day can be changed and adjusted to your situation at hand. You can tell parents facts of the situation and what happened in the classroom. If your class had 50 kids you can tell them that. If they have further questions as to the situation direct them to your principal to explain.

Will district staff go on site instead of functional closure? Voice your reasonable suggestions. It should be a crisis at the school board office if there is one at the school. You cannot criticize your employer openly, but you can tell your pact what is going on in the classrooms. Public relations campaign, why aren't we seeing it, what is being done, parents are not getting the information. With public campaigns it is very easy to assume the issues are elsewhere and not local. How to make the connection that is happening in your area. How to get the message to the parents that the issues are happening in your child's classroom.

- c) Time lines and direction for the next round of bargaining which will start in a year.
May bargaining conference and training. This fall a

survey of what's important to members local and provincial issues. Training session end of January.

- d) Getting Grievance committee set for the year
Would like 5 members that are not currently on the executive. Would meet when there are questions if grievances should be carried forward.
Ricky-Lyn McCrae, Fran Jenkins, volunteered. Shawn Gough is chair.
- e) Looking at VINTA's constitution and bylaws around elections.
2016 was the last time it was reviewed. Making the language match the motions. Understanding the process and following it. March is when names are brought forward up until April 5th you can be self nominated. Someone from the floor is not allowed to be called up at the AGM. Form a committee to review.

MOTION: Soltau

To accept Ricky-Lyn McCrae, Shawn Gough (chair)
Melonie Demoe and Robert Head-Chen as
committee.

CARRIED

- f) Getting VINTA bargaining team together.
Michelle Sedola, Joel Dyck

5. Reports

- a) President Report
Five meetings to discuss the reporting order.
- b) Treasurer's Report
 - i. Current Financial Report
Not a lot happening in the first month of the school year. There is money in the account to pay bills.

MOVED: Head-Chen/McCrae

That VINTA approve the current financial report.

CARRIED

- c) Professional Development Report
October 20th BCTF PSA conferences.

November 17th local Pro-D day at NISS.

d) Bargaining Report

Was covered with Robin Tosczak.

e) Social Justice Report

Flyers and other resources can be provided.

f) Health, Safety and Wellness Report

No report given, absent member.

g) Teacher on Call Report

Very small email list, compiling and updating the list currently. Trying to ensure TTOC's are signing correctly and doing only what they are assigned.

h) Aboriginal Educators' Contact Report

Orange shirt day with a march coming this Saturday.

i) Local Representative

RA first weekend in November in Victoria.

j) Political Action

Would like to put something in the local newspapers, positive ideas around Aboriginal peoples and SOGI.

6. No other business

7. Adjournment 6:21 PM

MOVED: Sedola/Robert Head-Chen

That the General Meeting adjourn.

CARRIED