

# Minutes of the VSTA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 11th, 2023 – 4:00 pm – Zoom

**Attending:** Nigel Amenu-Tekaa, Jelana Bighorn, Nicole Duy, Paul Falardeau, Carl Janze, Scott McKeen, Christine McKinnon, Ryan Peters, Carmen Schaedeli, John Silver, Terry Stanway, Jesse Taylor, Kathryn Walks, Jonathan Wynn, Blair Miller, Talya Florian

**Regrets:** Omar Kassis, Treena Goolieff, Rod Ofreneo, Cynthia Ganatra, Russell Crips, Michael-Don Borason,

**Observers:**

**Chair:** Blair Miller

The VSTA acknowledges that we work and live on the unceded joint traditional territory of the ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tseilif -Waututh) Nations.

1. **BCTF Commitment to Solidarity (2021-12-10, EC)**
2. **Agenda**  
McKinnon/ Bighorn  
THAT the agenda be adopted. .... CARRIED
3. **Minutes of April 13th, 2023**  
McKinnon/ Bighorn  
THAT the minutes of April 13th, 2023 be approved..... CARRIED
4. **Decolonization**  
Florian / Falardeau  
**Motion #1:**  
THAT the VSTA donate \$500 to Pivot Legal and \$500 to the Stop the Sweeps Coalition to support displaced residents of Vancouver in the wake of the violent decampment of the Hastings Tent City in April 2023  
  
T. Stanway spoke in favour. C.Janze placed background info in the chat. See [attachment from pkg.](#)  
P. Falardeau spoke in favour. SEJ discussed decampment at last meeting, donation on behalf of VSTA. Looking to stand in solidarity to unhoused residents.  
.....CARRIED
5. **Equity Audit Updates**  
  
There will be an Equity Audit info session on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and a form will be shared to gauge interest in forming a working group. Looking to form the group and have possible first meeting in June in order to get started in the school year. The working group is open to any member who is interested in putting time in next year. Will see what the numbers look like, and then will see if need to limit members. Focus on ex. BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+, people with disabilities. If anyone has any questions please reach out to R.Peters or C.McKinnon.
6. **AGM Update**

As of May 11<sup>th</sup>, there were 172 confirmed registrants. There will be a reminder May 12<sup>th</sup> and a final reminder on Sunday. Registration cutoff is noon Monday May 15<sup>th</sup>. If people don't register by then they cannot vote. Voting will be completed via Simply Voting and will not be supported by BCTF this year. T. Florian requested the registration deadline be moved to 12:30PM to accommodate lunches and it was approved.

Feedback was received for easier access to candidate statements placed on the front page of MyVSTA.

## 7. **VSB Budget Update**

T. Stanway advised that the VSB trustees have passed a balanced budget that didn't access surplus. Passed all 3 readings on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This budget is not projecting a surplus but will likely generate surplus and generate funds for capital projects. Increased funding is needed at the classroom level. T. Stanway indicated there is an appetite for real discussion and one trustee approached the VSTA regarding forming a budget group.

SEJ discussed the budget in general and ongoing underfunding. Inquiries were made about approaching media and holding VSB accountable publicly. There was a group discussion on the effectiveness of media statements and agreed to think on the subject and discuss it at a later meeting. Ideally, trustees would be met with prior to contacting the media. The district's advocacy committee has trustee representation and there may be opportunities through that committee. T. Stanway advised he is available for questions or to receive ideas. The need to get started earlier in the year regarding conversations with trustees was noted.

There is interest in a joint union focused budget preparation group and discussion of approaching the VDLC after the AGM since their next meeting is the night of the AGM. Discussed forming a budget advisory committee for next year – would require a large amount of preparation.

## 8. **Zones Report-Out**

C. Schaedeli introduced update on members' experiences at the event.

There was a diversity of perspectives at the event. Topics of discussion included bargaining strategies. TOC reps from other districts were met with and similar themes from fall (ex. member engagement, mentorship), were noted. Also noted conversations relating to lack bargaining for TOCs. There are different local languages (re: failures to fill, sick days) and procedures. No real work around for getting access to IEPS. Stated that TOC training would be a great resource to have. TOC members voiced concern on lack of resources to perform job properly and a want of more TOC representation on standing committees.

Concern was voiced about conversations that may have taken place at the event. C. Schaedeli voiced Point of Privilege – stating the conversation should take place outside of this meeting and outcome can be reported to EC.

6:00 **DINNER BREAK**

6:10 **12. Ad Hoc Committees**

a) **BIPOC - Nigel Amenu-Tekaa**

Nothing to report

- b) **2SLGBTQ+** - *Ryan Peters*

Nothing to report

13. **Standing Committees**

- a) **Indigenous Education** – *Jelana Bighorn*

6 teachers were released May 10 to work on a draft organizer for the new Grad Requirements. They will be getting back together sometime in June to focus on assessment, draft unit plans and suggestions on how to decolonize curriculum. J. Bighorn will bring motion to BCTF to lobby to update the BC First Nations text book. J. Bighorn got to see a draft of the First Peoples template.

- b) **Social & Environmental Justice** – *Cynthia Ganatra – Regrets, R.Peters Updated*

No quorum at the previous meeting. The final meeting will be in June.

- c) **Technology** – *Blair Miller*

Nothing to report

- d) **TTOC** – *Christine McKinnon*

Last meeting included a working group for collective agreement conversion issues. Hoping to meet with IHTO before end of year. TTOC Appreciation Week went great.

- e) **Working/Learning Conditions & Bargaining** – *Jesse Taylor*

Last meeting didn't reach quorum due to a scheduling conflict with another committee. The requirement for reporting periods in each semester next year wasn't discussed as it hadn't yet been shared at the time. Spoke a bit about what it might look like but was without current context. This will be a major point at the next meeting (being held in person) on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was had regarding the committee motion that the remaining reports be printed. Some parents have difficulties with the technology and there is a low rate of report cards being opened.

Most of the discussion, and will continue to have, would be regarding interim between parent/teachers.

- f) **Health & Safety** – *Michael-Don Borason - Regrets*

See report attached: [H&S Report 2023-May-11](#)

C.Mckinnon asked if TOCs have access the link? C.Schaedeli will check. In addition to this, make note to H&S chair at the school site.

K.Walks stated M. Borason mentioned previously to let admin know to try to mitigate the heat right away then report the incident so that it remains a safe place to work.

g) **Professional Development** – *Jonathan Wynn*

Pro-D event at UBC on April 21<sup>st</sup> was successful. The previous meeting sparsely attended but it is currently a busy time of year. Met with joint committee today and there were a few submissions for the Indigenous Peoples Course.

14. **Unfinished Business**

15. **New Business**

a)

16. **Adjournment**

Taylor/Walks

THAT the meeting be adjourned (5:51PM)..... CARRIED

**Next Meeting: June 8<sup>th</sup> in person, 2023 Nigel Amenu-Tekaa in the Chair**

DRAFT