



**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES**  
**Held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.**  
At the School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

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PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Christine Younghusband, Chair; Betty Baxter; Lori Dixon; Greg Russell  
STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent; Jen Hollie, DPAC; Vanessa Clarke, District Principal; Carolyn Spence, Principal; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary; Kirsten Deasey; Michelle Smart; Lisa Allen; Carolyn Smith, Marnie Baba

REGRETS: Louise Herle

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1. Balanced School Day at West Sechelt Elementary - added by Superintendent Bocking

West Sechelt Elementary teachers, Michelle Smart and Lisa Allen, reported on their experiences with the “Balanced School Day” schedule instituted at West Sechelt Elementary School for the 2013/2014 school year. The “Balance School Day” consists of three 95-minute teaching blocks, two 20-minute play blocks and 2 eating times of 15 to 20 minutes. The daily schedule is as follows:

8:50-10:25	95-minute teaching block
10:25-10:45	20-minute outdoor playtime
10:45-11:00	15-minute snack time, inside at desk
11:00-12:35	95-minute teaching block
12:35-12:55	20-minute outdoor playtime
12:55-1:15	20-minute lunch time, inside at desk
1:15-2:50	95-minute teaching block

It was reported that since instituting the schedule, staff have noticed considerably less litter in the playground as students consume snacks and lunch inside. Both staff and parents have noticed students are eating bigger lunches and a healthier variety of foods. Office staff have reported that students seem to better manage their behaviour as a result of increased nutrition. Teachers feel that students are better able to focus in the 95-minute teaching blocks, particularly in comparison to the typical two-hour block that occurs after lunch in most schools. Intermediate teaching staff have reported that they’ve found it easier to platoon teach with the new schedule.

Ms. Smart and Ms. Allen reported that some accommodations have been made as a result of the change. Educational Assistants now supervise both play times and eat times. Issues have also arisen with the SCTA contract when booking teachers-on-call as days are no longer broken into the standard 0.6 or 0.4 block. Committee members engaged in a conversation on the benefits of the balanced day schedule.

2. Early Learning

Kirsten Deasey, Early Learning Coordinator, shared a video, *Brain Hero*, created by the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University prior to her presentation (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s31HdBeBgg4>).

Ms. Deasey provided an update on the district's Early Learning programs – the full presentation is attached to these notes. Ms. Deasey reported that children whose families attend SPARK programs perform better in school than those who don't. It was further noted that the median literacy score for children in Kindergarten has increased from 30% in 2005 to 48% in 2013 as a result of the districts' efforts to improve early learning.

A discussion took place regarding the new SPARK 10 program. The program provides early learning fundamentals to all students in grade 10. Those students then have an opportunity to put their skills into practice at a StrongStart centre. The program will be offered at all secondary schools.

3. BAA Course – Orientation and Mobility 12

District Principal, Vanessa Clark, provided additional information on the proposed Board/Authority Authorized course Orientation and Mobility 12. The course provides visually impaired students with the skills needed to map a community and prepares a student for future tasks such as taking the bus, mapping routes and grocery shopping.

The committee discussed the proposed course. A request was made that the term “formative” be reconsidered in the assessment section of the course description.

**Recommendation:**

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) approve the Orientation and Mobility 12 course for Fall 2014.”

4. Music Program Letter of Support - added by Trustee Baxter

Trustee Baxter reported that she had received a request from local musician, Steve Wright, for a letter of support for his application to the Canadian Council of the Arts for funding to support a community music program. The committee discussed the program, which consists of an ongoing series of music workshops throughout the summer, targeted to individuals with developmental disabilities, seniors, students and the general public. The committee agreed that the program sounded interesting and offered their support for the program in general.

5. Parent Engagement - standing item

Trustee Younghusband indicated that the agenda for the upcoming DPAC meeting scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> included parent education, career program options, as well as reports from trustees and the superintendent.

The committee discussed the benefit of webcasting meetings for parents and others who are unable to attend.

It was reported that the West Sechelt Playground Committee is nearing their fundraising goal after a successful bottle drive in January. Halfmoon Bay Elementary's Parent Advisory Council

has determined three goals for their fundraising efforts: communication, school spirit and outdoor education.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Future agenda items:

- Community partnerships