



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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES
Held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
At the School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter, Chair; Lori Dixon; Dave Mewhort; Lori Pratt;
Greg Russell; Christine Younghusband; Silas White

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant
Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Erica Reimer, Recording
Secretary; Carolyn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

Chair Baxter acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on “Let’s Talk Day” for mental health. The committee briefly discussed endeavors to raise awareness on mental health issues and suggested that the topic be taken to agenda setting for future discussion.

1) Liaison Positions

The committee discussed changes to reporting procedures in an effort to create stronger feedback loops.

Suggestions included the following:

- External committee liaisons reporting back to Committee of the Whole twice yearly.
- A board meeting highlight sheet to be distributed to Parent Advisory Councils (PAC) to create an even level of communication with all PACs.
- Reports back from PAC liaisons included in the Board Report in Regular Board Meeting packages.
- Reports back from the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) liaison included in the Board Report in Regular Board Meeting packages (as a replacement for “Parent Engagement” as a standing item at the Education Committee.)

Trustees were reminded that all information to be included in the Board Report should be sent to the board chair the week prior to the regularly scheduled public board meeting.

Chair Baxter noted that due to an oversight, internal committee chairs were not assigned at the January meeting, as per bylaw 62.3. Committee chairs will be selected at the February board meeting. Clarification was made regarding meeting and committee notes, specifically that the minutes/notes represent a neutral summary of the meeting and not a verbatim account of discussion. It was noted that requests to include direct statements in the minutes and/or notes would be determined by the chair.

2) International Education

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen reported on International Education in the school district. A handout was distributed and is attached to these notes for information. Discussion followed on the benefits of international education, in terms of exposing students to different cultures, providing a rich educational environment, as well as the financial benefit of the program. Assistant Superintendent Kitchen indicated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) is being developed in order to hire a short-term consultant with the experience and background to help the program grow. At present, the district is working with two recruitment agencies. Additional marketing materials are being developed to aid in the promotion of the school district. These materials will highlight qualities that mark the Sunshine Coast as a unique environment for international students. There is hope to increase the number of international students to fifty students in the next two years and reassess targets at that time. In order to better support international students, arrangements will need to be made to support English Language Learning either through partnership with Capilano University or through additional district staff.

The committee engaged in a discussion and indicated that appropriate staff supports were important in the development of the program. It was suggested that a purpose statement could help to clarify the intent of the program for both incoming students and district staff. Trustees noted that the district had made similar steps in the recent past to build an international program and expressed frustration that the program was still in its infancy. There is hope that an experienced, dedicated program consultant will help to gather momentum for the program and take it to the next level.

3) Campaign Finance Reform

Trustees discussed a request from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to provide feedback on campaign finance issues in local elections. Trustees indicated a collective support for reasonable caps on campaign spending and acknowledged that although municipal elections can overshadow trustee elections they should continue to take place concurrently. It was noted that trustees do not support electoral organizations in trustee elections and a suggestion was made that third party campaign contributions should be disclosed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2014.