



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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES
Held on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.
At the School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

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

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant
Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Erica Reimer, Recording
Secretary; Celia Fisher; Stewart Hercus; Sharon Mackenzie

The meeting was called to order at 9:49 a.m.

1) Policy Review

Trustee White reviewed the three policy review priorities set at the September 23rd Committee of the Whole. Trustees discussed changes to board policy over the years, conflict of interest issues and the interactions of the board as a collective. Concerns were brought forward that recently approved changes to the *Role of Trustee* were overly prescriptive in nature. At the same time, others noted their support for the changes as they provide clear boundaries for trustees.

Trustees debated the proposed policy governing *Trustee Donations* included in the meeting package. Suggestions for revisions to the Donations regulation were struck from the list of items to consider. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick noted that changes to the Donations regulation were forthcoming as a result of the district's ability to accept un-targeted charitable donations online.

Recommendation: The proposed language for Trustee Donations was agreed to with the following changes:

7 *TRUSTEE DONATIONS*

*In recognition of Policies 3, 3.7, 3.12 and 3.15, the Board of School Trustees of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) believes that for effective and ethical governance, the office of trustee must be clear of any perception of favouritism or conflict of interest; and furthermore that our schools, programs, employees and students must be clearly separated from individual political or personal interests. Consequently, the Board of Trustees of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) supports ~~a~~ individual trustees making general, **anonymous**, un-targeted donations to the school district as a whole. ~~b~~ the process of collective board financial support or gifts, when appropriate, being committed by board motion*

2) Policy Committee

The committee discussed the third priority set at the September 23rd meeting; to review the *Role of Board Committees*, discuss reinstating a Policy Committee and review Terms of Reference.

Recommendation: Remove the reference to “administration and stewardship policy” from the Terms of Reference for the Education Standing Committee.

The committee went on to debate reinstating the Policy Standing Committee. Arguments in support of a policy committee included:

- A venue to discuss policy-only on an ongoing basis.
- Ability to craft wording as a committee.
- Policy review at Committee of the Whole may not allow for adequate time for other agenda items.

Arguments against reinstating a policy committee included:

- Additional staff time.
- Limited trustee representation on standing committees.
- Policy committee meetings were often cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

The committee discussed the history behind the original dissolution of the Policy Standing Committee, as well as the change to review policy at Committee of the Whole. It was noted that when the change took place originally, policy issues were to be addressed at every second Committee of the Whole however the schedule had never been implemented. It was agreed to retain discussion of policy at Committee of the Whole on a bi-monthly schedule.

3) Budget Review

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported back on the Public Budget Consultation session of November 20, 2013. Trustees provided suggestions for budgetary issues to be considered in the development of the 2014/2015 budget.

Suggestions for funding included:

- Special education / personalized learning,
- Careers and technologies,
- Innovation / professional learning for new curriculum,
- Libraries,
- Music / band,
- Relationship building / support for community partnerships.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Next Meeting: January 28, 2014.