



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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Held on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
At the School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter, Chair; Lori Dixon; Dave Mewhort; Greg Russell; Lori Pratt; Christine Younghusband
STAFF/OTHERS: Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary
REGRETS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Silas White, Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. Policy Review:

a. Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee

The committee discussed a suggested change to policy 3.12 in the Role of the Trustee, which would require that trustees on external committees report back to the board at timely intervals. Committee members were unable to come to consensus on a recommended change as some felt the reporting process could be maintained under the existing language in policy 3.12. It was also noted that the suggested language would require trustees to unnecessarily duplicate reports by reporting to both the board chair and the board directly. As the suggestion to set out a reporting framework was made a previous committee meeting, and as the committee could not come to consensus on a recommendation, two recommendations will be brought forward for debate at the board table:

Recommendation 1:

That the following changes be made to policy 3.12:

*“3.12 When appointed to a liaison position, faithfully keep apprised of any **emergent** concerns or circumstances of the particular school, PAC or external organization that are relevant to the Board, and report them to the Board Chair for the arrangement of appropriate discussion, decision or delegation. **When appointed to an external organization, will report to the board in timely intervals regarding meetings and activities.**”*

Recommendation 2:

That there be no change to the existing language in policy 3.12.

b. Policy 4 – Role of the Chair

The committee reviewed the existing language in policy 4, paying attention to policy 4.6 and 4.8. A suggestion was made to cross-reference policy 4.6 to policy 2.5 in Role of the Board, however it was also suggested that the additional language could be seen as redundant.

Recommendation:

That the following changes be made to policy 4.6:

“In accordance with policy 2.5, ~~Make~~ make decisions and representations on behalf of the Board which fall within and are consistent with any reasonable interpretation of Board policy, motions and planning, and keep the Board informed of such decisions and representations.”

2. New Curriculum

The committee reviewed a presentation on the renewed curriculum and competencies that was presented to principals by BC’s Superintendent of Reading, Maureen Dockendorf, and engaged in a discussion. Assistant Superintendent Kitchen reported that the revised curriculum involves less prescriptive direction and allows for students and teachers to look at bigger ideas in a larger context. The committee discussed changes to assessment, noting that letter grades don’t necessarily provide feedback for learning. Trustee Younghusband elaborated on some of the changes and indicated that curriculum would be packaged to connect to big ideas and core competencies. An interactive website has been developed for teachers’ use. The new model supports inquiry based learning and allows students the opportunity to provide input on their own particular learning styles.

3. Board Evaluation Survey

Trustees reviewed the previous years’ Board Evaluation Survey and provided suggestions for changes. Trustee Baxter suggested that the board use a similar model as in the previous year so as to have a basis for comparison. She noted that BCSTA has a sample Board Evaluation Survey as well. The following changes were suggested:

- Update policy language to match changes to Policy 2 – Role of the Board.
- Scale 1-5 with a neutral option in the middle and remove option 5: “The Board provides leadership to other jurisdictions in this goal area.”
- Provide additional areas to comment with the following questions:
 - What has been going well?
 - Where can we improve?
 - What next steps do you suggest?
 - Summary statement.

Trustees agreed that review of the survey responses should take place at a closed working session and a summary of survey responses be made available to the public through the yearly report from the board.

4. Next Meeting Date

The committee agreed that part or the entire scheduled meeting on June 24, 2014 could be held in camera to review the Board Evaluation Survey results. Additional agenda items are to be determined by the agenda setting committee.

Next meeting: June 24, 2014

- Board Evaluation Survey (*in camera*)