



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

Held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: B. Baxter (Chair), L. Pratt (Vice-Chair), L. Dixon,
D. Mewhort, G. Russell, S. White, C. Younghusband,
M. Treuheit (Student Trustee)

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
G. Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
E. Reimer, Administrative Assistant

Prior to commencement of the meeting, Kirsten Deasey, Early Learning Coordinator, and Lauri Paul, Early Childhood Educator, invited attendees to tour the WonderWheels BookMobile parked outside of the board office.

#42. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Baxter opened the meeting by acknowledging that it was taking place on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation.

#43. Presentations

a. Celebrating Education: Early Learning/WonderWheels BookMobile

Ms. Deasey reported that a book lending system had been instituted over the summer where children could borrow a book from the WonderWheels BookMobile and return it to any StrongStart centre. The initiative proved quite successful and has continued into the school year. Ms. Paul further noted that StrongStart programs at Sechelt and Roberts Creek Elementary continue to be open on Saturday's and are well attended. The weekend opening allows for working parents to participate in the program and has resulted in increased diversity of those attending.

Additional information was provided on SPARK 10, a new initiative aimed at grade 10 students. The program, consisting of three in-class sessions, will focus on the importance of early childhood development and establishing future health, learning and development. As part of the program, students learn strategies to work with younger children and will then have an opportunity to implement those skills at a StrongStart centre. The program launches at Chatelech Secondary on Friday, January 17 and is part of the Planning 10 curriculum. Ms. Deasey responded to inquiries from trustees.

Chair Baxter read a note received by Ms. Paul:

“To School District 46: It is a great service that is provided to our community. WonderWheels and StrongStart are a delightful place for our preschoolers and toddlers to play, meet people and have fun. Thank you – our visitors from Calgary were impressed, they don't have SS in Alberta. Good work for having the vision. Linda Szabados (Grandma)”

#44. Public Question Period

There were no questions.

#45. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: White/Younghusband

“THAT the agenda of January 14, 2014 be adopted.”

Carried.

#46. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

MOTION: Younghusband/Pratt

“THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2013 be adopted with corrections.”

Trustee Russell requested a typographical error be corrected in his statement on page 4 of the minutes.

Trustee Mewhort made a parliamentary inquiry regarding the appropriateness of verbatim statements being requested and recorded in the meeting minutes. Chair Baxter responded that the request was appropriate.

Carried.

#47. Reports

a. Executive Report

i. Superintendent’s Report

The report was provided as written. Superintendent Bocking responded to questions from trustees regarding environmental and international education.

A request was made that Environmental Education be discussed at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Superintendent Bocking provided a summary of the 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results as they relate to Canadian schools. The assessment looks at “how 15 year olds are doing, what they know and what they can do with what they know.” It was reported that Canadian students ranked high overall and were on par with student assessments from the Netherlands, Estonia, Finland, Poland, Belgium, Germany, and Vietnam. The full document is available online at <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/keyfindings/pisa-2012-results-overview.pdf>.

A request was made that the PISA/FSA results for math be discussed at a future Education Committee meeting.

Superintendent Bocking provided a summary of the school district’s six-year completion rates for aboriginal students as reported in the *How Are We Doing - Aboriginal Report 2008/09-2012/13*. He was pleased to announce that the district saw a rise in aboriginal completion rates (61%) in 2012/13. It was noted that according to data provided, there was only a small increase in completion rates after the sixth year, which further reinforces the importance of achieving completion within the six-year window. Superintendent Bocking responded to queries from trustees. The complete report is available online at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/ab_hawd/046.pdf.

ii. Administrative Regulations to be Received:

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that two changes were made to the regulations in response to feedback received during the circulation cycle.

- a. Regulation 1600 – Information Technology: District-Wide Network and Internet Appropriate Use
- b. Regulation 4450 – Purchasing

MOTION: White/Pratt

“THAT Regulations 1600 (Information Technology: District-Wide Network and Internet Appropriate Use) and Regulation 4450 (Purchasing) be received.”

Carried.

iii. Information Items

1. Larger Cheques Written in the Month of December 2013

The report was submitted as written.

b. Board/Committee Reports

i. Board Report

The report was provided as written. Student Trustee Treuheit shared her experiences from the OSTA-AECO conference that took place in November in Toronto, Ontario. She reported that the two key topics discussed at the conference were mental health education and financial literacy, in relation to credit cards and mortgages. Student Trustee Treuheit also reported back on EdCamp, which she attended in Delta alongside a large group of teachers and students.

Student Trustee Treuheit responded to questions from fellow trustees.

1. Committee/Liaison Appointments

The report was provided as written. Chair Baxter indicated that there would be further discussion at the January Committee of the Whole.

ii. Operations Committee Notes – December 19, 2013

The notes were submitted as written. Trustees discussed Wi-Fi and indicated that they would continue to share information received through the Trustees' Notebook.

MOTION: White/Youngusband

“THAT the reports be received.”

Carried.

#48. Correspondence

- a. SCRD – Agricultural Resource Materials
- b. Deputy Minister R. Wood – Changes to Distributed Learning

MOTION: Mewhort/White

“THAT the correspondence be received.”

Carried.

Trustees discussed the request from SCRD and suggested a response that would include information on agricultural initiatives taking place within the school district, such as school gardens and Organic Gardening 9.

Additional information was requested regarding the implications of the changes to distributed learning funding. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick agreed to report back at the February meeting with that information.

#49. Questions and Enquiries from the Public Relating to the Board Meeting

- A member of the public asked why Wi-Fi was necessary at Gibsons Elementary considering students weren't allowed to bring devices such as smart phones to school with them and also read a statement from Health Canada's website regarding RF safety. Chair Baxter responded that teachers use instructional devices that benefit from Wi-Fi technology. Chair Baxter responded that the school district continues to comply with guidelines from regulatory bodies. Correspondence was submitted for distribution to trustees.
- A member of the audience asked for further information regarding the possibility of Wi-Fi as an agenda item at a future Committee of the Whole. Chair Baxter confirmed that the Board is aware of the request and that the topic would be considered for another meeting.
- A member of the audience reported that BCCPAC has requested that there be one Wi-Fi free school in every school district.
- A member of the public questioned why the school district selectively followed the advice of Health Canada, specifically in relation to Wi-Fi. Chair Baxter reiterated that the board was following the guidance of Health Canada, though it remains open to hearing more information on the subject of Wi-Fi. She also indicated that the school district is in agreement with the vast majority of school districts in the province in providing wireless technology to staff and students. It was further suggested that lobbying Health Canada directly might result in a greater impact.

#50. Adjournment

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Opposed: G. Russell
Carried.



Chair



Secretary-Treasurer