



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

Held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

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

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

#82. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

#83. Presentations

a. Celebrating Education: SPIDER – N. Smith and F. Graham

SPIDER instructors, Nick Smith and Fiona Graham, provided information on blended learning SPIDER course options offered in School District No. 46. These courses combine the benefits of online learning with face-to-face support, allowing students to complete course work at their own pace in supportive environment.

b. District Literacy Plan/Literacy Coalition – S. Middleton

Sandy Middleton provided an update on work being done by the Sunshine Coast Literacy Coalition, highlighting the *Community without Borders* and *Coast Reads* events that took place during the year. The events support their efforts to expand people's idea of literacy and to raise awareness of literacy as a part of a continuum of learning. Ms. Middleton shared a digital story created by a team that included two young adults from the Sechelt Nation, a member of the immigrant community, and a Capilano University faculty. The digital story can be viewed at: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bzfn8zK2aQpyN2RrMDh2LUJleGc/edit?pli=1>.

Chair Baxter opened the meeting by acknowledging that it was taking place on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation and acknowledged those in attendance.

#84. Public Question Period

There were no questions.

#85. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: White/Pratt

“THAT the agenda of June 10, 2014 be adopted.”

Carried.

#86. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

“THAT the Record of the Closed Meeting of May 13, 2014 and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2014 be adopted as presented.”

Carried.

#87. Reports

a. Executive Report

i. Strategic Plan Update: Aboriginal Education

Superintendent Bocking spoke to his written report, indicating that the district has seen successful relationship building with the Sechelt Indian Band and the Squamish Nation, in addition to a marked improvement in transition rates for aboriginal student. It was noted that a full discussion and presentation on Aboriginal Education took place at the Education Committee on May 28, 2014 and that a summary can be found in the notes of that meeting.

ii. Student Voice: Summary of Student Trustee Activities

Student Trustee Maya Treuheit spoke to her experience as the school district’s first student trustee and thanked the board for their support during her tenure as a student trustee.

Superintendent Bocking and Chair Baxter thanked Student Trustee Treuheit for a job well done. The Board presented Student Trustee Treuheit with flowers, a letter of appreciation and a card of thanks.

Superintendent Bocking spoke to his written report and detailed the plan for the District Student Leadership Team (DSLST) for the coming school year. He reported that DSLT members have been selected for next year’s team and have met once to review information gathered at the Student Forum. The DSLT will meet with the board prior to the September board meeting and a student trustee will be selected from the team for inauguration at the October board meeting.

Trustees discussed timelines for the inauguration of the student trustee and the application process for the team.

iii. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bocking spoke to his written report, highlighting the district’s focus on reading proficiency and the goal to have all students reading at grade level by the end of grade three. A discussion followed regarding student success and the BCTF strike.

1. District Literacy Plan

MOTION: Russell/White

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) approve the 2014/2015 District Literacy Plan as presented.”

Carried.

iv. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

The report was provided as written. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick spoke to his report, reporting that the occupancy permit for the new Gibsons Elementary School would be delivered by the last week of August. He indicated that there is room for potential delays and

that a decision for the demolition of the existing school site would wait until there is assurance of delivery of the occupancy permit.

v. Information Items:

The following reports were submitted as written.

1. Larger Cheques Written in the Month of May 2014
2. Expenditures by Object

b. Board/Committee Reports

i. Board Report

The report was submitted as written. Chair Baxter highlighted ongoing trustee work being done outside of the school district, including Trustee White's role at provincial bargaining, Trustee Younghusband's position on the board of BCSTA, and Trustee Pratt's role as chair of the South Coast Branch, which represents Powell River, Squamish and Sunshine Coast school districts.

Trustee Russell was presented with a long-term service award from BCSTA, in recognition of his twelve years of service.

Chair Baxter disclosed a motion, which the board unanimously carried at their closed board meeting earlier that evening, to write to the Minister of Education regarding teacher bargaining. The motion reads:

“THAT the Board of Education for School District 46 write a letter to the Minister of Education, requesting that he support a freely negotiated agreement with the BCTF by:

- ensuring that government apply more thought to BCPSEA's communications and consultation with the field before employing confusing, miscalculated directives such as the May 21, 2014 lockout announcement;
- instructing BCPSEA to immediately propose to the BCTF to re-affirm the Framework Agreement in Committee for the 2013 Round of Bargaining to a) re-engage the common data study of data related to compensation, working conditions, demographics and other relevant collective bargaining matters and b) revise the date of the facilitator's report that was never issued last year to June 30, 2014;
- maximizing the use of Mark Brown as the mutually contracted facilitator, at a neutral bargaining location with no spectators/guests who are not senior decision-makers for their respective parties;
- committing on behalf of government sufficient funds to address the outstanding dispute over class size and composition and learning specialist ratios as new language at the bargaining table, rather than continue to drag the K–12 public education system down in over a decade of legal wrangling;
- and ensuring that BCPSEA offers the BCTF a fair wage proposal in line with other BC public sector employees who have recently received raises.”

ii. Education Committee Notes – May 28, 2014

The meeting notes were submitted as written. Trustee Younghusband highlighted the report from District Principal Mahlman regarding Aboriginal Education and reported potential future agenda items.

iii. Operations Committee Notes – May 15, 2014

The meeting notes were submitted as written. Trustee Mewhort reported that if and when the ministry requests an update to the Five Year Plan, capacity increases at West Sechelt Elementary will be listed as a top priority.

iv. Committee of the Whole Notes – May 27, 2014

The notes were submitted as written. Chair Baxter clarified that the committee was unable to reach consensus regarding a proposed policy updated and as such two options were presented in the notes.

MOTION: Younghusband/Mewhort

“THAT there be no change to the existing language in policy 3.12.”

Carried.

MOTION: Russell/Mewhort

“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.”*

Trustee debated the motion, upon voting the motion was defeated.

Opposed: Dixon, Mewhort,
Younghusband, White, Pratt

Defeated.

v. Ad Hoc Trustee Pro-D Committee – May 28 & June 2, 2014

Trustee Pratt spoke to the meeting notes and provided clarification regarding the various recommendations being offered.

MOTION: White/Younghusband

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) adopt the points agreed to by the Ad Hoc Trustee Pro-D Committee as a guideline for trustee professional development:

- Trustee personal professional development is important for the development and trusteeship of individuals on the board.
- There is a distinction between personal professional development and board professional development, which would include the BCSTA Academy and Annual General Meeting.
- Committee members support a cap for personal professional development. Once that cap is reached, trustees may apply for additional funds.
- Trustees engaging in personal professional development shall report back to the board in a timely manner.
- The board should consider bringing professional development opportunities to the coast to save on travel expenses.

- In cases where the parent organization pays for travel expenses directly or reimburses the district, those costs will not go towards a trustee’s personal PD claim.”

Carried.

MOTION: White/Pratt

“TO update Policy 6 – Trustee Orientation, as follows:

“6 **TRUSTEE ORIENTATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*The Board believes an orientation **and professional development program** is necessary for effective trusteeship.*

6.1 *~~The district will offer an orientation program prior to January 31 after an election for all newly elected trustees that provides information on~~ **The Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent are responsible for updating an ongoing Trustee Orientation Handbook within three months prior to a trustee election period, and then implementing an orientation program for newly elected trustees prior to the January 31 after the election that covers:***

- a) *role of the trustee and the Board;*
- b) *organizational structures and procedures of the district;*
- c) *Board policy, agendas and minutes;*
- d) *existing district initiatives, annual reports, budgets, financial statements and long-range plans;*
- e) *district programs and services;*
- f) *the Board’s function as an appeal body; and*
- g) *statutory and regulatory requirements, including responsibilities with regard to conflict of interest.*

Incumbent trustees are expected to participate in orientation and help newly elected trustees become informed about functions, policies and procedures.

6.2 *~~The Board will provide financial support for trustees to attend British Columbia School Trustees’ Association-sponsored orientation seminars.~~ **professional development activities through, but not limited to, the BC School Trustees Association and BC Public Schools Employers’ Association in order to support their own effective trusteeships, Strategic Plan priorities and any opportunities for improvements as identified through the Board Self-Evaluation process.***

6.3 *~~The Board Chair and Superintendent are responsible for developing and implementing the District’s orientation program for newly elected trustees.~~*

6.4 *~~Incumbent trustees are expected to participate in orientation and help newly elected trustees become informed about functions, policies, and procedures.~~*

6.5 *~~The Policy Committee will review and update the previous Trustee Orientation Handbook within the three months prior to the election period.”~~*

Carried.

MOTION: Pratt/Dixon

“TO add the following to Policy 4 (Role of the Chair):

“4.# Coordinate and provide oversight of trustee professional development activities and budget as set through the Annual Budget Process.”

AMENDMENT: White/Russell

“4.# Coordinate and provide oversight of trustee professional development activities and budget.”

Opposed: Dixon

Carried.

SECOND AMENDMENT: Younghusband/Russell

“4.# Coordinate and provide oversight of trustee professional development activities and expenditures.”

Opposed: Pratt

Carried.

Trustees proceed to vote on the motion as amended. Upon voting, the motion carried.

Opposed: Dixon

Carried.

MOTION: Pratt/Dixon

“TO make the following change to Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee:

3.13 Share any materials or ideas gained from external professional development activities with the Board in a timely manner.”

Trustees debated the motion. As voting was tied, the chair’s vote defeated the motion.

Opposed: Younghusband, White, Russell, Baxter

Defeated.

MOTION: Pratt/Mewhort

“TO make the following change to Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee:

“3.11 Refrain from getting involved in or expressing judgments on any school-level disputes or concerns, but listen to complainants and refer them to the district’s communications ~~Complaints and/or Appeals~~ process.””

MOTION: Pratt/Russell

“TO refer discussion to Committee of the Whole.”

Carried.

MOTION: Russell/Youngusband

“THAT the reports be received.”

Carried.

#88. Correspondence

- a. SCRD – Youth Services & Meeting
- b. Music LSA – Support for Music

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

“TO receive the correspondence.”

Carried.

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

- A member of the audience asked if plans remain in place to move furnishings to the new building at Gibsons Elementary on June 24th. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick responded that there are number of factors that could influence the move date, including job action, and that the date could not be confirmed.
- A member of the audience requested an emergency response plan specific to district employees. Chair Baxter requested that Assistant Superintendent Kitchen consult with the inquirer and bring back information to the board table.
- A member of the audience indicated appreciation for the motion to write a letter to Minister Fassbender.
- A member of the audience indicated they had heard a rumour of water contamination due to mould at the new Gibsons Elementary School. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick responded that no such issue had been reported.
- A member of the audience reported that the Ministry of Education’s website guarantees that all students will have an opportunity to write provincial examinations and graduate. Chair Baxter acknowledged that the board’s understanding is the same and that the district would continue with their efforts to support students.

#90. Next Meeting

The next public board meeting will be held on September 9, 2014.

There are no committee meetings scheduled during the month of June.

#91. Adjournment

MOTION: Pratt/Youngusband

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Carried.



Chair



Secretary-Treasurer