



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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES

Held on October 23, 2017 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter (Committee Chair), Dave Mewhort, Lori Pratt,
Greg Russell, Pammila Ruth, Christine Younghusband

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Vanessa White, Director of Instruction; Paul Bishop, Director of Instruction; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Silas White; Erica Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: Lori Dixon, Trustee

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

1. External Committees Report

Trustee reported verbally on their engagement on external committees:

SCRD Transportation Committee – While recently there have been fewer items on the committee agenda that directly affect the school district, participation remains valuable. The committee meets every 3 months.

SCRD Policing Committee – A copy of the RCMP Annual Report was provided for information. The committee meets every 3 months. Information from Policing Committee meetings is shared with trustees via the notebook.

DPAC – Meetings are generally well attended. An executive election is taking place at the upcoming AGM.

SCYAAC – Meetings are scheduled every second month with the hopes of improving meeting attendance. The committee has met once this year and saw a strong end to the 2016/17 school year.

Howe Sound Community Forum – Attended by all elected officials in the Howe Sound area. Typically discusses environmental and business issues.

VOICE on the Coast – Committee is dormant.

Healthy Schools Committee – Committee comprised of Vancouver Coastal Health and school district representatives. Round robin discussion took place at recent meeting, along with discussion on school projects.

Intergovernmental Meeting – The Sechelt Nation will be hosting a forum in November using a format similar to the one that the district modeled.

Aboriginal Advisory Circle – The circle meets every second month with a meeting taking place on October 23. Interesting information on aboriginal initiatives and learning at schools.

2. Truth and Reconciliation Report

Superintendent Bocking reported on several calls to action listed in the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Report and shared ways in which the district endeavors to act on the findings. In particular, the committee discussed the call to eliminate educational gaps between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians. The committee reviewed district data that demonstrates an improving trend in the grade to grade transitions between aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. The committee also discussed the recommendation to develop culturally appropriate early education programs for aboriginal families, noting that the district offers a number of early learning programs that follow the Reggio Emilia approach and is responsive to all cultures. The miniature longhouse at the Sechelt StrongStart is a strong symbol of support for aboriginal families with young children. The committee discussed the shíshálh language programs in relation to calls to action for aboriginal language rights and the creations of post-secondary programs in aboriginal languages. A copy of Superintendent Bocking's report is available online at: http://www.sd46.bc.ca/files/17-18_BoardMeetings/cmtes/20171023-COW_Agenda.pdf

3. BCPSEA Governance

Trustee Younghusband reported on recent BCPSEA conference calls discussing a return to BCPSEA governance. Boards across the province are being asked to submit a response to a series of questions on how the governance board should take shape. Past trustee, Silas White, provided information regarding his experiences on the board during his term as trustee. The committee agreed to provide the following responses to the questions posed:

- Should the trustee representatives to the new BCPSEA board be elected or appointed to the board? If elected, through what process?

Trustee representatives should be elected at the BCPSEA AGM taking place in January.

- What is the appropriate number of trustees on the board (knowing there will likely also be some appointed government representatives)?

The total make up of the board should be an odd number, suggesting 7 but less than 9, with a majority of trustees.

- Should there be required regional representation by trustees on the new BCPSEA board? If yes, based on what?

No. Support for the electoral process as a means of selecting representatives.

- Should there be longer terms for directors (e.g. 3 years), or one-year terms only?

Trustee terms should align with the general election, in staggered 2 year terms.

- Should the start date of all trustee terms to the BCPSEA board be the same, or should they be staggered in some way?

As above, terms should be staggered, beginning with BCPSEA AGM date.

- What commonalities or considerations for structure and governance should be shared by all four employer association boards under PSEC

No response at this time.

- Consistent with the Public Sector Employers Act, what should the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for the new BCPSEA Board be? (i.e. what do you see as their role and core responsibilities?)

Regarding PSEC: there should be a strong commitment to meet and to disclose. BCPSEA needs to be an informed active player in process. PSEC needs to be open to consultation from member boards.

- Should a desired skill set for director candidates be developed (by PSEC)? If yes, what could the list include?

Not until boards are engaged in PSEC.

- Should BCPSEA also maintain a technical advisory committee (reporting to the CEO) comprised of senior district staff representatives and sector experts?

No.

- What other questions or considerations does your board feel are important?

The board supports the following principles:

- *Trust and respect to build board*
- *Local school boards act as the employer*
- *Underscore urgency, board to be elected in 2018*
- *Establish principles for decision making and strategic plan*

4. Communication Plan (standing item)

The committee reviewed the plan. There were no changes or additions.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 28th from 9:30-11:30 am at the School Board Office