



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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES

Held on May 23rd, 2018 from 2:30-4:00 p.m.
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Pammila Ruth (Committee Chair), Lori Pratt

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Paul Bishop, Director of Instruction; Vanessa White, Director of Instruction; Kerry Mahlman, District Principal of Aboriginal Programs and Services; Erica Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: Lori Dixon, Trustee; Christine Younghusband, Trustee

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

1. Strategic Plan 3.f. Sechelt Indian Band and Squamish Nation

Goal 3.f. Our district will enhance relationships with the shíshálh Indian Band, the Sḵwxwú7mesh Nation and other cultural groups.

District Principal Mahlman reported on ongoing partnerships with the *shíshálh* Nation Education Department and Community Services Division. An initiative funded through the *shíshálh* Nation supports band members to work in schools, developing skills, building capacity and enhancing student learning. The district is pleased to have two welcome poles on display at Pender Harbour Secondary, with plans for a third to be commissioned for Kinnikinnick Elementary school. Students at secondary schools have had an opportunity to learn traditional weaving methods, in addition to other activities that reinforce a cultural presence in schools.

District Principal Mahlman highlighted partnerships with the *Sḵwxwú7mesh* Education Department and neighboring school districts. The pole raising at Gibsons Elementary School was a highlight for students as well as the district. Canoe journeying, language and culture visits have taken place at schools within the Squamish territories.

A copy of the presentation is available in the meeting's agenda package at:

<http://www.sd46.bc.ca/files/17-18 BoardMeetings/cmtes/20180523-EdCmte Agenda.pdf>

2. Strategic Plan 1.j. – Indigenous Cultures

Goal 1.j. Our students will explore indigenous cultures in our community and the diversity of cultures in the world through experience, instruction and language learning.

District Principal Mahlman reported on aboriginal programs in the district and provided information on the week long "in-house" visits taking place at all schools. During these weeks, the aboriginal education team visit as a group and collaborate with classroom teachers on a variety of activities.

The district was pleased to be involved in *Siyaya*, in partnership with the District of Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast Arts Festival.

District Principal Mahlman shared a text book written by Monique Gray Smith, who has visited the district for professional development workshops with teachers and presentations to the community. The author's books were also used as the theme for this year's *Early Years Fair*.

3. Strategic Plan 1.h. – Experiential Learning

Goal 1.j. Our students will explore indigenous cultures in our community and the diversity of cultures in the world through experience, instruction and language learning.

Superintendent Bocking shared ways in which experiential learning and flexible learning environments help to meet and enhance the needs of the new curriculum. The Nicholas Sonntag Marine Centre is providing a new opportunity for teachers and students to experience marine life first hand. Schools continue to embrace outdoor classrooms and the local walking field trip permission form has removed administrative barriers for teachers at both the elementary and secondary level.

Director Bishop reported on opportunities for elementary students to touch on the electrical and plumbing trades, through a visit from the Inspire Workshop as well as a chance to work with secondary students to build planter boxes. Secondary students are taking advantage of Passion Blocks to delve into a deeper understanding of coding and robotics. The districts career programs, Train in Trades, Work in Trades and apprenticeship programs are providing students with valuable life and work skills.

4. Regulation 2800 – Special Education

Director White reported that the district has updated the title of the regulation to "Inclusive Education" and has included a link to the ministry's special education manual.

5. Regulation 2200 – Assessment and Evaluation

Superintendent Bocking shared revisions to the regulation that speak to accountability and professional standards.

6. Regulation 2920 – Students over School Age (to be repealed)

Director Bishop indicated that the regulation was deemed redundant as clarification is provided in the *School Act*.

7. Regulation 2150 – Alternative Programs (to be repealed)

Director Bishop indicated that the regulation no longer reflect current standards and is no longer required by the district.

8. Curriculum (standing item)

There were no items to report.

9. Parent Engagement (standing item)

There were no items to report.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 27th from 2:30-4:00 pm at the School Board Office