

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)



**Strategic Plan Report: Parent Engagement**

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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*Strategic Plan Goal 2 (d): Our staff will interact with our students' parents positively and with full information freely shared using efficient strategies.*

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*To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.*

- Tony Robbins

**Background:**

Parents make a difference to student learning in many ways, but research into student success reveals that the four factors that make the biggest difference are:

- Letting your child know you have high expectations for him or her,
- Talking with your child about school,
- Focusing on students' attitudes, more than their marks,
- Reading to and/or with your child.

*Peopleforeducation.ca*

**Discussion:**

The district's active District Parent Advisory Council continues to develop deeper connections amongst PACs and with trustees and district staff. The outcome is frank discussions related to parent engagement and student success. The District Parent-Teacher Communication Committee examines effective communication and develops strategies to ensure the school/ home partnership is well developed. Further, technical solutions to communication are being continually enhanced to meet the needs of students, teachers and parents.

A group of five elementary schools have been working with the support of an "Innovation Grant", to support the adoption of FreshGrade as an online reporting strategy. The initial full year of implementation has been highly successful with parents, students and teachers continuing to be supportive of this mode of communication. Some challenges are continuing to be addressed including appropriate teacher work load, amount of reporting and parent/student/teacher interaction.

Elphinstone Secondary School is developing a paperless process for reporting student achievement.

The Ministry of Education has developed reporting guidelines that are designed to support a flexible approach to reporting to respond to the changing technical opportunities and shifting priorities of teachers and the parents of our students.

**Next Steps:**

- Ensure Ministry of Education reporting guidelines are followed while still being creative in their implementation.
- Expand the use of Freshgrade to all interested teachers recognizing that this is a multi-year process.
- Develop and implement a clear social media strategy.
- Present a Family Expo in May, 2018 to bring supportive information to district parents.