



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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES
Held on Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
At the School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Christine Younghusband, Chair; Greg Russell; Betty Baxter; Lori Dixon
STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent; David Barnum, Program Coordinator; Kirsten Deasey, Early Learning Coordinator; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary; Carolyn Smith; Marnie Baba; Pammila Ruth

REGRETS: Carolyn Spence, Vanessa White, Lenora Joe

Called to order at 1:02 pm

1. Diversity

a. Welcoming Communities – M. Giltrow (*presentation*)

Maria Giltrow, Settlement and Outreach Coordinator for Sunshine Coast Community Services, shared information on the federally funded program *Welcoming Communities*, provided in partnership with Capilano University, which services permanent residents and refugees on the Sunshine Coast. Ms. Giltrow provided an overview of the services provided, including interpretative services and ESL programs for families, cultural events and activities, information and referrals on housing and childcare and other outreach services. Superintendent Bocking asked if there is an opportunity for the school district to meet with families with children or to provide additional information regarding the school district. Ms. Giltrow agreed to put together a package with information on school district related information.

b. Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Policy Update

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen distributed a copy of the brochure created in association with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs at the secondary schools. The committee discussed the brochure and other initiatives.

2. Early Learning – K. Deasey (*presentation*)

Early Learning Coordinator, Kirsten Deasey, provided an update on the district's many early learning initiatives. Ms. Deasey reported on the success of the recently developed SPARK 10 program and indicated that the program would run again in the current school year. She further noted that access and availability of StrongStart programs have increased through the offering of Saturday sessions, summer programs and the popular outreach WonderWheels Bookmobile. Early learning partnerships with aboriginal communities are enhanced through the district's involvement with Sechelt Nation's Healthy Baby's program, Pulling Together and a Success by

Six grant that funded a mini longhouse at the Sechelt Learning Centre. Early Years Centres are funded in Sechelt and Gibsons, along with a satellite centre in Madeira Park. These centres provide connections to other agencies and programs and increase inter-agency involvement and integrated supports. Ms. Deasey highlighted a recent announcement from the province that the Sunshine Coast YMCA had been awarded \$646,860 towards the creation of daycare spaces in both Gibsons Elementary and the Sechelt Learning Centre, as parts of the Early Years Centres on those sites.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Next meeting: January 21, 2015 at the School Board Office