



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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.**

**At the School Board Office – Gibsons, BC**

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**PRESENT:** TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter, Chair; Lori Dixon; Dave Mewhort; Silas White; Lori Pratt; Christine Younghusband, Greg Russell  
STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary; Carolyn Smith; Allen Stevenson; Pammila Ruth

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The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Calendar Consultation

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen presented the findings of the calendar consultation process in which the district sought feedback from various stakeholders regarding changes to the 2015/2016 school calendar. Feedback was invited from parent groups, employee groups and other groups including StrongStart programs, local daycares and the Gibsons Chamber of Commerce. Assistant Superintendent Kitchen reported that limited support was received for a shortened summer vacation despite available data that supports the educational benefits of a shorter summer break. The district did hear support for a change to the spring break schedule from several groups. Assistant Superintendent Kitchen was unable to find concrete data to support health or educational benefits resulting from an extended spring break schedule, however he indicated that anecdotal evidence supports some of the claims. Trustees discussed the findings and noted the following concerns when considering an extension to the spring break period:

- Financial impact on low-income families,
- Conflicting data concerning educational benefits for students,
- Lack of data confirming health and wellness benefits to staff and students,
- Long breaks are challenging for vulnerable families.

The committee concluded that further discussion and consultation regarding the school calendar would be incorporated in the Strategic Plan development. As a result, there will be no significant change to the school calendar for the 2015/2016 school year.

2. Preliminary Budget Review

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported on the annual budget development process, noting that that consultation period had begun to inform the creation of the 2015/2016 preliminary budget. As the district's Strategic Plan creates the framework for the district's budget, Secretary-Treasurer Weswick suggested a status quo budget be

developed for the final year of the 2013/2016 Strategic Plan, with the expectation that an extensive consultation process will take place to develop the 2016/2019 Strategic Plan.

3. BCSTA Draft Co-Governance Relationship Memorandum of Understanding

Trustees discussed the Draft Co-Governance Relationship Memorandum of Understanding distributed by BCSTA and highlighted the following concerns:

- The MOU does not differ from past arrangements,
- The MOU does not provide boards with an ability to dissent,
- Subsidiary protocol agreements are referenced but no information is provided on how they will be developed,
- More consultation is needed for agreements such as this, with sufficient time afforded to boards to provide a response.

Chair Baxter agreed to submit a response to BCSTA including the board's feedback on the agreement.

4. External Committees Update

*Healthy Schools* – Trustee Dixon reported on the benefits of the joint committee with Vancouver Coastal Health and suggested that the board's involvement continue.

*Transportation Committee* – Trustee White indicated that often the issues discussed at the SCRDC committee are operational in nature and suggested that it may be beneficial for the district to appoint a senior staff member to the committee as well as a trustee.

*Policing Committee* – Trustee Russell noted appreciation of a senior staff member on the committee, as issues are often operational in nature.

*Youth Advisory Committee* – Trustees Russell and Mewhort provided feedback on the benefits of involvement with the committee. It was noted that there would be sufficient school district representation at the committee table with only one trustee appointed to the committee.

*DPAC* – Trustee Younghusband provided information on DPAC and suggested that the board's involvement continue.

*Voice on the Coast* – Trustee Pratt indicated that involvement with the organization is beneficial based on their mandate of advocating for young families.

*Joint Use Committee* – Trustee White indicated that the committee meets infrequently however staff continue to meet on a regular basis to develop a new agreement.

Adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

**Next meeting:** January 27, 2014 at the School Board Office