



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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES

Held on February 28, 2017 from 10:30-12:00 pm
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

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

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

REGRETS: Dave Mewhort, Trustee; Lori Dixon, Trustee; Greg Russell, Trustee;
Carolyn Smith, CUPE Local 801

The meeting was called to order at 10:43 a.m.

1. Strategic Plan: 3.c International Education

Goal 3.c. – Our district will actively recruit students from around the world to live and learn with us in a welcoming international student program that showcases the beautiful, natural environment of the Sunshine Coast.

Director Bishop reported that Tom Ristimaki remains engaged by the district and works to support the district with a new agent, School Travel Services (STS). Retired principal Dave Hunt, continues to meet with students when they arrive, coordinate with families and organize activities every 6 weeks during their stay. The district is offering one of the most inexpensive international education programs in the province and is considering increasing costs, including an additional fee to provide direct English language supports.

Muskoka Language International (MLI) has offered two short-term cultural trips to the school district in the 16/17 school year.

An international education website is in the works and will reside at the domain name LearnInBc.ca.

The committee discussed the importance of a strong screening process to ensure international students are socially and emotionally prepared to visit a foreign country and to ensure that English language skills are adequate to support their learning during their stay on the coast. The committee also discussed supports for parents hosting international students during homestays.

2. SD46 Presentation to BCSTA AGM

Superintendent Bocking indicated that he had contacted BCSTA to request an opportunity to present at the April AGM on District cultural change using Learning Together and CARE projects as illustrations of our work. The committee discussed the timing for the presentation and suggested that the BCSTA Academy in November could be another opportunity to present to trustees.

3. School Calendar

Director Bishop reported that the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school calendars had been circulated for one month, as per ministry guidelines. The district did not receive any formal feedback but did receive anecdotal feedback that parents appreciated the opportunity to look to the future for vacation planning.

The committee discussed the benefits and disadvantages of approving two school calendar years. Trustees commented that a statement of commitment for the ongoing two-week spring break was in order to ensure the public is aware of the board's intention to continue with the extended break. Director Bishop noted that Ministry guidelines exist to alter a school calendar should it be required.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the Board adopt the 2017-18 School Calendar and acknowledge that it contains a two-week spring break.
- 2) That the Board adopt the 2018-19 school calendar, continuing with a two-week spring break.

4. Communication plan (standing item)

The committee reviewed the communication plan.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 28th from 11:30 to 1:00 pm at the School Board Office.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FORM - GENERAL

DRAFT 2017/2018 CALENDAR

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■ Instructional
 ■ Non-Instructional
 ■ Vacation Period
 ■ Statutory Holiday



Ministry of Education

SCHOOL CALENDAR FORM - GENERAL

DRAFT 2018/2019 CALENDAR

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DECEMBER						
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