

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

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom

TRUSTEES: S. Girard (Committee Chair), A. Amaral, S. Haines, M. Hampvent, S. Leech

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent; K. Kerr, Director of Instruction; K. Deasey, District Principal of Learning and Innovation; S. MacKenzie, CUPE Local 801; E. Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. Goal 1.b. – Early Years

District Principal Deasey reported on:

- Early Development Instrument (EDI) data:
 - Reviewed summary of physical health and well-being scale, social competence scale, emotional maturity scale, language and communication scale, and the language and cognitive development scale
 - In most cases, the Sechelt area has a higher vulnerability level than neighboring Gibsons and Pender Harbour areas.
 - In comparison to the province, the district has a higher vulnerability in the area of emotional maturity and will be focusing attention in that area.
- StrongStart programs:
 - Outdoor programming for the month of October.
 - As of November, returned inside with pre-registration for programming.
 - Family navigators support families.
 - Tales & Trails programs – families meet and discover local trails with early years educators.
 - The new WonderWheels bus is complete and will continue to provide StrongStart outreach.
- Provincial grants for Changing Results for Young Children and Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten (SEY2K):
 - Compassionate Systems Leadership program with Vancouver Coastal Health and shíshálh Nation.
- SPARK! programs have been redesigned to align with indigenous elements and the early learning framework.
- Wonder Children program provides child centred, wrap-around supports with community partners.

- Child Care Centres:
 - Early Years Hub in Sechelt, will include infant/toddler and preschool age child care.
 - West Sechelt Elementary Expansion, will include infant/toddler and preschool age child care.
- Piloting the “Seamless Day in the Kindergarten Classroom”
 - Opportunity for school-age child care in existing classrooms.
 - Early childhood educators work in the classroom alongside Kindergarten teachers.
 - Provides before and afterschool care, in the kindergarten classroom, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Imagination Library:
 - Sunshine Coast is the longest standing Canadian affiliate with the Imagination Library.
 - Distributed 51,000 books since 2007.

The committee discussed ways in which the district could support, or collaborate with local partners, to address the shortage of early childhood educators on the coast. A suggestion was made to put forward a motion to BCSTA AGM to advocate for support for early childhood educators.

District Principal Deasey reported that teachers are provided with release time in order to complete EDI summaries for each child in their class. The data is provided anonymously and shifts in numbers can have a significant impact on statistical analysis of the data.

District Principal Deasey confirmed that StrongStart spaces are held for vulnerable families and that the WonderWheels bus also provides support opportunities to vulnerable areas.

3. Goal 1.g. – Physical Health

Superintendent Bocking reported that the district committee for physical health/education has modified the yearly sports calendar specific to align with covid safety protocols and allow learning groups an opportunity to participate in safe team sports. Additionally, he reported that:

- The district is taking part in the Coast Fit Challenge, which provides students an opportunity to track their progress against fitness standards.
- Inservice sessions will be provided throughout the winter to help develop programs to support student physical health during the pandemic
- Educators continue to take kids outside whenever possible, funds have been provided for raincoats and umbrellas.
- Teachers continue to modify indoor sports to decrease physical contact to adapt with the pandemic

Director Kerr reported on Middle Years Development (MDI) data that focuses on general health, eating breakfast, meals at homes and the frequency of good sleep.

District Principal Deasey shared information on grants that support afterschool programs:

- Community School Partnership grant from United Way
 - Receive \$50,000/year. All programs track student development with MDI goals of adult relationships, peer relationships, nutrition and

sleep, and afterschool programming. Data from students indicates strong desire to participate in outdoor and physical activities after school.

- Afterschool Sport and Arts Initiative grant from Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture
 - Receive \$35,000/year. Use funds to hire a sports leader and social emotional navigator. Community schools offer eight-week after school programs at all elementary schools in the district.
- School's Out Funding from United Way
 - Receive \$60,000/year. Focuses on transition from grade 7 to 8. All feeder schools will have access to a program which will be rolled out in January. The program will have a sports and arts focus with a social emotional navigator built in.
- Nutrition programs
 - Feeding students during and after schools with longstanding support from community schools.
 - Backpack Buddies program offers food to families in need over the weekend.
 - Received \$25,000 from United Way to provide food for families in need over the winter break, early January and during the March break.

The committee discussed the need for consistent funding to provide low barrier food supports. A suggestion was made to develop a motion to the BCSTA AGM to support nutrition programs

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.