



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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES
Held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 1:00 pm
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Christine Younghusband, Chair; Greg Russell, Betty Baxter
STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick,
Secretary-Treasurer; Allan Stevenson; Colleen McPhedran, Recording Secretary;
Carolyn Smith; Louise Herle; Debra Nelson; Laurie Watson; Sandy Magnussen

REGRETS: Lori Dixon, Trustee; Pammila Ruth, Trustee; Vanessa White, District Principal;
Lenora Joe

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

1. Student Support Services (presentation)

a. English Language Learners – *Debra Nelson*

Debra Nelson, itinerant teacher for the elementary English Language Learners (ELL) program, provided a report on ELL services offered at the district level. At present, the program has 48 students at the elementary level and 32 students at the secondary level who are supported by Lauri MacHale. The ELL program continues to expand as students are more likely to stay on the coast as opposed to earlier years when they came for a time and then left. Debra shared the difficulties the program experiences due to lack of time to network with teachers and Education Assistants, the logistical problems of meeting frequently with students, and the struggles engaging parents due to the language barrier. There are plans to network with Marie Giltrow of the *Welcome Community Program* and Sandy Middleton from Capilano University, in order to better serve the needs of the ELL students and their families. A letter from Laurie MacHale was distributed outlining her involvement at the secondary level. The committee engaged in a discussion, asking questions and sharing comments.

b. Vision Support – *Laurie Watson*

Laurie Watson provided an informative presentation outlining the Visual Support Program for the school district. She explained the various levels of visual impairment for students and the many challenges that these students experience, in addition to the tools that are provided to assist with these challenges. She provided many examples of adaptations to the core curriculum to ensure student success. Small changes on the teacher's part can create significant change for students and their learning.

c. Special Education Tech Coordinator – *Sandy Magnussen*

Sandy Magnussen provided a presentation outlining Technology Integration to Support Teachers and Learning. She reported the success of students using the Kurzweil Educational System, noting the many ways that technology could be used effectively, instead of technology substitution, to assist in learning. She is currently collaborating on a reading project with a Grade 2/3 class at Madeira Park Elementary using technology and sharing books with students, parents, and families using QR codes.

Questions and comments from committee members followed the presentations.

2. Parent Engagement

Allen Stevenson, DPAC Treasurer, reported that DPAC meetings have been well attended by representatives from school PACs as well as a number of parents. He also thanked the presenters, saying the DPAC would be interested to hear more from them and perhaps be able to offer some funding. He announced the DPAC meeting being held on February 26th at Chatelech Secondary at 7 p.m.

Superintendent Bocking reiterated that it is good to see the PAC members coming together from various schools and learning from each other.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 24, 2015 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the School Board Office.