



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

Held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: **TRUSTEES:** B. Baxter, L. Pratt, G. Russell, P. Ruth, C. Younghusband,
K. Pritchard (Student Trustee)

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
G. Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
E. Reimer, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: Trustee L. Dixon, Trustee D. Mewhort

#64. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#65. Presentations

a. Celebrating Education: International Education – G. Kitchen

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen introduced two international education students visiting from Germany, Jan Fasel and Nicole Roesser. Both students spoke to their experiences studying on the coast, highlighting nature, the coast lifestyle and proximity to Vancouver as their favorite features of the area. Both students noted their appreciation for the choice of elective courses and the smaller number of international students in the school district.

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen shared information on a new scholarship available to SD46 students who are interested in participating in a reciprocal international exchange program.

Chair Baxter opened by acknowledging that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation and welcomed audience members.

#66. Public Question Period

- Members of the audience presented concerns on behalf of CUPE members regarding the proposed two-week spring break.

#67. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: Pratt/Russell

“THAT the agenda of March 10, 2015 be adopted.”

Carried.

#68. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings and Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings

MOTION: Pratt/Ruth

“THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2015 and the Record of the Closed Meeting of February 10, 2015 be adopted as presented.”

Carried.

#69. Reports

a. Executive Reports

i. Strategic Plan Update

1. Student Support Services

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen spoke to the written report and responded to questions from trustees.

ii. Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen spoke to the written report and responded to questions from trustees.

iii. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick spoke to his written report.

MOTION: Younghusband/Russell

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) write a strongly worded letter to the minister of finance indicate concerns regarding the administrative savings claw back.”

Carried.

MOTION: Pratt/Russell

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) write a strongly worded letter to the minister of education indicating disappointment in the minister's lack of advocacy for boards of education.”

Carried.

1. Kinnikinnick Elementary School Crown Land Tenure (bylaw)

MOTION: Younghusband/Russell

“THAT School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) Crown Land Tenure (Lease) Bylaw No. 2015-01 be read for a first time.”

Carried.

MOTION: Pratt/Younghusband

“THAT School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) Crown Land Tenure (Lease) Bylaw No. 2015-01 be read for a second time.”

Carried.

Trustees unanimously agreed to a third reading of the land tenure bylaw.

MOTION: Russell/Younghusband

“THAT School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) Crown Land Tenure (Lease) Bylaw No. 2015-01 be read for a third time, passed and adopted.”

Carried.

iv. Information items

1. Larger Cheques Written in the Month of February 2015

The report was submitted as written.

2. Expenditures by Object

The report was submitted as written.

b. Board/Committee Reports

i. Board Report

The report was submitted as written. Chair Baxter provided an update on the Visions for Learning forum that had recently taken place. An online survey remains available until March 23, 2015 to provide input for the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan. Chair Baxter responded to questions from trustees.

1. BCSTA Report

Trustee Mewhort sent his regrets due to illness and no report was provided.

2. Student Trustee / DSLT Report

Student Trustee Pritchard reported on school based activities at the district secondary schools as well as fundraising efforts for WE Day and International Women's Day. She further reported that the DSLT is in the process of reviewing the Grad Survey and has made several suggestions, including changing the prize amounts in order to increase participants odds of winning and that prizes only be offered to those who complete the questionnaire in its entirety. The DSLT has plans to initiate a district wide fundraiser for an undecided community cause with a goal to unify the secondary schools. Student Trustee Pritchard also noted that the DSLT had identified sex and health education and financial literacy as considerations for the strategic plan.

ii. Committee of the Whole Notes – February 12, 2015

The meeting notes were submitted as written.

iii. Committee of the Whole Notes – February 24, 2015

The meeting notes were submitted as written.

1. 2015/16 School Calendar

Chair Baxter provided information on the rationale behind the recommendation to pursue a two-week spring break. These included the consideration of moral, logistical and financial pressures as motivators for recommendation. Clarification was provided regarding the discrepancy between the last day of school and the end of the provincial exam period. The local SCTA collective agreement indicates that the final Friday in June is the last teaching day for staff. Due to the way dates fall in the 2015/16 year, this date falls slightly before the end of the exam period. Invigilation and marking requirements for provincial exams taking place on Monday, June 27 will be determined.

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen provided information on the required number of instructional hours for elementary and secondary schools. It was noted that further negotiations with SCTA are required, as the shorter school year would require that the length of the school day be varied in order to meet the required number of

instructional hours and could possibly require adjustments to proposed professional days. Seeing that, a revised motion was proposed.

MOTION: Younghusband/Ruth

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) support the form of the proposed 2015/16 School Calendar.”

Trustees discussed the motion. Concerns were presented regarding the impact of the extended break on hourly staff and the uncertainty regarding the length of the school day.

Carried.

Opposed: Pratt, Russell

MOTION: Younghusband/Russell

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) negotiate a letter of agreement with CUPE to minimize the impact of calendar changes on hourly employees.”

Trustee discussed the motion. Staff presented concerns that the motion could interfere with management rights.

Carried.

Opposed: Pratt

iv. Operations Committee Notes – February 19, 2015

The notes were submitted as written.

v. Education Committee Notes – February 26, 2015

The notes were submitted as written.

MOTION: Russell/Pratt

“TO receive the reports.”

Carried.

#70. Correspondence

a. Min. Fassbender – Aboriginal Six-Year Completion Rate

MOTION: Russell/Younghusband

“TO receive the correspondence.”

Carried.

#71. Questions and Enquiries from the Public Relating to the Board Meeting

- An audience member asked how much the consultant costs were for the custodial review. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick indicated that the work is ongoing and the total is unknown at this time.
- An audience member asked if the two-week spring break would be ongoing or if the district plans to reevaluate in a year’s time. Chair Baxter indicated that historically, other districts that have implemented a two-week spring break have generally kept it. Assistant Superintendent Kitchen clarified that the ministry requires that calendar be reviewed and submitted yearly.

- An audience member indicated that other districts that reached agreements with CUPE staff surrounding the extended break used the term “letter of understanding.”
- An audience member asked if the chair was in favour of the motion regarding the letter of understanding. Chair Baxter clarified that the chair only votes if there is a draw.
- It was reported that Trustees Mewhort and Dixon were absent due to illness.

#72. Next Meeting

The next public board meeting will be held on April 14, 2015.

MOTION: Younghusband/Ruth

“TO approve the committee agendas.”

Carried.

#73. Adjournment

MOTION: Pratt/Russell

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Carried.



Chair



Secretary-Treasurer