



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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 9:00 am
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter, Chair; Dave Mewhort; Lori Pratt; Greg Russell; Pammila Ruth; Christine Younghusband (via conference call)
STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Colleen McPhedran, Recording Secretary; Carolyn Smith; Louise Herle, Allyson Fawcus

REGRETS: Lori Dixon, Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. District Calendar

Chair Baxter provided a background stating that last year it was agreed to stick to the status quo and make necessary adjustments later. Superintendent Bocking then spoke to the financial, logistical and psychological pressures that the district is facing. He reported that the draft calendar for the 2015-16 school year must be completed by March 1, 2015 to go out to the public for 30 days and then submitted to the ministry by March 31st.

Trustees reviewed handouts that were provided by Superintendent Bocking outlining school calendars for a one-week or a two-week option for Spring Break.

Discussion followed. Each trustee, union and DPAC chair, was given an opportunity to offer his or her views on the proposed two-week break and ask questions.

Various comments were made, with both positive and negative possibilities for a two-week break.

Everyone present agreed that the educational needs of students, morale and health of staff should be at the forefront of any decision, however, there remains concerns of reduced hours of paid work for support staff.

In conclusion, Chair Baxter stated that as students are our number one priority, we wish to minimize the impact on students. The following recommendation will be presented to the Board at the March 10, 2015 meeting.

Recommendation:

“THAT, a two-week spring break be supported.”

Chair Baxter indicated that there would be discussion around the implementation of the two-week spring break with employee groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting: March 24, 2015 from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the School Board Office.