



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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES**

**Held on May 26, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**

At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

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PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter, Chair; Lori Dixon; Dave Mewhort; Greg Russell; Pammila Ruth; Lori Pratt; Christine Younghusband

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary; Marnie Baba; Tracey Bond; Allen Stevenson; Sarah Bradley

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The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

1. Policy Review

- a) Policy 3 - Role of the Trustee
- b) Policy 7 - Trustee Donations
- c) Policy 4 - Role of the Chair

The committee engaged in a discussion on the purpose of board policy, trustees' role on a corporate board and how to address a breach of policy relating to policies 3 and 7. Trustees considered the authority and jurisdiction of board policy and the *School Act*, and the role of the chair in enforcing board policy. Committee members emphasized the importance of complying with existing board policy, as well as following established protocols if there is a desire to change existing policy.

The committee discussed allegations of breach of policy by Trustee Russell in his involvement on the board of a local community school that receives funding from the district and in providing targeted gift-in-kind donations to schools. Trustee Russell distributed personal correspondence and related materials to committee members, including legal opinions supporting his actions and suggestions for revisions to existing policies. In an effort to address the allegations of breach of policy, trustees recommended that a Policy Committee be formed and that the committee review the policies in questions and consider the suggestions for revision provided by Trustee Russell. Trustee Russell indicated that in the interest of board unity, he would be willing to suspend his activities and step down from his position on the Gibsons and Elphinstone Community School board, until such time as the committee reviewed the policies in breach and recommendations were made. Trustee Russell did indicate, however, that he was speaking against having to do so as a prior request to discuss these issues had not been addressed.

A request was made for additional information on the allegations and subsequent actions. Chair Baxter agreed to research the timelines and report back.

**Recommendation:**

**“To reinstate a Policy Committee with regularly scheduled meeting to address a number of requests for policy revision.”**

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.