



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

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Held on October 20, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Dave Mewhort, Chair; Lori Pratt; Betty Baxter; Greg Russell
STAFF/OTHERS: Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Rob Collison,
Manager of Facilities and Transportation; Phil Luporini, District Principal of
Technology and Careers; Allyson Fawcus, DPAC; Erica Reimer, Recording
Secretary; Marnie Baba; Louise Herle

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m.

1) Long Range Facilities Plan

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that the district is required to submit an updated Long Range Facilities Plan to the ministry, as it has been five years since the last plan was submitted. He recommended that the topic remain a standing agenda item until such time as the new plan is complete. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick indicated that the plan would look at enrollment, capacity and any potential facility issues. The plan will also take into consideration surplus properties and provide suggestions for the best use of those assets. A consultation plan and information on the structure of the advisory committee will be provided to the committee in November with a goal to have a draft plan completed in the new year.

2) Preliminary Budget Information

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick spoke to the general timelines for the preliminary budget and amended budget processes. He reported that final district enrolment will be confirmed by early November and that allocations to schools have been adjusted due to higher than anticipated enrollment.

Trustee Mewhort requested an update on the status of the district music program. Superintendent Bocking responded that the district music program is thriving with four elementary district music teachers, providing two full hours of music instruction to elementary students, and one secondary music teacher.

The committee discussed the importance of librarians, research supporting the benefits of librarians and the different supports in place at various schools. It was noted that there is always a wide variety of ways to meet the needs of students including librarians, resource teachers, educational assistants, increased electives offerings and smaller class sizes.

3) Regulation 4550 (Student Fees) Amendment

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that updates to the Student Fees regulation were required in order align with the ministry's revised policy for students who have already met graduation requirements. Ministry policy now requires that districts charge fees to graduated students who enroll in upgrading courses. Additional updates to the regulation

include differentiation for international students and additional housekeeping items. The committee discussed the amendments and requested clarification on items.

4) District of Sechelt Referral: Clayton Family Lands

The committee discussed the referral. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick indicated that the referral does not have an impact on the school district's interests. There were no concerns raised by the committee.

5) Strategic Plan: Goal 2.j. – Sustainable Practices

Facilities Manager, Rob Collison, spoke to his written report that was provided at the meeting. A copy is included with these meeting notes. The committee discussed the potential for additional solar projects, the current solar panels at Elphinstone Secondary and energy reduction initiatives at Gibsons Elementary.

Johan Stroman of Rede Energy Solutions provided information on BC Hydro's Energy Ambassadors Program. The program engages students in energy conservation by providing a structure for student teams to investigate potential energy reduction strategies at their schools. The program supports behaviour change and provides student leadership opportunities that are supported with the new curriculum changes. The program is aimed at students in grades 8 to 11, however there is a possibility of involving grade 7 students if sponsor teachers are interested. The program provides teachers with release time to participate in the preliminary workshops.

The committee discussed the program. Superintendent Bocking suggested that all secondary principals be advised of the program in order to promote the program.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Next Meeting: November 26th, 2015 from 11:00 to 12:30 pm at the School Board Office.

Upcoming agenda item(s):

- Long Range Facilities Plan (standing item)