



*A community engaged in the pursuit of lifelong learning and educational excellence*

# 46 BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

*The following is a Synopsis of a recent school district board meeting. Formal minutes are published and are available on the school district website: [www.sd46.bc.ca/Board](http://www.sd46.bc.ca/Board)*

## Board Meetings

School Board Meetings are scheduled on the second Tuesday of each school month. The meetings start at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office, located at 494 South Fletcher Road in Gibsons unless noted below.

If you wish to make a presentation at a meeting, contact Colleen McPhedran at 604-886-8811.

## January 11, 2011 Board Meeting

**2010 - 2011  
Scheduled Board Meetings  
(Tuesdays at 7:00 PM)**

**Next Meetings:**

**February 8, 2011  
March 8, 2011  
April 12, 2011  
May 10, 2011  
June 14, 2011**

**Committee meetings which are open to the public will be advertised on the school district website under "Board Meetings"**

## School Trustees

Silas White, Chair ..... 604-886-8668  
Lori Pratt, Vice-Chair ..... 604-885-3808  
Fran Heppell ..... 604-886-0070  
Dave Mewhort..... 604-885-4546  
Greg Russell..... 604-886-8388  
Jason Scott ..... 604-886-1494  
Ken Sinnott ..... 604-230-1377

## School Board Office

Deborah Palmer, Superintendent of Schools  
494 S. Fletcher, Box 220, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0  
Telephone: (604) 886-8811, Fax: (604) 886-4652  
e-mail: [dwagner@sd46.bc.ca](mailto:dwagner@sd46.bc.ca)



### The State of Children's Development – Locally & Provincially

Kirsten Deasey, Early Learning Teacher, provided an interesting presentation on early childhood development. At birth a full-term baby's organs and brain

structure are fully developed, but the brain's circuitry continues to develop long after birth. During the first few years of life, this development takes place at an incredible rate, with the brain tripling in size by the time a child reaches three years of age.

One of the most dramatic discoveries in molecular biology over the past generation involves the interplay between early experiences and environments that impacts how, where and when genes work. Most brain scientists no longer consider "nature versus nurture," but instead focus on the effects of both nature and nurture. Brain development is not determined solely by either genes or the environment, but rather through an interaction between the two.

According to Human Early Learning Partnership University of British Columbia, only 71% of BC children arrive at kindergarten meeting all of the developmental benchmarks they need to thrive both now and into the future.

Kirsten reported on Sunshine Coast and Powell River Schools District EDI (Early Development Instrument) report that indicates the percent of children vulnerable on one or more scales of the EDI in 2009/2010 (categories include social, physical, communication, language and emotion).

### Trustee Variance...

The Board passed a motion to explore the options of reducing the number of trustees from seven to five and changing electoral areas, including an "elected-at-large" model. A public meeting will be scheduled to receive public input on this.

In October, 2002 the Board of School Trustees also requested a variance of the trustee electoral boundaries in School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast). This request supported the wishes of the Sechelt Indian Government District. As outlined in the letter received from the Minister of Education, he chose "not to exercise [his] jurisdiction under Section 30(4) of the School Act to vary the trustee electoral areas in School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)."

### Board Committees...

The Board, with its goal of having more public involvement in its committees, has invited several members in the community to join several committees:

**E. Brooks: Policy Committee**

**E. Machado: Finance and Facilities Committee**

**M. Labelle: Education Committee**

The public is invited to provide input on Regulation #1590 (Head Lice). This draft regulation is in circulation until March 8, 2011. You may peruse it on our website at: <http://www.sd46.bc.ca/Govern>

The Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) approved a motion on December 14, 2010 to revise and reorganize the Board Policy Manual. The school district policy web page is under revision.

### Calendar Events...

**Tuesday, February 8: Regular Board Meeting**

**Friday, February 18: Pro-D- Day**

**March 16, March 17: Early Dismissals**

**March 21-March 25: Spring Vacation**

### Board Elections in December

At its December 14, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting, elections were held for Board Chair, Vice-Chair, BCPSEA Representative and BCSTA Provincial Councillor.

**Silas White** was re-elected Board, Chair, **Lori Pratt** elected Vice-Chair, **Dave Mewhort** was acclaimed BCPSEA Representative and **Lori Pratt** was elected BCSTA Provincial Councillor.

