



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

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 604-886-4492.

October 11, 2011 Board Meeting



Roots of Empathy

Shannon Quinn describes *Roots of Empathy* as an evidence-based program, providing social and emotional programming. This results in greater emotional

understanding, an increase in pro-social behaviour and a decrease in incidents of bullying and aggression with children.

At the heart of the program is a neighborhood infant and a parent who, together, visit the classroom nine times throughout the school year. Students are able to observe the baby's development over the school year.

In this experiential learning, the baby is the "Teacher" and a lever that the instructor uses to help children to identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others.

The provincial government has now restored funding to this program allowing the Sunshine Coast to have 10 new *Roots of Empathy* instructors. Every kindergarten class will now have the opportunity to have a *Roots of Empathy* program!

2011 - 2012

Scheduled Board Meetings (Tuesdays at 7:00 PM)

Next Meetings:
November 8

December 13	January 10, 2012
February 14	March 13
April 10	May 8
June 12	

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

Patrick Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
494 S. Fletcher, Box 220, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0
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Dan Galazka, District Principal, presented a special education technology report. He discussed the various ways that technology is used in classrooms in the school district. The

use of technology provides all students with learning opportunities.

Dan spoke about several success stories with students.

Strategic Plan 2009-2012...

The Board's Strategic Plan was reviewed last year (October 2010) and a business plan to carry out its objectives was created. Each month elements in the plan will be reported on by senior management.

At the October meeting, **John Pritchard**, Interim Secretary-Treasurer, spoke about the Five-Year Capital Plan. Additional information was requested by trustees regarding how the Ministry of Education decides on funding for the school district; specifically, whether it is based on student enrolment or number of school facilities.

A Technology Report, reviewing technology changes since June 2011, was submitted by **Patrick Bocking**. Some highlights included: off-site backup system for mail, a new server for the Employee Information System and a new iCal server for the School Board Office. Schools have been encouraged to use green initiatives, such as receiving faxes as pdf files so that "junk" faxes are no longer printed. These pdf faxes are then forwarded to an individual in an email.

Next steps include establishing a technology plan in collaboration with all employee groups.

At the November Board Meeting, Numeracy & Literacy and Student Achievement, as part of the Strategic Plan, will be presented.

Class Size and Configuration...

Stewart Hercus, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed the requirements for Class Size. The Board of Education accepted the report for all schools and classes for the 2011-2012 school year and confirmed that as at September 30, 2011 the organization of classes was in compliance with the provisions of the *School Act* and appropriate for student learning.

Past Grad Survey...

Annually, the board tracks past graduates from the past 10 years and holds a random draw from the entries received. This year's survey was available to complete between July 1st and September 30th for students who graduated in the years 2000 to 2010.

This year's survey winners are: **Brandee Kennedy (\$1,000), Matt Paish (\$750) and David Arduin (\$500)**. The Board thanks all eligible past students for entering the 2011 draw. The information we gain will help us implement programs and provide services which will better meet the needs of our students.

2001 to 2011 Graduates are eligible to complete the survey, which will be posted on our website, in July 2012.

"I really enjoyed my experience as a student in our district and I was pleased to complete the survey to ensure that future students would have the same experience. Thank you for providing us with the ability to share our opinions about our education in this district."

Brandee Kennedy

Visit: <http://www.sd46.bc.ca/index.php/grad-survey>