



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

Held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: **TRUSTEES:** B. Baxter, L. Dixon, D. Mewhort, L. Pratt, G. Russell, P. Ruth,
C. Younghusband

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
G. Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
E. Reimer, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: K. Pritchard (Student Trustee)

#74. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Chair Baxter opened by acknowledging that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation and welcomed members of the audience.

#75. Presentations

a. Celebrating Education: Health and Wellness Conference – K. Kerr

Elphinstone Vice-Principal, Kate Kerr, reported back regarding a recent Health and Wellness conference that was offered to all students in grade eight and nine at Elphinstone Secondary. Students took part in 35 minutes workshops on topics ranging from social emotional health, stress reduction, body image and nutrition, and sexual health. The event was offered with the assistance of Elphinstone Secondary Parents Advisory Council, community schools, and Vancouver Coastal Health. Feedback was collected from students after the event and was generally positive in nature. Requests were heard for longer workshops and to extend the conference to two days. The school and PAC hopes to offer similar conferences for students in the future with a separate event for senior students.

#76. Public Question Period

- CUPE Local 801 requested that schools lower their flags to half-mast in recognition of the National Day of Mourning on April 28th. Superintendent Bocking confirmed that a reminder would be sent to principals.

#77. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: Pratt/Russell

“THAT the agenda of April 14, 2015 be adopted.”

Carried.

#78. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings and Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings

MOTION: Russell/Youngusband

“THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2015 and the Record of the Closed Meeting of March 10, 2015 be adopted as presented.”

Carried.

#79. Reports

a. Executive Reports

i. Strategic Plan Update: Environmental Education

The report was presented as written. Superintendent Bocking stressed the importance of environmental education and spoke to the success of NEST program. He further reported that Davis Bay principal, Sally Thicke, NEST teachers Jennifer Groves and Linda Russell and Board Chair, Betty Baxter, have been invited to present to the Canadian School Boards Association Congress in July regarding the program and it’s implementation.

ii. Superintendent’s Report

The report was provided as written. Superintendent Bocking highlighted the student forum that took place earlier in the day and the recent ACEbc conference that took place at Chatelech Secondary School. Congratulations were extended to David Barnum and Kirsten Deasey for their work on the Healthy Buddies program, which recently placed as a finalist in the 2015 Cmolik Prize for the Enhancement of Public Education in BC.

Trustees commented on the success of the ACEbc conference. Clarification was requested regarding alignment between the Fresh Grade program and MyEducation BC. Superintendent Bocking responded that the two programs are not integrated at this time.

iii. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick spoke to his written report, which contained a summary of the various budget meetings and consultation that had taken place to date. Trustees requested additional information regarding budget priorities and indicated strong support for trades and apprenticeship programs.

iv. Information items

1. Larger Cheques Written in the Month of March 2015

The report was submitted as written. Clarification was provided regarding an item in the report.

2. Expenditures by Object

The report was submitted as written. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick noted that that “key” had been adjusted due to the shorter school year, as a result of job action. He suggested that the district could expect a surplus if patterns continue.

b. Board/Committee Reports

i. Board Report

The report was submitted as written. Chair Baxter commented on the Centre for Civic Governance conference and on recent meetings with the District of Sechelt and Gibsons Chamber of Commerce.

Trustees briefly discussed DPAC’s initiative to update their constitution and bylaws.

Trustee Dixon requested that the board make an effort to distribute letters of appreciation to organizations such as ACEbc, and any others who support students and the school district.

1. BCSTA Report / AGM Motions

Chair Baxter indicated that she had recently responded to a questionnaire from BCSTA regarding administrative savings.

Trustee Mewhort requested that trustees provide their feedback regarding motions to BCSTA AGM.

Trustees discussed Bill 11. An interpretation of the bill from BCSTA’s legal counsel was provided in the meeting package. Trustees shared concerns that the bill could further broaden the scope of the minister’s authority, centralize power and disempower boards in general.

MOTION: Younghusband/Russell

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) write a letter expressing concerns about the shift in power presented in Bill 11.”

Carried.

Additional discussion took place regarding Bill 11. Trustees indicated their disappointment in the bills proposed shift from a Superintendent of Achievement to a Superintendent of Appeals; in the ability of the minister to appoint special advisors and implement recommendations provided by those advisors; and in vague language which could force boards to implement teacher professional development in a specific way.

MOTION: Pratt/Younghusband

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) bring a late motion to BCSTA to advocate strongly against the erosion of board autonomy in Bill 11.”

Carried.

2. Student Trustee / DSLT Report

Student Trustee Pritchard sent her regrets due to illness. There was no report.

ii. Committee of the Whole Notes – March 24, 2015

The meeting notes were submitted as written.

MOTION: Russell/Pratt

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) amended Appeals Bylaw No. 70 be read for a first time.”

Carried.

MOTION: Russell/Pratt

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) amended Appeals Bylaw No. 70 be read for a second time.”

Carried.

Trustees agreed unanimously to a third reading of the bylaw.

MOTION: Russell/Ruth

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) amended Appeals Bylaw No. 70 be read for a third time, passed and adopted.”

Carried.

iii. Operations Committee Notes – March 26, 2015

The notes were submitted as written. Trustee Mewhort commented that the April Operations Committee meeting had been rescheduled to April 23. He reported that meeting would provide a final opportunity to discuss concerns and ideas for the 2015-2016 budget.

iv. Education Committee Notes – March 24, 2015

The notes were submitted as written.

MOTION: Pratt/Mewhort

“TO receive the reports.”

Carried.

#80. Questions and Enquiries from the Public Relating to the Board Meeting

- A question was raised regarding the “Substitute” amount (line 140) in the Expenditures by Object report, specifically if the line was under budget due to a lack of substitutes in the district. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick indicated that the line was more likely under budget due to restricted surplus items that fall within that object code and unpaid time due to job action. He further noted that the district has seen less long-term illness and therefore lower replacement costs in the current year.
- A request was made that students with special needs be referred to as “students with special needs” and rather than “special needs students” as they are students first, special needs second.
- A comment was made that April is a difficult month for the service recognition ceremony due to it being close to the date that layoff notices are put out.
- Clarification was requested regarding the change in Educational Assistant rates listed in the calculator on page 66 of the agenda package. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick indicated that the changes are due to the week spring break and shorter year bookends.
- A request was made for a copy of the BCSTA questionnaire responses regarding the administrative savings. Chair Baxter indicated she would look into it.

#81. Next Meeting

The next public board meeting will be held on May 12, 2015.

MOTION: Younghusband/Russell

“TO approve the committee agendas.”

Carried.

#82. Adjournment

MOTION: Younghusband/Pratt

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Pratt', written over a horizontal line.

Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N. West', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary-Treasurer