



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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES
Held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.**

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter, Chair; Lori Dixon; Dave Mewhort; Greg Russell; Pammila Ruth; Lori Pratt; Christine Youngusband
STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary; Louise Herle

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

1. Appeals Bylaw Review

Trustees discussed changes to the appeals bylaw. The committee highlighted several housekeeping items to be updated. The committee agreed that further discussion on more substantive changes were required. Chair Baxter reminded trustees to submit suggestions for revisions of the bylaw to the agenda setting committee for consideration.

Recommendation:

“To update the Appeals Bylaw as attached.”

2. Visions for Learning Update

Chair Baxter presented suggested revisions to the Value Statements for consideration and discussion. The committee discussed the revisions, including the pros and cons of brief value statements, and made additional recommendations. Further discussion to take place after the data from the forum and survey is received.

Superintendent Bocking reviewed discussion materials from the *Visions for Learning* forum and presented visual charts that highlighted trends in stakeholder input for learning opportunities. Trustees were invited to provide their own input. A preliminary review of the survey data was presented to trustees as well as reflections on the general themes discussed at the forum. Early analysis of the combined data identified key areas as experiential education/environmental education, closely followed by socio-emotional learning and trades/careers. Additional input will be gathered from students and the educational leadership team in coming weeks.

Trustees agreed to a second Committee of the Whole on April 22nd from 11-1pm to review additional data. Trustee feedback from that meeting will help to form the draft Strategic Plan, to be presented at the April 28th Committee of the Whole for recommendation at the May regular board meeting. Trustees requested that the draft plan be provided with sufficient time to review prior to the April 28th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting(s):

- Wednesday, April 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the School Board Office.
- Tuesday, April 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the School Board Office.

RECOMMENDED UPDATES TO BYLAW

70 APPEALS BYLAW

The *School Act* requires that the Board set up a procedure enabling a student or his/her parents/guardians to appeal any decision made by a Board employee that significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student. The Board expects its employees to make any necessary decisions regarding students but appreciates that those affected may not always agree, hence the need to provide for appeals. For the purpose of this bylaw, the failure to make a decision may be considered as a decision in that a non-decision may have a significant effect on a student.

Objectives

- To provide a means of appealing decisions.
- To safeguard the rights of students and their parents and to ensure their fair treatment.
- To ensure that procedural and administrative fairness and **due process have been** ~~is~~ adhered to and conforms to Board policy.

- 70.1 The Board requires that an appeal of any decision made by its employees which significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student be heard first at the school level and then, if necessary, at the district administrative level on a consultative basis **per administrative regulations**. ~~If the matter cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the student and/or the student's parents, the Board will then listen to the appeal.~~
- 70.2 If the Administrative Regulation **5350 (How to Communicate with Us) No. 1750 Appeal Process** fails to satisfy the student and/or parent/guardian bringing the appeal, he/she/they may appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. The basis of the appeal to the Superintendent is to be filed in writing.
- 70.3 If the appeal to the Superintendent cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, the Board will then listen to the appeal within a reasonable time limit.
- 70.4 The Superintendent or designate will prepare a report for the School Board concerning the matter and will provide a copy to the complainant.
- 70.5 The appeal will be heard in-camera at the next Closed Meeting of the Board.
- 70.6 The complainant and/or his/her advocate have the right to appear before the Board. At least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting the complainant must notify the Superintendent of who will be attending the meeting.
- 70.7 The Board may request the presence of the complainant or any person who was involved in the matter giving rise to the appeal before the Board or in the dispute resolution efforts to date. At least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting the complainant will be advised who will be attending the meeting.
- 70.8 The scope of the review shall be based on the criteria that:
- (a) the policies of the School Board have been followed;
 - (b) the administrative regulations of the school district have been followed;
 - (c) relevant information was considered by administration **and the decision under appeal has been based on that evidence**;
 - ~~(d) the current evidence being presented to the Board supports the decision under appeal;~~
 - (de)** the procedures followed have been fair to the complainant.
- 70.9 The Board will deliberate in the absence of all persons who were involved in the dispute or dispute resolution efforts to date.