



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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES
Held on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.
At the School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Christine Younghusband, Chair; Greg Russell; Pammila Ruth; Dave Mewhort; Betty Baxter

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent; Carolyn Spence, Principal; Paul Bishop, Principal; Lee-Ann Ennis, Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary; Carolyn Smith; Louise Herle

REGRETS: Vanessa White, Lenora Joe, Lori Dixon

Called to order at 10:35 am

1. International Education

Assistant Superintendent Kitchen provided a report and indicated that currently the school district has 20 international education students registered with a total of 12 FTE. The school district has implemented changes to the school start-up and orientation for international students to allow for a smoother transition. A program consultant has been hired on a contract basis to promote and grow the international program and ensure future growth. The school district is contemplating a suggestion to offer a twinning program whereby international students would study a period of time within SD46 and our student would in turn study abroad for a period of time. Future plans for the experienced consultant include a comprehensive assessment of current students and agents, as well as program development, promotion and recruitment, and eventually research and training of SD46 staff once a suitable program has been established. A draft website is near completion and will include valuable materials to promote the school district to international students.

The committee discussed challenges and successes in previous attempts to develop an international education program. Benefits of international education to students would include the strong and lasting friendships developed with international students, and providing opportunities for better cultural awareness and the global community.

2. School Visit Reflections

Trustees present at the Education Committee meeting reflected on their recent visits to schools as part of their review of school development plans. Trustees noted their appreciation for the hard work of principals in preparing for their visit and the enthusiasm of students in visiting classes. Trustees also thanked staff for providing the school development plans well in advance of the visits, which provided an opportunity for a thorough review prior to visiting the schools.

3. BAA Course Proposal: Coastal Ecological Stewardship

Principal, Paul Bishop, spoke to the Board Authorized course proposal developed by Pender Harbour instructor, Jay Walls, commenting that the course presents a great opportunity, sound in terms of instruction and assessment with lots of opportunity for self directed studies. Trustees expressed their support for the proposed course and environmental education programming in general. Superintendent Bocking formally endorsed the course proposal.

Recommendation:

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) support the BAA Course Proposal: Coastal Ecological Stewardship.”

4. Parent Engagement

Trustee Baxter reported back on the recent DPAC meeting. She indicated that the meeting was very well attended and parents were engaged in each agenda topic. The new format for the meeting ends with a large active group discussion – the focus of which was hot lunch programs.

Superintendent Bocking indicated that the Parent Teacher Communication Committee will soon be created and will concentrate once more on developing structures that reinforce and improve parent teacher communications throughout the school district.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm

Next meeting: February 26, 2015 at the School Board Office