



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

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES
Held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 1:00 pm
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.**

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Christine Younghusband, Chair; Lori Dixon; Pammila Ruth;
Betty Baxter

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Greg Kitchen, Assistant
Superintendent; Vanessa White, District Principal; Erica Reimer, Recording
Secretary; Louise Herle

REGRETS: Carolyn Spence; Lenora Joe

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

1. Environmental Education

Greg Kitchen provided an update on a recent Environmental Education committee meeting during which the committee looked at potential partnerships and grants to “green” the school grounds. School district staff are pursuing grants in a coordinated effort to maximize potential. The Environmental Education committee plans to create a document that lists environmental educational opportunities by grade and specific curricular objectives, which teachers can access as a resource to bring environmental education into the classroom. The Environmental Education committee continues to consider the feasibility of offering specific environmental course offerings at the secondary level. The committee is also considering other opportunities, including incorporating environmental learning opportunities into existing courses at the secondary level rather than offering specific courses that might reduce enrolment in other areas. The impetus to move environmental education forward and expanding focus at secondary level continues to grow.

The committee discussed the size and makeup of the NEST program, barriers to nature programs, and the value of district resources.

2. Grad Survey Update

Superintendent Bocking provided an update, indicating that the survey has been an ongoing topic of discussion with the District Student Leadership Team (DSLTL). The DSLTL have suggested embedding the survey within the graduation transition program at the end of a grade 12 year. Those same graduates would then have an opportunity to reevaluate their survey responses in future years based on where their educational path leads them. The committee discussed the potential of partnering with a local banking institution in this endeavor. The conversation moved to financial literacy workshops that had been provided by the Sunshine Coast Credit Union in previous years.

3. Satisfaction Survey Update

Superintendent Bocking provided an update. The Satisfaction Survey is offered annually through the ministry to all staff, as well as students, and parents of students, in grades 4, 7,

10 and 12. The survey remains open until the end of April. Survey results form discussion points for key topics, such as student safety.

4. Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) Update

Superintendent Bocking reported that FSA testing has been completed for the current school year. The results of the assessment, along with classroom based assessment, are used to provide data to support the Achievement Contract that is provided to the Ministry in July of each year.

The committee discussed the value of the assessment and the quality of information provided to parents. Comments were heard regarding the political nature of the use of the data by the Fraser Institute in ranking schools. Other comments indicated that the tool is generally regarded as a good instrument that accurately reflects assessment. The recommendations of the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment were shared.

5. Parent Engagement

DPAC is meeting on March 26th. District Principal Vanessa White will be attending. Trustee Baxter commented on the strong engagement of parents at the many PAC meetings that she and Superintendent Bocking has recently attended.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2015 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the School Board Office.