



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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES
Held on May 25th, 2016 from 1:00-2:30 pm
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Christine Younghusband (Chair), Pammila Ruth, Betty Baxter

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Paul Bishop, Director of Instruction; Vanessa White, Director of Instruction; Kerry Mahlman, District Principal; Carolyn Spence, Principal; David Barnum, Curriculum and Transitions Coordinator; Marnie Baba, CUPE Local 801; Erica Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGETS: Lori Dixon, Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Strategic Plan: 3.f. – Sechelt Indian Band and Squamish Nation and Strategic Plan: 1.j. – Indigenous Cultures

1.j. Our students will explore indigenous cultures in our community and the diversity of cultures in the world through experience, instruction and language learning.

3.f. Our district will enhance relationships with the shishálh Indian Band, the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Nation and other cultural groups.

District Principal Mahlman shared information on the district's aboriginal education program and highlighted how the program works to support the goals of the Strategic Plan. Currently, the school district supports 581 students that have self-declared to be of first nations descent of which 550 students have chosen to participate in a language and culture program. The school district has chosen to celebrate aboriginal culture throughout the month of June, in recognition of National Aboriginal Day, which takes place on June 21st. All elementary school students' benefit from a weekly aboriginal education program that provide students with opportunities to connect to the land, water and forest and learn traditional techniques. Aboriginal Education Targeted Funding is further supported by a contribution of 0.8 FTE from the school district and is used to enhance learning achievements that reflect the needs of aboriginal students. The district works closely with the Sechelt Nation, through Lenora Joe, Director of Education, so that educational priorities are known, implemented and supported in schools. District Principal Mahlman reported that the Squamish Nation is supported by four school districts (SD 44, 45, 46 and 48) and is working towards collaboration with those school districts to ensure their nation's educational priorities are similarly represented.

A copy of the presentation is available online in the agenda package at www.sd46.bc.ca/index.php/2015-2016-board-meeting-schedule#ed

2. Strategic Plan: Goal 1.h. – Experiential Learning/Inquiry

1.h. Our students will encounter, challenge, explore and pursue interests, and develop core competencies through experiential learning and personalized inquiry.

Director Bishop spoke to a presentation on Maker Experiences that promote constructionist, building and prototyping activities where students learn by trying. He related these experiences to those of students in the district's ACE-IT programs, which synthesize theoretical activities with hands on practice.

Curriculum and Transitions Coordinator, David Barnum provided an illustrated example of an inquiry project from a grade one science class where students experimented with sprouting a bean. Students were encouraged to try different things, ask questions, and experiment with “what if” ideas.

3. Strategic Plan: Goal 1.e. – Physical Health

1.e. Our students will be supported in learning skills and awareness to manage their mental and physical health.

Director White provided a thorough report and shared the following:

- Eleven different sports teams at the secondary schools, including golf, ski and snowboard, ultimate, cross country, track and basketball.
- Elementary sports teams have expanded to include students in grades 3, 4 and 5 to allow young student an opportunity to develop age specific skills.
- Grade 6 and 7 students are actively competing in basketball and volleyball teams with A and B tiers.
- Elementary Sugar Bowl continues to be a yearly event and is well received by students.
- BC Fruit and Vegetable program provides students with an opportunity to try different produce.
- Gym activities for Gibsons SCAS students could be enhanced.

4. Parent Engagement (*standing item*)

Report to be provided at the Regular Board Meeting due to time constraints.

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm

NEXT MEETING: June 20th, 2016 from 9:00-10:30 am at the School Board Office.