



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

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES
Held on October 28, 2015 at 1:00 pm
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.**

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

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Vanessa White, Director of Instruction; Carolyn Spence, Principal; David Barnum, District Co-ordinator; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary; Kirsten Deasey, Early Learning Co-ordinator; Louise Herle; Laura Clarke; Cathy Calder

REGRETS: Trustee Lori Dixon

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

1) Strategic Plan: Goal 1.b – Reading / Goal 2. b. – Reading Teachers

Kirsten Deasey shared the district's Reading Committee's goals and provided information on the committee's ongoing efforts to achieve those goals. The committee meets monthly and consists of 14 members, including teacher librarians and district representatives. Goals include:

- i. *That all students will read at grade level or beyond:* The committee hosts "Engaging Readers" workshops for teachers by teachers. The workshops are divided into primary, intermediate and secondary sessions. The district also takes part in the province's Changing Results 4 Young Readers (CR4YR) that just concluded three years of research in a case study format over 57 districts. The program makes use of collaborative strategies to share information between educators on effective strategies for improving reading. Self-regulation, confidence, personal responsibility and motivation, social awareness, and personal identity were key areas of focus.
- ii. *Increase the number of students who experience joy of reading:* The committee is creating top 10 lists of popular books and story baskets in order to engage kids in books.
- iii. *Build a professional culture intensely focused on improving reading results:* The committee is promoting improved reading results, sharing workshops and materials with teachers.
- iv. *Extending reading opportunities in the broader community & consider reading transitions from school settings to recreational and adult contexts:* Several events have taken place including "Words on the Water" where story reading took place on local ferry routes. Local mayors and deputy mayors were invited to read at StrongStart Centres.
- v. *Improve our ability to understand, support and communicate reading skills:* Early primary reading assessments help to determine students' strengths and highlight individual learning styles.

The committee discussed reading assessments and the valuable role of teacher librarians. Information was shared on other uses of library space and creative ways in which teacher librarians support a love of reading including spoken word festivals and other performances.

2) Curriculum Implementation/School Calendar

David Barnum provided an update on the ongoing curriculum implementation workshops. Resources are being shared on FirstClass in order to provide easy access to relevant materials. The ministry's curriculum website is constantly growing and changing and proves to be a fluid platform. Teachers have been asked to provide suggestions as to what would be useful and relevant in the move to the new curriculum.

Superintendent Bocking reported that the board has allocated \$156,000 to support changes to the curriculum under a plan developed by the Education Implementation Committee. Under the district's plan to support the new curriculum, all teachers will have 4 half-day sessions. Orientation sessions will also be provided to Educational Assistants.

The Ministry of Education has redesignated 10 hours of non-instructional time to the 2015-2016 school year for collaboration time in order to support teachers with the new curriculum, 5 additional hours will be designated in the 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 school years to provide ongoing support. The superintendent and the SCTA are working to determine the best placement of those hours.

The committee discussed the ministry directive and made a recommendation.

Recommendation:

“That the 2015-2016 School Calendar will be changed as a result of the ministry directive to re-designate 10 non-instructional hours, pending feedback received from the SCTA.”

3) Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

Director of Instruction, Vanessa White, reviewed 2015 MDI results available at <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/mdi/nh/sd46/>. This is the first time that the district has had both grade 4 and grade 7. The MDI is a self-reporting questionnaire administered to students in grade 4 and grade 7, that serves to understand and assess how children are thriving based on five areas of development: physical health, sense of connectedness, social emotional development, school experiences and the use of after school time. The committee discussed overall results.

A request was made that information be shared at the board table to support the District Student Leadership Team's concerns regarding student anxiety. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of sleep reported by students. The committee discussed how to best raise those concerns with parents by sharing information with the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) and school PACs.

4) Curriculum (standing item)

Report included in Curriculum Implementation update.

5) Inspirational Achievement Award

The item was tabled to the November Education Committee meeting due to time constraints.

6) Grad Survey

The item was tabled to the November Education Committee meeting due to time constraints.

7) Parent Engagement (standing item)

October's DPAC meeting took place at Elphinstone Secondary on October 22 and the November meeting is scheduled for November 25th at Pender Harbour Secondary.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 25th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the School Board Office.

Upcoming agenda item(s):

- Inspirational Achievement Award
- Grad Survey