



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

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES
Held on December 16, 2015 from 1:00-2:30 pm
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.**

- PRESENT:** TRUSTEES: Christine Younghusband (Chair), Pammila Ruth
STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Vanessa White, Director of Instruction; Paul Bishop, Director of Instruction, Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; David Barnum, Curriculum and Transitions Coordinator; Kirsten Deasey, Early Learning Coordinator; Sue Lamb, Early Years Grant Coordinator; Erica Reimer, Recording Secretary
- REGRETS:** Lori Dixon, Trustee; Greg Russell, Trustee; Betty Baxter, Trustee; Carolyn Spence, Principal; Louise Herle, SCTA
-

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

1. Strategic Plan: Goal 1.a. Early Learning

Early Learning Coordinator, Kirsten Deasey, reviewed Early Learning programs offered by the school district:

- *Prenatal Classes* – stress the importance of attachment and strategies for parenting. Offered in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. .
- *SPARK!* (Supporting Parents Along the Road to Kindergarten) – Popular program with over 700 children registered, newborn to age 5.
- *Imagination Library* – Provides an age-appropriate book every month until a child's fifth birthday.
- *Ready, Set, Learn* – Ministry supported program to help preschool children and families prepare for school.
- *Early Years Fair* – Well-attended event that focuses on early years services, taking place every spring.
- *StrongStart Centres and WonderWheels Bus* – Centres located at Gibsons Elementary, Roberts Creek Elementary, Sechelt Learning Centre, Halfmoon Bay Elementary and Madeira Park Elementary saw visits from 12,694 children last year.
- *KinderSPARK!* – Provides transitioning support for children entering kindergarten. Now offered at all elementary schools in the district.
- *PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters)* – Supports family literacy and learning by providing resources to share with community, StrongStart and primary classrooms.
- *SPARK! 10* – All grade 10 students learn the importance of early years development and have an opportunity to apply their learning in a StrongStart Centre.

Information was provided on an Early Years grant being administered through Sunshine Coast community schools to further support families with young children. Grant coordinator, Sue Lamb, reported that the grant provides four years of funding to enhance and integrate services on the coast. The grant supports Early Years Centres at three physical sites – at Gibsons Elementary, Sechelt Learning Centre and Madeira Park Elementary – in

addition to a virtual site on the World Wide Web. A three-year draft plan is being created with a goal to integrate service delivery for early years service providers, thereby making it easy for young families to access services that would otherwise require them to go to several sites.

Trustee Younghusband requested that the three-year plan be presented to the board once formalized.

2. Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

Superintendent Bocking shared information on the Ministry's *Framework for Enhancing Student Learning* and shared information on the guiding principles for the framework. The new framework includes:

- A system-wide focus “on intellectual, human and social, and career development”,
- Multi-year district and school plans that are to be developed with local partners,
- Annual evidence based reporting by districts and the province,
- Capacity building and supports “focused on continuous improvement.”

The committee reviewed steps to date and discussed similarities with the new model and the current board communication plan.

3. Curriculum (standing item)

Curriculum Coordinator, David Barnum, provided an update on plans for the January 4th Non-Instructional Day. Staff will be meeting at four sites to look at changes to the curriculum and to further discern areas of support for teachers. Information on the new curriculum can be found at <http://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>.

4. Parent Engagement (standing item)

The November DPAC meeting was well attended by Pender Harbour residents, as well as parents from across the coast. DPAC will be offering workshops and parenting sessions district wide and are currently reviewing options. A Positive Discipline Training session is being offered on February 1st and 2nd.

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 27, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the School Board Office.

For agenda setting:

- Early Years Three-Year Plan