



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

**POLICY COMMITTEE NOTES**  
**Held on February 23, 2016 from 11:30-1:00 p.m.**  
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

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

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick,  
Secretary-Treasurer; Vanessa White, Director of Instruction; Sarah Bradley,  
DPAC; Erica Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: Paul Bishop, Director of Instruction

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The meeting was called to order at 11:48 a.m.

1. Sections 3.18 and 3.19 of Policy 3 (Role of the Trustee)

The committee discussed the merits of policy 3.18, which states that a trustee must “Refrain from sitting on any specific school-related or program-related group in the district, including Parent Advisory Councils except as a liaison from the Board.”

The committee considered several options:

- striking the policy in its entirety,
- striking only the words “including Parent Advisory Councils”,
- clarifying that a trustee would only act as a liaison to the board when attending such meetings, or
- leaving the policy as currently written.

Committee members acknowledged that every parent of a child attending a public school in British Columbia is a member of a Parent Advisory Council according to the *School Act*. The committee debated whether the policy as written impacted a trustee’s parental rights to take part in a Parent Advisory Council. Additional concerns included:

- that a trustee could unduly influence a Parent Advisory Council should they attend a meeting in a role other than that of a board liaison.
- that a trustee’s role is to provide oversight to the governance of the school district and that by removing an explicit policy, future trustees could presume authority to take part in operational committees.
- that the impact of any of the suggested changes should be considered in light of the policy in its entirety.

The committee was unable to reach a consensus on a recommendation and agreed to table discussion to a future meeting due to time constraints.

A suggestion was made to review policies that are phrased in the negative and provide positive alternatives.

2. Policy 7 – Trustee Donations

To be addressed at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** April 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the School Board Office.

**Upcoming agenda item(s):**

- Policy 3 (Role of the Trustee)
- Policy 7 (Trustee Donations)