



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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES

Held on January 31st, 2017 from 10:30 am -12:00 pm
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Betty Baxter (Committee Chair), Lori Dixon, Dave Mewhort,
Greg Russell, Pammila Ruth, Lori Pratt, Christine Younghusband

STAFF/OTHERS: Patrick Bocking, Superintendent; Nicholas Weswick,
Secretary-Treasurer; Erica Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.

1. Trustee Electoral Areas

Chair Baxter summarized the history of the electoral area review and shared that:

- The ministry acknowledged that certain Sechelt Indian Government District (SIGD) lands were not included in the metes and bounds descriptions for the trustee electoral areas (TEA) and requested feedback from the board on how to include those lands in the TEAs.
- The board discussed the request at the April and May 2016 Committee of the Whole meetings. Various options for adjustments to the TEAs were discussed at both meetings. Direction was provided at the May meeting to solicit feedback from local governments and report back to the board before proceeding to public consultation.
- Feedback had been received from three of the four local governments. The SIGD and the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) indicated a preference to identify SIGD lands as a single TEA with elected trustee. The Town of Gibsons did not indicate a preference.

Trustees reviewed materials provided at past meetings, including ministerial guidelines for variances to trustee electoral areas. The issue of voter parity (one person / one vote) was identified as the principal factor for consideration during the electoral area review process.

Upon review of census data for the options being considered, the committee agreed that voter parity could not be achieved and that a significant imbalance would occur if a single TEA was to be established for SIGD lands.

The committee reviewed representation by population data for the options discussed at the April and May meetings, and considered an additional option

(option E) that would include the excluded SIGD lands in the Sechelt TEA, where they geographically reside, and would combine Gibsons into a single TEA with Areas D, E and F (see attached). This option had been requested previously by the Board in 2011, but the Ministry required further consultation. The committee agreed that option E could present a logical, geographical distribution of electoral areas for consideration.

The committee noted that option B would continue to geographically disconnect SIGD voters that reside on lands that are located in the Pender Harbour area and should therefore no longer be considered. The committee further noted that option D (status quo) should no longer be considered as the geographic location of the majority of SIGD did not correlate to the geographical locations of the other rural areas in that TEA.

The committee heard from staff that the population data analysis would be updated once 2016 census information becomes available in February and the committee could revisit the options should the data present a significant shift in voter parity.

The consensus was that additional consultation should occur with three public consultation sessions to be arranged during the months of February-April with feedback from the consultations being considered at the April 24th Committee of the Whole.

Chair Baxter and Vice-Chair Pratt agreed to draft a letter of clarification which included the rationale for the options being presented. Secretary-Treasurer agreed to arrange the consultations in accordance with dates suggested by the committee.

Recommendation:

“That the board proceed with three regional public consultations, taking place during February-April, on the following options:

- 1) Option A: Listing SIGD lands within the geographic region that borders them,
- 2) Option B: Including the excluded SIGD lands in the Sechelt TEA and combining Gibsons with Areas D,E & F

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 28 from 10:30 to 12:00 pm at the School Board Office.

Option A: Listing SIGD lands within the geographic region that borders them.

Standard Deviation
724

	SD46 Electoral Areas	# of Trustees	2011 Census	Trustee to population ratio
TEA 1	Area A		2678	
	Area B		2675	
	SIGD (HMB & Pender Lands)		?	
	Rural Area 1	1	5353	1:5353
TEA 2	Sechelt		9291	
	SIGD (<i>currently excluded areas</i>)		797	
TEA 2	Sechelt	2	10088	1:3363
TEA 3	Gibsons	1	4437	1:4437
TEA 4	Area D		3244	
	Area E		3482	
	Area F		2015	
	Rural Area 2	3	9538	1:4769

Option B: Including all SIGD lands in the Sechelt TEA and redistributing the number of trustees elected by area, if necessary.

Standard Deviation
704

	SD46 Electoral Areas	# of Trustees	2011 Census	Trustee to population ratio
TEA 1	Area A		2678	
	Area B		2675	
	Rural Area 1	1	5353	1:5353
TEA 2	Sechelt		9291	
	SIGD		797	
TEA 2	Sechelt/SIGD	3	10088	1:3363
TEA 3	Gibsons	1	4437	1:4437
TEA 4	Area D		3244	
	Area E		3482	
	Area F		2015	
	Rural Area 2	2	8741	1:4371

Option C: Identifying SIGD lands as a single TEA with an elected trustee and redistributing the number of trustees in other TEAs.

Standard Deviation
1600

	SD46 Electoral Areas	# of Trustees	2011 Census	Trustee to population ratio
	Area A		2678	
	Area B		2675	
TEA 1	Rural Area 1	1	5353	1:5353
TEA 2	SIGD	1	797	1:797
TEA 3	Gibsons	1	4437	1:4437
TEA 5	Sechelt	2	9291	1:4646
	Area D		3244	
	Area E		3482	
	Area F		2015	
TEA 5	Rural Area 2	2	8741	1:4371

Option E: Including all missing SIGD lands in the Sechelt TEA and combining Gibsons with Areas D, E & F. (SIGD lands in the Pender region included in their geographic region)

Standard Deviation
813

	SD46 Electoral Areas	# of Trustees	2011 Census	Trustee to population ratio
	Area A		2678	
	Area B		2675	
	SIGD (HMB & Pender Lands)		?	
TEA 1	Rural Area 1	1	5353	1:5353
	Sechelt		9291	
	SIGD (<i>currently excluded areas</i>)		797	
TEA 2	Sechelt/SIGD	3	10088	1:3363
	Gibsons		4437	
	Area D		3244	
	Area E		3482	
	Area F		2015	
TEA 3	Rural Area 2	3	13178	1:4393

NOTE: Option D was not considered for the purpose of this analysis.