

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 7:00 pm School Board Office - Gibsons, BC 494 South Fletcher Road Gibsons, BC

		Pages		
1.	Call to Order			
2.	Loose Parts for Literacy - K. Deasey			
3.	Public Question Period (10 minutes in total)			
4.	Adoption of the Agenda			
	MOTION: "THAT the agenda of November 13, 2019 be adopted."			
5.	Presentation: Better Fields Delegation - G. Marshall			
6.	Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings and Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings	1		
	a. Regular Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2019			
	b. Record of Closed Meeting - October 9, 2019			
	MOTION : "THAT the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2019 and the Record of Closed Meeting of October 9, 2019, be approved."			
7.	Reports			
a.	Superintendent's Report			
b.	Strategic Plan Reports			
	1. Goal 1.d. – Literacy	11		
	2. Goal 1.j. – Digital Literacy	13		
	3. Goal 3.a. – Communication	15		
	4. Goal 3.b. – Visioning and Planning			
C.	Administrative Regulations in Circulation to January 3, 2020			
	1. Reg. 3110 – Head Lice	17		
	2. Reg. 3300 – Menstrual Products	19		
	3. Reg. 4150 – Soccer Nets	21		
	4. Reg. 4170– Use of Board Property for Licensed Child Care	23		
d.	Administrative Regulations to be Received			
	1. Reg. 4050 – Earthquakes	25		
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e.	Secretary-Treasurer's Report	29
	1. Larger Cheques Written in the Month of October 2019	33
f.	Board Report	35
	1. BCSTA Report	37
	2. BCPSEA Report	
	3. Student Trustee Report	
g.	Committee of the Whole Notes - October 22, 2019	39
	MOTION : "TO update Policy 5 – Role of Board Committees, as outlined in the notes of the Committee of the Whole meeting taking place on October 22, 2019."	
h.	Education Committee Notes - October 22, 2019	47
i.	Operations Committee Notes - October 22, 2019	51
j.	Receipt of Reports	
	MOTION: "THAT the reports be received."	
8.	Correspondence	55
	a. MLA T. Stone - Youth Vaping	
	b. P. Reece - Climate and Youth	
	c. G. Marshall on behalf of the Better Fields Committee - Sunshine Coast Fields	
	d. Mayor D. Seigers - Food Bank Services - Friendly Challenge	
	MOTION: "TO receive the correspondence."	
9.	Questions and Enquiries from the Public Relating to the Board Meeting	
10.	Next Meeting	
	The next public board meeting will be held on December 11, 2019.	
a.	Committee Agendas	
	MOTION: "TO approve the committee agendas."	
11.	Board Elections	
a.	Board Chair	
b.	Vice-Chair	
C.	BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Trustee Representative	
d.	BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council Representative	
12.	Adjournment	



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

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 7:00 pm School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

TRUSTEES: P. Ruth, Board Chair; S. Leech, Vice-Chair; A. Amaral, Trustee; M.

Hampvent, Trustee; S. Haines, Trustee; S. Girard, Trustee; J. Carroll,

Student Trustee

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent; N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; K. Kerr,

Director of Instruction; P. Bishop, Director of Instruction; E. Reimer,

Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: T. Ste. Marie, Trustee

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Chair Ruth acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Celebrating Education: Gibsons Elementary Rainbow Crosswalk - D. Luporini

Gibsons Elementary students, Melyssa Verhoeven, Jonathan Holliday, and Maya Karagianis, reported on their class' efforts to gain the support of their school and the community to create a rainbow crosswalk at their school. The students reported that they took their inspiration from "*Pride*" author Robin Stevenson, who visited their school in February and spoke on LGBTQ issues. After that presentation, students in Colleen Hourigan's grade 4/5 class approached their teacher with the idea of a rainbow crosswalk at the school. The students managed the project through all steps, from sharing their idea at PAC meetings and with district staff, to fundraising for supplies. The crosswalk, completed at the end of the 2018-19 school year, now serves as a welcoming reminder of the school's acceptance of all students.

3. Public Question Period (10 minutes in total)

There were no questions from the public.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved: Leech Seconded: Girard

MOTION: "THAT the agenda of October 9, 2019 be adopted."

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings and Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings

a. Regular Meeting of September 11, 2019

b. Record of Closed Meeting of September 11, 2019

Moved: Amaral Seconded: Haines

MOTION: "THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2019 and the

Record of the Closed Meeting of September 11, 2019, be approved."

Carried

6. Reports

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bocking shared two poems from the student writing anthology, *Coastal Voices*, and reported on events and activities that support the strategic plan, including:

- The administration of the Kindergarten survey of learning,
- Student and staff participation in Terry Fox Runs,
- Student involvement in Club Days at Chatelech Secondary School,
- Commencement of the Train in Trades Auto Service Tech and Professional Cook Programs,
- Mental Health First Aid certification courses offered by District Support Services,
- District celebration of World Teacher Day,
- · Participation in the Family Engagement Dinner,
- Sharing the new Strategic Plan at PAC meetings,
- Recognition of Orange Shirt Day on September 30th,
- Continuation of the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre program for all grade 3 students,
- Recent events for international students.

Superintendent Bocking's full report is available in the agenda package of October 9, 2019.

b. Strategic Plan Reports

1. Goal 1.c. - Core Competencies

Director Kerr spoke to her written report, highlighting the shift to competency based Individual Education Plans (IEP) and shared next steps for the school district.

2. Goal 2.e. - Positive Partnerships

Superintendent Bocking spoke to his written report, highlighting the district's options for student reporting, the newly developed district website, the upcoming family engagement dinner series and the district's various early learning programs.

c. Administrative Regulations in Circulation

Details regarding the administrative regulations in circulation can be found in the committee notes of meetings taking place on September 24, 2019. New and

revised regulations will circulate for an eight (8) week period and regulations being repealed will circulate for a four (4) week period.

- 1. Reg. 1240 Research Studies
- 2. Reg. 1250 Review of Educational Materials
- 3. Reg. 1270 Selection of Learning Resources
- 4. Reg. 1300 Student Records
- 5. Reg. 2030 Communication Protocol for Outside Agencies
- 6. Reg. 2120 Selection and Appointment of Senior Executive

d. <u>Secretary-Treasurer's Report</u>

1. Larger Cheques Written in September 2019

The report was submitted as written.

2. Enrollment Report

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick shared a handout detailing preliminary enrollment information for the district and highlighted:

- a decline in the total number of English Language Learners (ELL), and
- a small increase in overall enrollment from the prior year.

The draft report will be included as an addendum to the electronic agenda package.

e. Board Report

The report was submitted as written.

Chair Ruth invited trustees to share reports on their activities throughout the month:

- Trustee Girard reported on her participation at the Climate Action Forum.
- Trustee Haines reported on PAC meetings at Halfmoon Bay Elementary and Pender Harbour Secondary.
- Trustee Hampvent reported on an event taking place at the longhouse and shared plans to attend the family engagement dinner and the upcoming BCSTA Provincial Council meeting.
- Trustee Amaral attended the Chatelech PAC meeting.
- Vice-Chair Leech reported on a meeting between the chair, vice-chair, Superintendent, and the Town of Gibsons' Mayor and Councillor.
- Chair Ruth reported on her attendance at the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education event on November 4th.

More information on the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education is available at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/teach/excellence-in-education

1. BCSTA Report

Trustee Hampvent spoke to the two motions being presented for consideration at the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting:

- a motion to improve the availability of resources on the topic of student health in relation to vaping and e-cigarettes and to improve access to cessation programs.
- a motion to delay the requirement for enrolment of international students to the MSP program until the 2020/21 school year.

2. BCPSEA Report

Trustee Amaral indicated there were no items to report.

3. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Carroll shared items of conversation at a recent DSLT meeting, where members discussed potential topics for the upcoming student forum on October 29th. Student Trustee Carroll will report back on the mock election planned at Elphinstone Secondary at the November board meeting.

f. Committee of the Whole Notes

The notes were submitted as written.

Trustee Amaral noted that the concerns raised at Committee of the Whole relating to Regulation 2120 were in regard to the formation of the committee, in addition to the number of members on the committee.

g. <u>Education Committee Notes</u>

Trustee Amaral spoke to the committee meeting notes.

h. Operations Committee Notes

Trustee Hampvent spoke to the committee notes.

Moved: Haines

Seconded: Hampvent

MOTION: "TO receive the reports."

Carried

7. <u>Correspondence</u>

a. R. Emerson - Educational Assistants & School Supplies - September 3, 2019

Moved: Haines

Seconded: Hampvent

MOTION: "TO receive the correspondence."

Carried

8. Questions and Enquiries from the Public Relating to the Board Meeting

 A member of the audience asked for clarification regarding the process for responding to correspondence, specifically who replied to the letter from R.
 Emerson and whether the board was consulted in that response. Chair Ruth responded that the chair responds to correspondence addressed to the board and that correspondence received was shared with all trustees prior to issuing a response.

- A member of the press asked for information on the implication of the province's requirement that international students register for the MSP program. Director Bishop reported that the district is paying the costs on behalf of four (4) international students.
- A member of the press asked if there was any movement towards reinstatement of the RCMP School Liaison officer. Superintendent Bocking reported that the position remained vacant at the time of the meeting.
- A member of the press asked for additional information on the concerns raised at Committee of the Whole regarding Regulation 2120. Superintendent Bocking reported that the discussion surrounded the formation of the hiring committee described in the regulation, specifically whether it was appropriate for principals to be on the hiring committee for executive staff, and reported that any edits to the regulation would be brought forward upon completion of the circulation phase.

9. Next Meeting

The next public board meeting will be held on November 13, 2019.

a. Committee Agendas

Trustee Haines requested that the agenda setting committee consider looking into the feasibility of paperless board meetings.

Moved: Amaral Seconded: Girard

MOTION: "TO approve the committee agendas."

Carried

Carried

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Moved: Amaral

Seconded: Hampvent MOTION: "TO adjourn."

Pammila Ruth - Board Chair	Nicholas Weswick - Secretary-Treasurer



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST) RECORD OF CLOSED MEETING

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 5:30 pm School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

TRUSTEES: P. Ruth, Board Chair; S. Leech, Vice-Chair; A. Amaral, Trustee; M.

Hampvent, Trustee; S. Haines, Trustee; S. Girard, Trustee

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent; N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer; K. Kerr,

Director of Instruction; P. Bishop, Director of Instruction; E. Reimer,

Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: T. Ste. Marie, Trustee

The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Leech.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

- Motion to Exclude
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings
- Information / Action Items
 - Personnel
 - Bargaining Update (Trustee Haines arrived after the report having declared a conflict of interest related to bargaining)
 - Staff Update
 - Property
 - Property Update
- Financial Audit
- <u>Items for Disclosure</u>
 - There were no items for disclosure

Adjournment

The meet	ting ac	djourned	1 at 6:	18	p.m

Pammila Ruth - Board Chair	Nicholas Weswick - Secretary-Treasurer

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Superintendent Patrick Bocking November 13th, 2019

1. CIRCLE OF CARE: STUDENTS

- a. The DSLT **Grade 11 Student Forum** engaged students in discussions regarding Environmental Issues and Climate Change, Vaping and Substance Use, and Mental Health. (1a)
- b. Staff attended the Ministry's **Early Learning Summit** to learn about and discuss the educational, social and economic benefits of early learning and the new Partnership Model for Before and After School Care. (1b)
- All schools presented Remembrance Day ceremonies that supported our students understanding of the values inherent in sacrifice and values-based decisions. (1c)
- d. Staff attended the British Columbia Tripartite Agreement (BCTEA) first annual gathering. This event was sponsored by the the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and the Ministry of Education. Superintendents and Indigenous leads attended from across the province. (1h)
- e. **Energy Matters** is a project that involves our facilities department working with students to enhance energy conservation. Plans are being developed for the next phase of initiatives. (1i, 3e)
- f. Students in our senior bands will look sharp in new **Band uniforms**! (1a, 1k)
- g. Parents and community members, including district staff, welcomed students to their workplaces on **Take Your Kid to Work Day**. (11)

2. CIRCLE OF CARE: STAFF

- a. Teachers in Charge (TIC's) attended a workshop on the **key elements** for supporting their schools in the temporary absence of their principals. (2d)
- b. In our work in applying and understanding deep **inclusive practices** for staff and students nine SD46 staff, Counsellors, Student Support Services Teachers, and Principals attended the annual BC School Counselors Association Professional Learning Conference, *Realizing Resilience*, *Informed by Trauma*, *Influenced by Care*. Dr. Linda O'Neill, specialist in trauma informed practice, was the keynote speaker. (2c)

3. CIRCLE OF CARE: COMMUNITY

 We look forward to welcoming Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, to West Sechelt Elementary School on Friday, November 15th for an announcement (3a)

- b. Parent Advisory Council representatives, and principals gathered for the **Family Engagement Dinner** to share and learn strategies for effective parent engagement. (3a, 3b)
- c. Partnership discussions with **Capilano University** (kalax-ay) will lead to new possibilities for our students to gain post secondary credits while remaining on the Sunshine Coast. (3c)
- d. The **Ministry of Education** met with all Superintendents to review Child Care and Partnerships, Indigenous Student Outcomes, Graduation Assessments, and Funding Model Implementation. (3c)

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: LITERACY

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking November 13th, 2019



Our students will be **literate**. They will be effective communicators, critical thinkers and engaged citizens.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss,
"I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Background:

Literacy is a foundation for the academic and life success of a well-informed citizen. In partnership with our community, including our students' parents, our district has many supports in place to ensure our students are effective communicators, critical thinkers, and engaged citizens.

Discussion:

Some of the key activities related to literacy this year include:

- Provincial literacy assessments begin in 2019/20 for grade 10 students and in 2020/21 for grade 12 students
- Early years programming continues to focus on literacy
- The district writers' anthology, Coastal Voices, is celebrating its 10th anniversary
- The Coastal Reads program continues across the district and is championed by teacherlibrarians
- National Literacy Week celebrations take place in schools
- Author visits continue to inspire students
- The secondary LIST (Literacy in Secondary Teaching) initiative has invited literacy expert, Faye Brownlie to share strategies
- SET BC will be visiting the district in November to discuss digital literacy
- The Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) provide valuable feedback to the district and schools and are used to establish areas of focused support
- The Literacy Committee has arranged a presentation by Adrienne Greer on strategies to support literacy.

Data (Qualitative/ Quantitative):

 EDI data indicate that our incoming students are less vulnerable than in previous waves of this inventory

- FSA data indicate that following by grade 7 our students are growing in their literacy skills.
- Teacher evaluation of their students based on BC Provincial Performance Standards indicate that our students are performing better than ever in their reading and writing in most grades.
- English 10 marks (to 2018) indicate virtually all students complete the course, and 80% achieve a mark of 80% or more.
- English 12 marks (to 2018) indicate virtually all students complete the course.

Next Steps:

- Link inclusionary practices to literacy success for all students
- Ensure Indigenous reading resources are available and supported
- Plan for increased family engagement in extending literacy practices beyond school
- Literacy committee, teachers and principals will work with emerging data to determine most effective initiatives in the coming years
- The provincial grade 10 literacy assessment will be taken for the first time this year.

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: DIGITAL LITERACY

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking November 13th, 2019



Our students will have the **digital literacy** skills to enhance and communicate their learning, and responsibly navigate technology.

"A computer does not substitute for judgment any more than a pencil substitutes for literacy."

Robert McNamara

Background:

Digital Literacy is the interest, attitude and ability of individuals to use digital technology and communication tools appropriately to access, manage, integrate, analyze and evaluate information, construct new knowledge, and create and communicate with others.

Discussion:

- Digital Literacy offers students the opportunities to communicate their learning and ideas in many ways. Digital tools are flexible, and align with the principles of Universal Design for Learning. These principles support offering students Multiple means of Expressing their learning, teachers offering Multiple means of Representing the curriculum content and thus providing Multiple means of Engagement for the students to the learning goal.
- We offer students and teachers in SD 46 the district license of the software Read and Write for Mac, iPad and Google Chrome. Read and Write is a universal support, providing an accessible toolbar which hovers above writing documents, web pages and PDF's. The toolbar provides students with text to speech, dictation (speech to text), word prediction, dictionaries and a multitude of other tools to support literacy in an inclusive learning environment.
- Supporting the ADST (Applied Design, Skills & Technologies) curriculum is also under this strategic plan goal. We have a loan bank of materials to support this curriculum available to teachers through our Engage Site. This ADST site also includes vetted lessons on Digital Literacy, Digital Citizenship and Computational Thinking.

Next Steps:

- All Grade 8's trained in Read & Write for Google Chrome Fall 2019
- Ongoing in class lessons on Read and Write for Mac & iPad in all Elementary schools

- Educational Assistant, Teacher and Teacher Librarian training opportunities on Professional Development Days Fall 2019
- Monthly Student Support Teacher Meetings
- Educational Assistants sessions as organized by school
- Engage Site Inclusion for All Learners & Applied Design, Skills and Technology (ADST)

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: COMMUNICATE

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking November 13th, 2019



Our district will effectively communicate with students, staff, and the community.

"As long as there is communication, everything can be solved."

Robert Trujillo

Background:

Our students, our staff, and our community contribute remarkable energy and joy to education on the Sunshine Coast. Our district believes in a philosophy of sharing and celebrating as a goal and value to be cherished to truly achieve, "Excellence in all we do!"

Discussion:

The board and district staff do their very best to model communication. To that end we communicate in many ways:

- District Branding Guide: All documents, business cards, PowerPoint templates, email signatures re-branded and rolled out over the Fall of 2019.
- New District Website: Developed over the past year with Black Bean Creative. Launched September 2019.
- Website & Facebook Integration and Calendar Subscription Features: Website posts are updated to Facebook automatically (driving our community to the new website) and Calendars can be subscribed to allowing families to overlay district & school events in to their personal calendars.
- **School Websites:** Education and development with Principals and Admin Assistants and launching new sites.
- **Strategic Plan Communication:** Brochures and posters designed by Black Bean Creative were rolled out throughout the district in Fall 2019.
- District/ Schools/ Families Communication & Engagement:
 - Superintendent and Communication Officer visits to all (D)PAC's to present New Strategic Plan and District Website.
 - Dinner Workshop with Betty Baxter: Family Engagement Committee Members,
 DPAC Executive, Principals and PAC Representatives attended.
- **District Radio Recordings:** Students from rotating schools visit the radio station to record a message from SD46 on a variety of topics throughout the year. Welcome back

messages, Bus Safety and Halloween Safety were recently recorded for Fall 2019. Recordings are played on 91.7 FM and also posted to the SD46 Website, Facebook and You Tube channel.

- Newspaper: Communication of Board Meeting dates, Inclement Weather Notices, SPARK! & StrongStart Schedules, Indigenous Peoples' Day, Thank you to the Community July Message and the annual School District Report to the Community are published in the Coast Reporter.
- **EduCoaster:** An Internal Staff Newsletter is published once a month and distributed electronically to staff with hard copies also available to them in their staff rooms.
- School Visits: Superintendent and Exec Assistant tour all schools to celebrate and acknowledge staff with a gift and card on World Teachers Day, Christmas, and School Year End.
- Superintendent Video Messages for Staff & Community: Twice a year (New Year and End of School Year), a video message from the Superintendent is shared with our staff and community. Topics have ranged from a year in review through photos, interviews with students, and staff stories of excellence.
- **Secondary Apps:** All secondary schools have a downloadable app for communicating with students and families.

Data (Qualitative/ Quantitative):

- PAC Member comments during website presentations: 'Looks so great and beautiful',
 'That is my son's picture on the site, so neat!', 'Easy to find everything; much more
 simple layout'.
- Staff emails re: EduCoaster: 'the EduCoaster looks wonderful', 'Thank you so much for keeping us connected and informed', 'I am new to the district and this was so nice to receive in my email'.

Next Steps:

- District Programs' new websites
- Schools' Branding: updated logo files and letterheads for all schools ensuring a consistency across the district and in keeping with the district branding model.
- Communication gap analysis.
- Family Engagement Committee: (D)PAC Series development.
- We will continue to encourage a culture of sharing and celebrating all that we do!

TITLE: HEAD LICE

CATEGORY: HEALTH AND SAFETY

NUMBER: 3110 CIRCULATING UNTIL JANUARY 3, 2020

I. Rationale

The Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) believes the key responsibility for the control of head lice rests with the parent/guardian. The school has a role to play in educating staff, students and parents about the early detection, treatment and prevention of head lice infestations. Head lice infestation management procedures shall reflect current research on the detection and treatment of lice infestations. These procedures shall be reviewed on a regular basis in collaboration with Public Health. All intervention should be collaboratively and respectfully planned with parents/guardians.

II. Practices

- A. Early in the school year the district's policy on the control of head lice, together with a summary of information about head lice, their treatment and prevention, will be made available to all parents by way of the school website, email, and /or newsletter.
- B. Students with head lice do not need to be sent home. If it is noted that it is possible that a student could have head lice, a parent or guardian of that student should be notified, preferably verbally, but also by note if necessary. Public Health informational brochures outlining procedures for treatment and acceptable treatment agents should be given or sent to the parent or guardian.
- C. When cases of head lice are confirmed, families shall be asked to do the following:
 - 1. Contact the school.
 - 2. Treat the child at home.
 - 3. Remove all nits.
 - 4. No excessive cleaning is required in the management of head lice. However, it is a good idea to wash items such as pillow cases, stuffed animals and hats in hot water then dry on high heat for at least 15 minutes (alternately items can be stored in an airtight plastic bag for two weeks) Washing combs and brushes in hot water after use is effective. Families should be encouraged to place priority on removing nits and live lice rather than excessive cleaning.
 - 5. Check other family members and treat if head lice are found.



TITLE: HEAD LICE

CATEGORY: HEALTH AND SAFETY

NUMBER: 3110 CIRCULATING UNTIL JANUARY 3, 2020

6. Families can access further support through HealthLink BC 811.

- D. Notice should be sent home to families indicating there is an active head lice problem in the class/school and that families should be vigilant to prevent further infestations.
- E. Families are responsible for controlling infestations for their children by following appropriate lice management guidelines.

Received:

References: Board Policy 11.6

TITLE: MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

CATEGORY: HEALTH AND SAFETY

NUMBER: 3300 CIRCULATING UNTIL JANUARY 3, 2020

I. Rationale:

"Every student in British Columbia should have access to healthy and effective learning environments. The school system is expected to promote gender equality and create an inclusive learning experience. Lack of access to menstrual products can negatively impact students' school attendance and their social-emotional well-being. Providing all students with convenient access to free menstrual products helps to support their full participation in school activities, reduces stigma and promotes gender equality."

- Ministry of Education, Provision of Menstrual Products, April 2019

The Board of Education will ensure that menstrual products are available, free of cost, to all students who may require them, in a manner that is convenient, without stigma and barrier free.

II. Process:

- A. Coin-free menstrual product dispensers will be installed in all student female and gender-neutral washrooms at all sites.
- B. Menstrual product dispensers will be replenished daily by school custodians.
- C. Menstrual product information will be available to all staff, students and parents.
- D. The district shall assume the cost of purchasing, installing and stocking the dispensers.
- E. Student feedback will be sought to ensure that the manner in which menstrual products are made available addresses the needs of all students.
- F. Principals will provide a mechanism to receive student feedback, while maintaining student privacy.

Received:

References: Ministry of Education, Provision of Menstrual Products, April 2019

TITLE: PORTABLE SOCCER NETS

CATEGORY: FACILITIES

NUMBER: 4150 CIRCULATING UNTIL JANUARY 3, 2020

I. Rationale:

The Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) considers student safety of utmost importance. As portable soccer nets have been known to cause injury or death due to unexpected tipping when improperly secured, the district shall ensure that safe practices be in place at all school sites where a portable soccer net is used by the school and the greater community.

II. Practices:

- A. When in use, portable soccer nets must be secured in place using:
 - 1. at least six (6) large sandbags weighing a minimum of 50 pounds each, or;
 - 2. CSA-approved ground stakes, or;
 - 3. another CSA-approved device, such as an in-ground anchor.
- B. When not secured otherwise, portable soccer nets must be chained and locked to each other or a stationary object in a manner that prevents tipping.
- C. Portable soccer nets must be used on flat, even ground. Any climbing activity that is observed should be immediately discouraged.
- D. Portable soccer nets must be inspected at least once per month to ensure they are properly secured.
- E. If it comes to the attention of any staff member that nets are not properly secured, they must immediately inform the maintenance department.
- F. When new nets are acquired, they must be CSA-approved.

Received:

References:

TITLE: USE OF BOARD PROPERTY BY LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

CATEGORY: FACILITIES

NUMBER: 4170 CIRCULATING UNTIL JANUARY 3, 2020

I. Rationale

The Board of Education of School District No. 46 recognizes the value and importance of available child care and quality early learning programs in the community. To facilitate the operation of such services, the board supports the use of board property by licensed child care providers between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., at a minimum. In addition, Section 85.1 of the *School Act* (Use of Board Property) requires school districts to establish a policy promoting the use of board property by licensed child care providers.

II. Practices

A. Definitions:

The terms "board property", "business day", "educational activities", and, "licensed child care provider" shall have the meanings set out in section 85.1 of the School Act.

- B. "Direct and indirect costs" include:
 - 1. Utilities:
 - 2. Maintenance and repair;
 - 3. A reasonable allowance for the cost of providing custodial services;
 - 4. A reasonable allowance for time school district administrators and other staff spend on matters relating to the use of board property by licensed child care providers,

C. General Conditions:

- 1. The use of board property by licensed child care providers must not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of educational activities including early learning programs and extracurricular school activities.
- 2. Revenue obtained by the board from the use of board property by licensed childcare providers on business days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. will not be more than the direct and indirect costs incurred and to be incurred by the board as a result of making that use available.
- 3. This regulation does not apply to any arrangement in place on March 14, 2013 under which board property is being made available to licensed child care provider(s) but does apply to any renewal or extension of that arrangement.

TITLE: USE OF BOARD PROPERTY BY LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

CATEGORY: FACILITIES

NUMBER: 4170 CIRCULATING UNTIL JANUARY 3, 2020

4. The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for determining rental rates on a cost recovery basis.

- 5. Opportunities for proposals to occupy available space will be posted to BC Bid.
- 6. When proposing a full-time child care program, proponents must be open to collaborating with early learning educators and should also be comfortable with the Early Learning Vision established by the school district.
- 7. Licensed child care providers must sign a license agreement which specifies license rates, terms and conditions for the use of board property.
- 8. The site will be offered "as-is" and the cost of improvements and furnishings to facilitate child care activities will be borne by the child care provider.
- 9. Licensed child care providers are responsible for ensuring that they comply with regulatory requirements associated with operating a licensed child care facility.

Received:

References: School Act Section 85.1, Board Policy 12.2

TITLE: EARTHQUAKES

CATEGORY: FACILITIES

NUMBER: 4050

I. Rationale:

The Sunshine Coast School District is situated in an earthquake-prone region. Thoughtful preparation and planning is required in order to ensure the safety of students and staff.

II. Procedures:

- A. The "Earthquake Handbook" shall be the primary source of information on earthquakes.
- B. The Management representative responsible for District Health and Safety shall ensure that the "Earthquake Handbook" is kept current and that all supervisors are apprised of any amendments.
- C. Principals and other site supervisors shall ensure that all members of staff and all students are kept current with procedures enunciated in the "Earthquake Handbook".
- D. Earthquake drills shall be practised on at least three occasions at reasonable intervals throughout the school year.
- E. Each school will develop and maintain an Earthquake/Disaster Response Plan and update it annually. Copies of the plan shall be sent to the school district office and changes shall be sent in October of each year.

Received:

References:

TITLE: FINANCIAL REPORTING

CATEGORY: FINANCE

NUMBER: 5030

I. Rationale:

The Board of Education is required to maintain a balanced budget and requires regular financial information for oversight purposes. In order to support the Board, staff shall bring timely and relevant financial information to the Board and propose budgetary changes as necessary.

II. Procedures:

- A. The Secretary-Treasurer shall provide financial reports to the Board upon adoption of the Amended Budget and on a monthly basis thereafter, until the end of the school year.
- B. The report shall provide an account of:
 - 1. Actual expenditures for each of the budget sections;
 - 2. Funds remaining in each of the sections;
 - 3. Actual expenditures for the overall operating budget and the capital budget;
 - 4. Funds remaining in both the overall operating budget and the capital budget.
- C. The report shall provide information on program expenditures which project to a final deficit and shall provide a range of options which would lead to a reduction or elimination of a projected over expenditure.
- D. Should the projections show an overall expected deficit, the Secretary Treasurer will disclose this to the Operations Committee with as much advance notice as possible. The Secretary Treasurer will then work with school and department leaders to revise plans with the aim of attaining balance by the end of the fiscal year.
- E. The Secretary-Treasurer will prepare a Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis report, to be read in conjunction with the audited financial statement and accompanying notes, for the September Regular Board Meeting.

Received: References:

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Weswick November 13th, 2019

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

Final enrollment figures for the district are now available. Information is provided in comparative charts following this report.

SCHOOL FIELDS

Staff have been working to improve school fields and enhance their overall condition throughout the District. Investments in recent years include the addition of a high-quality mower, top-dressing of fields, and restructuring grounds department staffing to provide for two full-time gardeners on an ongoing basis, a 100% increase. Future planned improvements include further modernizing grounds equipment and working with community partners and staff from local governments to consider both improved maintenance plans and strategic investments in field upgrades that support both students and the community.

SCHOOL BUS SMOKE CONCERNS

The district has followed up on concerns surrounding excess exhaust with our bussing service provider and maintenance staff. The issue is related to an "active regen" system on newer diesel buses, where the system actively burns the soot collected in the emissions filter. The following excerpt, from https://stnonline.com/partner-updates/demystifying-the-complexity-in-school-bus-regen-issues/, provides additional information on the subject:

"Beginning around 2007, school buses were equipped with diesel particulate filters, aimed at collecting soot to decrease exhaust emissions. Although DPF filters lead to cleaner emissions, the soot that builds up within them must be cleaned out. This is done through a regeneration, which is when the soot is literally burned off the filter. The engine heats up, the buildup combusts into ash, and carbon dioxide is released. Easy enough, right? Well, not quite.

Many regens, especially in the trucking industry, happen as passive regens, which occur automatically. The exhaust temperatures in the engines heat up high enough to burn all the soot off, 662 degrees Fahrenheit to be exact. Passive regens occur without any other aids like fuel dosing. Passive regen just happens naturally with high exhaust temperatures.

The problem is, with their stop-and-go nature, school bus engines don't get hot enough to regen on their own. This causes the DPF filter to get overloaded with soot, which is detected by pressure sensors in the engine. When the sensor is triggered, extra fuel is pumped into the diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) to increase the temperature enough for a regen to automatically occur. This is known as an active regen. Just like passive regens, this occurs automatically so no action is needed from the driver or technician, and no warning lights are illuminated on the dashboard.

Here's a better way to put it in perspective. Consider a burning campfire for example. When burning wet wood, the temperature from your fire is lower, and the smoke is prevalent. A camper without the proper adherence to safety may revert to assisting the fire with the addition of lighter fluid. The lighter fluid (like extra fuel in an engine) causes a higher temperature burn and the smoke goes away temporarily. This is an active regen.

Comparatively, hard woods that have dried out need no assistance to burn with little smoke. The clean blue flame from this dry wood creates very little smoke since the fire is burning at higher temperatures. This is passive regen."

ENROLLMENT COMPARISON

FTE Comparison	2018	2019	+/-
Continuing Education	2.2500	0.2500	-2.0000
Gibsons Elementary	351.0000	352.0000	1.0000
Madeira Park Elementary	81.0000	77.0000	-4.0000
Elphinstone Secondary	562.5000	551.8125	-10.6875
Roberts Creek Elementary	253.0000	267.0000	14.0000
Davis Bay Elementary	191.0000	204.0000	13.0000
Pender Harbour Secondary	88.5000	93.5625	5.0625
Halfmoon Bay Elementary	204.0000	201.0000	-3.0000
Langdale Elementary	114.0000	101.0000	-13.0000
West Sechelt Elementary	264.0000	267.0000	3.0000
Chatelech Secondary	457.7500	485.7500	28.0000
Cedar Grove Elementary	247.0000	241.0000	-6.0000
Kinnikinnick Elementary	246.0000	241.0000	-5.0000
SCAS	122.5000	111.8750	-10.6250
SPIDER	74.4375	79.2500	4.8125
District Totals	3258.9375	3273.5000	14.5625

Headcount Comparison	2018	2019	+/-
Continuing Education	15	2	-13
Gibsons Elementary	351	352	1
Madeira Park Elementary	81	77	-4
Elphinstone Secondary	540	543	3
Roberts Creek Elementary	253	267	14
Davis Bay Elementary	191	204	13
Pender Harbour Secondary	73	79	6
Halfmoon Bay Elementary	204	201	-3
Langdale Elementary	114	101	-13
West Sechelt Elementary	264	267	3
Chatelech Secondary	441	461	20
Cedar Grove Elementary	247	241	-6
Kinnikinnick Elementary	246	241	-5
SCAS	123	113	-10
SPIDER	126	102	-24
District Totals	3269	3251	-18

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S D NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

DATE 01-Nov-2019 08:35 AM

SUMMARY - ISSUED CHEQUE REPORT - CHEQUE LIMIT : 10,000.00 START DATE: 01-Oct-2019 TO END DATE: 31-Oct-2019

CHEQUE #	BANK	MICR #	VENDOR #	VENDOR NAME	ISSUE DATE		CHEQUE AMOUNT
ON-LINE CHEQUES : ISSUED BETWEEN 01-Oct-2019 AND 31-Oct-2019							
00LCET4007	0001	*****	23268	MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN OF BC	15-Oct-19	10,462.50	
00LCET4008	0001	******	23268	MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN OF BC	15-Oct-19	14,325.00	
00LCET4009	0001	******	30209	TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN	03-Oct-19	429,847.28	
00LCET4010	0001	******	28093	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	03-Oct-19	246,730.65	
00LCET4011	0001	******	28095	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	03-Oct-19	19,911.56	
00LCET4013	0001	******	23290	MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN	08-Oct-19	57,482.78	
00LCET4016	0001	******	28094	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	10-Oct-19	76,067.39	
00LCET4017	0001	******	28094	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	10-Oct-19	16,523.00	
00LCET4020	0001	******	28093	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	24-Oct-19	200,000.00	
00LCET4021	0001	******	28095	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	24-Oct-19	20,820.43	
00LCET4022	0001	******	30209	TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN	18-Oct-19	11,835.94	
00LCET4024	0001	******	28094	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	24-Oct-19	83,162.24	
00LCET4025	0001	******	28094	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA	24-Oct-19	14,180.63	
00LCET4026	0001	******	23290	MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN	18-Oct-19	58,928.30	
00LCET4028	0001	******	33038	WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD	18-Oct-19	25,476.77	
		TOT	ALS FOR BANK -	0001			1,285,754.47
		TOT	AL NUMBER OF C	HEOUES			15
				CHEQUES WITH MICR			0
COMPUTER PR	EPARED	CHEQUES : IS	SUED BETWEEN 0	1-Oct-2019 AND 31-Oct-2019			
2122000001	0001	0000053507	12012	BC HYDRO & POWER AUTHORITY	02-Oct-19	16,656.72	
2122000010	0001	0000053516	16148	GIBSONS MARINE EDUCATION CENTRE	02-Oct-19	17,850.00	
2122ET0005	0001	******	12021	BC TEACHERS FEDERATION	02-Oct-19	24,545.39	
2122ET0006	0001	******	12111	BC TEACHERS FEDERATION	02-Oct-19	31,682.05	
2122ET0026	0001	******	14493	CORPORATE EXPRESS CANADA, INC.	02-Oct-19	13,751.61	
2122ET0066	0001	******	26207	PACIFIC BLUE CROSS/MSA	02-Oct-19	77,776.89	
2122ET0086	0001	******	29102	SUNSHINE COAST TEACHERS ASSOCIATION	02-Oct-19	11,539.94	
2123000030	0001	0000053566	29035	SECHELT INDIAN BAND	09-Oct-19	10,150.00	
2123ET0072	0001	******	30172	THIRDWAVE BUS SERVICES	09-Oct-19	54,933.76	
2124000004	0001	0000053581	16768	ENTITY MECHANICAL	16-Oct-19	70,518.71	
2124ET0012	0001	******	14493	CORPORATE EXPRESS CANADA, INC.	16-Oct-19	12,020.09	
2124ET0047	0001	******	23257	MORNEAU SHEPELL LTD.	16-Oct-19	30,628.74	
2125ET0060	0001	******	30022	TOWN OF GIBSONS	23-Oct-19	11,761.42	
2126000001	0001	0000053619	12012	BC HYDRO & POWER AUTHORITY	30-Oct-19	28,184.62	
2126000040	0001	0000053658	32066	VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY	30-Oct-19	35,306.00	
2126ET0086	0001	******	30172	THIRDWAVE BUS SERVICES	30-Oct-19	61,404.37	
		TOT	ALS FOR BANK -	0001			508,710.31
		TOT	AI MIIMDED OF C	ATE OF THE C			1.0
			AL NUMBER OF C	-			16
	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEQUES WITH MICR 6						
ON-LINE CHE	QUES :	ISSUED BETWE	EN 01-Oct-2019	AND 31-Oct-2019			
00LCET4029	0005	*****	12144	BANK OF MONTREAL	09-Oct-19	72,517.61	

TOTALS FOR BANK - 0005 72,517.61

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S D NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

DATE 01-Nov-2019 08:35 AM SUMMARY - ISSUED CHEQUE REPORT - CHEQUE LIMIT : 10,000.00 START DATE: 01-Oct-2019 TO END DATE: 31-Oct-2019

CHEQUE # BANK MICR #	VENDOR # VENDOR NAME	ISSUE DATE	CHEQUE AMOUNT
	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEQUES		1
	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEQUES WITH MICR		0
	GRAND TOTAL		1,866,982.39
	CANCELLED TOTAL		0.00
	NET GRAND TOTAL		1,866,982.39
	GRAND TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEQUES		32
	GRAND TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEQUES WITH MICR		6

WARNING: NUMBER OF CHEQUES DOES NOT MATCH NUMBER OF CHEQUES WITH MICR

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

BOARD REPORT

Submitted by Chair Pammila Ruth November 13th, 2019

NOI22IM

We support and inspire each student to experience joy and fulfillment in realizing their potential as a knowledgeable, confident, and contributing citizen in the Global Community.

Our mission states that we support and inspire each student to experience joy and fulfillment in realizing their potential as a knowledgeable, confident, and contributing citizen in the global community. We, as a board, have to mirror and model that mission in ourselves. This last month has been testament to that. Following are some of the events and opportunities the board took part in, in an effort to gain knowledge and contribute locally, provincially, nationally and yes, in some cases even globally.

October 17: Chair Ruth attended the Board Chairs Workshop in Richmond. The main subjects discussed were the Funding Model Review (FMR), the Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL), funding and services available from BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) to aid boards, youth mental & physical health and climate change. Guest speakers included Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth who is British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth and Jan Enns, Communications Consultant. Presentations can be found on the HUB. That evening, Trustee Amaral attended the Town of Gibsons Development Permit Public Hearing.

October 18: Chair Ruth participated in the Joint Liaison Meeting with Secretary Treasurer Weswick and Superintendent Bocking in Richmond. More discussions on the FMR and FESL were held in addition to Strategic Planning. Each table was assigned specific districts, to enhance learning via table-talk discussions.

October 21: Trustees Leech and Ruth met with Superintendent Bocking to discuss current district matters in their bi-weekly Chair/Vice-Chair/Superintendent session.

October 21: Trustee Ruth attended Elphinstone PAC ...and we all got out there and voted in the Federal Election!

October 22: Full-day Operations, Committee of the Whole and Education meetings were held.

October 24/25: Trustee Ruth went to a two-day Professional Learning Committee Meeting. This BCSTA group has representatives from each branch through-out the province working together to conceive, formulate and actualize trustee Pro-D for the betterment of student

achievement. This particular meeting was putting the final touches on the BCSTA Academy coming up at month-end and setting in motion the BCSTA AGM in April.

October 25/26: Trustee Hampvent represented SD46 at the quarterly Provincial Council Meeting in Vancouver. She will be making a presentation further in the Reports section of the agenda.

October 28: Trustee Amaral sat at the Indigenous Education Advisory Circle. Discussions around United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), furthering Truth & Reconciliation as well as SD46 Strategic Plan. Further discussion on language being updated to 'land and waters' from 'territory' and 'indigenous' from 'aboriginal'.

November 4: Trustee Haines attended Madeira Park Elementary PAC. The PAC is helping support the staff for their Christmas play/performance on December 18th. They will be doing the Nutcracker.

November 5: Trustee Haines sat on the Ferry Advisory Council. Agenda items included improvements to Langdale and Horseshoe Bay terminals, composting and green initiatives on board the ferry as well as medical assured boarding. Chair Ruth and Vice-Chair Leech met with senior staff to discuss Agenda Setting. A new system has been set up for trustees to see their items being brought forward as well as how they are being dealt with according to the Communications Plan. Trustee Hampvent attended the DPAC meeting held at Chatelech Secondary School.

November 6: Chair Ruth and Vice-Chair Leech met with SCRD Chair Pratt and Vice-Chair Siegers to discuss mutual matters and interests, such as bus transit for students, playing fields, water conservation practices as well as waste management and recycling initiatives. We hope to maintain this type of dialog with our fellow elected officials as we move forward.

November 7: Remembrance Day Ceremony was held at the Pender Harbour Legion with Pender Harbour Secondary and Madeira Park Elementary in attendance. Trustee Haines states that this year they combined the ceremonies into one in an effort to make it easier on the volunteers. Trustee Girard attended Cedar Grove Elementary PAC.

November 8: Remembrance Day Ceremonies were held throughout the district (noting that Pender Harbour Secondary and Madeira Park Elementary held their ceremonies the day before) and Trustees Leech, Ruth and Girard were in attendance at (one of) their liaison schools. Trustee Amaral attended the BCPSEA Representative Council Meeting in Vancouver.

November 11: Trustee Amaral represented SD46 at the Sechelt Remembrance Day Ceremonies; Trustee Leech, Roberts Creek Legion; Trustee Ruth, Gibsons and Trustee Haines represented at Madeira Park.

This month also marks a year-in from the 2018 election. Thank you to my fellow trustees, senior staff and everyone in this amazing school district for a wonderful year! It has indeed been a year of joy and fulfillment for me!



This is a summary of the October 26, 2019, Provincial Council (PC) meeting, which took place at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. Login to the BCSTA HUB to access and view linked documents. Click here to view draft PC minutes. Contact BCSTA CEO Mike Roberts at mroberts@bcsta.org for more details.

President's Report

BCSTA President Stephanie Higginson touched on BCSTA's recent initiatives and focus areas, including an update on provincial bargaining, the funding model review, the framework for enhanced student learning and BCSTA's federal election advocacy. Download the report.

CEO's Report

CEO Mike Roberts' report focused on the important relationship between strategic planning and boards of education. As part of his presentation, he shared a clip from Simon Sinek's Tedx Talk, Start With Why, with provincial counselors. View the clip here.

CSBA Report

Vice-President Carolyn Broady delivered a report on the activity of the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA), including news from Quebec on proposed legislation that will eliminate French-language school boards, news from other provinces, the work of CSBA's Indigenous education committee and upcoming events. Download the report.

Professional Learning Committee Report

Julie-Anne Runge, PLC Chair, delivered the committee's report focusing on regional and activity updates, BCSTA Trustee Academy plans and future professional development to meet the needs of all trustees. Download the report here.

Indigenous Education Committee Report

Rick McKamey delivered a report focusing on the Joe Thorne's appointment as their Elder / Knowledge Keeper, their collaboration with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNSEC) and their creation of a work plan that complements BCSTA's strategic plan. Download the report.

Legislative Committee Report

The committee examines motions submitted to PC; they received two motions by the motion submission deadline, which were approved for debate. Download the report.

Finance & Audit Committee Report

The committee reviewed BCSTA's year-end financial statements and requested feedback for BCSTA's 2020 / 2019 draft budget planning process. The draft budget will be presented at the February 2020 Provincial Council. Feedback can be provided before Friday, December 16, 2019, c/o Jodi Olstead (jolstead@bcsta.org). Download the report.

Disposition of Motions

The following motions were carried by PC:

- 8.1 BCSTA year-end audited financial statements
- 8.2 Grant status update as at June 30, 2019
- 8.3 2020/2021 BCSTA Budget Planning
- 9.1 Delay of Enrollment of International Students in Provincial Medical Services Plan
- 9.2 Vape Awareness and Vape Cessation Resources for Youth
- L 10.1 Modelling of Funding
 Model Review Recommendations

Download the Disposition of Motions.







BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST) COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOTES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 11:15 a.m. School Board Office - Gibsons, BC

TRUSTEES: P. Ruth (Committee Chair), A. Amaral, S. Girard, M. Hampvent, S.

Haines, S. Leech, T. Ste. Marie

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent; N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer;

K. Kerr, Director of Instruction; P. Bishop, Director of Instruction; S. Murawsky, Communications Officer; S. Mackenzie, CUPE Local 801, L. Leskie, CUPE Local 801; E. Reimer, Executive Assistant

(Recording Secretary)

1. Call to Order

Chair Ruth called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m. Trustee Ste. Marie attended the meeting via teleconference.

2. Communicate (3.a.)

Our district will effectively communicate with students, staff and the community.

Communications Officer, Stephanie Murawsky, provided a handout outlining the various efforts to enhance communications throughout the school district, including:

- New district branding guide,
- Updated logos for schools,
- New district website launched in September 2019,
- Website and Facebook integration
- Updated district calendar, which community members can subscribe to from the district website.
- Updated school websites will be going live by the end of October 2019,
- Strategic plan communication with new brochures and posters,
- Superintendent and communication officer visits to all PACs to present the new strategic plan and district website,
- Dinner workshop for PAC representatives, principals and members of the Family Engagement Committee to learn effective ways to run a meeting.
- Radio advertisements recorded by students for radio station 91.7 FM.
- Newspaper notices and advertisements
- Internal staff newsletter "EduCoaster"- published one a month and distributed electronically to all staff.
- Superintendent Bocking and Executive Assistant Murawsky tour schools in recognition of World Teachers Day, Christmas and at the end of the school year.

Superintendent video messages for staff and community.

The committee discussed the website and recognized the high school apps as another valuable tool for communication.

3. <u>External Committee Reports</u>

Chair Ruth indicated that routine reports from trustees' will be integrated in to the public board meeting, as part of the board report. Trustees' are invited to send their monthly report to the chair, in advance of the regular board meeting, for inclusion in the board package or for the consideration of the agenda setting committee for deeper discussion at the committee level.

The committee discussed best ways to manage emergent items and agreed that those issues should be shared with the chair and superintendent to ensure timely action, as well as for the consideration of the agenda setting committee.

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick suggested a trustee attend future BC Ferries Advisory Committee (FAC) meetings. Trustee Haines agreed to the appointment to the committee.

4. <u>Visioning and Planning (3.b.)</u>

Our district will engage in visioning and planning with local governments.

The committee discussed the Intergovernmental Meeting agenda set for November 25, 2019 and hosted by the Town of Gibsons. Trustees agreed that a round table discussion on the benefits of the student voice would be valuable, along with a presentation of the district's new strategic plan.

The committee broke for a short lunch break from 12:15 to 12:34 pm

5. Policy Review (standing item)

a. Role of Board Committees

The committee reviewed Policy 5 (Role of Board Committees) and agreed to the following edits:

- Strike item 5.7 as the timing of appointments to board committees are defined in bylaw 62.
- Remove the reference to "education policy" in the terms of reference for the Education Standing Committee (5.8.i.) as policy will be a standing item at Committee of the Whole.
- Revise the terms of reference for the Operations Standing Committee (5.8.ii.) by removing the references to "policies" and adding language to specify that the committee will only consider zoning referrals that are significant to board operations. Additional language was added to clarify that trustees appointed to the Operations Committee will also serve as members of the Joint Use Committee.
- Strike the Policy Standing Committee (5.8.iii) and incorporate in the terms of reference for the Committee of the Whole (5.8.vi) as a standing item.

RECOMMENDATION: "TO update Policy 5 – Role of Board Committees, as attached."

6. <u>Communication Plan (standing item)</u>

The committee reviewed the communication plan. Superintendent Bocking requested a conversation around student vaping at the November Committee of the Whole.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

5 ROLE OF BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board may meet as a Committee of the Whole and will appoint Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees to help carry out its governance responsibilities in accordance with its Procedural Bylaw. Consequently, committees:

- Are constituted to directly assist the Board by preparing policy alternatives, considering implications and recommending possible actions to be taken by the Board.
- 5.2 Shall support the work of the Board and will only speak or act for the Board if given the authority for specific, time-limited purposes.
- 5.3 Shall operate within the Terms of Reference approved by the Board, except when given other assignments by Board motion.
- 5.4 Shall be managed by Committee chairs. Every agenda item must be either assigned by the Board, or by the Board's agenda setting committee.
- 5.5 Should provide a means of receiving stakeholder/community input, when appropriate, in an open, inviting and efficient manner.
- 5.6 May serve as venues for staff, external or trustee presentations, within each committee's Terms of Reference.

5.7 Shall be appointed by the Chair annually at the January regular Board meeting.

5.85.7 Shall include but not be limited to:

(i) Education Standing Committee

Terms of Reference: The Education Committee shall review and consider the governance of education issues including curriculum; programs; education policy; student assessment; and student achievement.

(ii) Operations Standing Committee

Terms of Reference: The Operations Standing Committee shall discuss, review and make recommendations on governance issues including the annual budget consultation and development; the long-range facilities plan and policies on facility use; personnel; sustainability policies; and transportation services. Local government land-use and planning referrals that are significant to board operations will be reviewed—when community consultation is needed and timeframe for feedback permits. Trustees appointed to the committee will serve as members of the Joint Use Committee, unless otherwise appointed by the chair.

(iii) Policy Standing Committee

Terms of Reference: The Policy Standing Committee shall review existing policies and consider amendments or new policies to enhance the effectiveness of Board governance.

(iv)(iii) Superintendent Evaluation Committee

Terms of Reference: The Superintendent Evaluation Committee shall be responsible for promoting professional growth and development through ongoing dialogue with the Superintendent, providing opportunities for reflection and collaboration. The Committee shall be chaired by the Board Chair, and will include all trustees. Its meetings, called in coordination with the Superintendent Evaluation Cycle, will be Closed Sessions due to personnel matters.

(v)(iv) Trustee Honorarium Committee

Terms of Reference: The Chair will strike a committee at the beginning of the second year of each Board's term, at a minimum, to review trustee honorariums and the committee shall bring recommendations to the Board on or before the regular Board meeting in March of that year.

(vi)(v) Committee of the Whole

Terms of Reference: The Committee of the Whole shall consider board orientation and evaluation; review existing policies and consider amendments or new policies to enhance the effectiveness of Board governance review the Governance section of board policies and bylawsas a standing item; strategic planning and public consultation; appeals bylaw review and review school calendar and school growth plans each year. The Committee of the Whole shall act as the Audit Ceommittee for the school district. The Committee of the Whole is also the forum where the Board as a whole may discuss emerging issues in the structure and planning of provincial education and educational organizations and authorities, e.g.: BCPSEA, BCSTA or Ministry of Education consultations or initiatives.

Board Policy: December 2010

Revised: December 2013, February 2015, September 2015, December 2015, December 2017, April 2019

5 ROLE OF BOARD COMMITTEES

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- 5.2 Shall support the work of the Board and will only speak or act for the Board if given the authority for specific, time-limited purposes.
- 5.3 Shall operate within the Terms of Reference approved by the Board, except when given other assignments by Board motion.
- 5.4 Shall be managed by Committee chairs. Every agenda item must be either assigned by the Board, or by the Board's agenda setting committee.
- 5.5 Should provide a means of receiving stakeholder/community input, when appropriate, in an open, inviting and efficient manner.
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- 5.7 Shall include but not be limited to:

(i) Education Standing Committee

Terms of Reference: The Education Committee shall review and consider the governance of education issues including curriculum; programs;; student assessment; and student achievement.

(ii) Operations Standing Committee

Terms of Reference: The Operations Standing Committee shall discuss, review and make recommendations on governance issues including the annual budget consultation and development; the long-range facilities plan and on facility use; personnel; sustainability; and transportation services. Local government land-use and planning referrals that are significant to board operations will be reviewed when community consultation is needed and timeframe for feedback permits. Trustees appointed to the committee will serve as members of the Joint Use Committee, unless otherwise appointed by the chair.

(iii) Superintendent Evaluation Committee

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Terms of Reference: The Chair will strike a committee at the beginning of the second year of each Board's term, at a minimum, to review trustee honorariums and the committee shall bring recommendations to the Board on or before the regular Board meeting in March of that year.

(v) Committee of the Whole

Terms of Reference: The Committee of the Whole shall consider board orientation and evaluation; review existing policies and consider amendments or new policies to enhance the effectiveness of Board governance as a standing item; strategic planning and public consultation; appeals bylaw review and review school calendar and school growth plans each year. The Committee of the Whole shall act as the Audit Committee for the school district. The Committee of the Whole is also the forum where the Board as a whole may discuss emerging issues in the structure and planning of provincial education and educational organizations and authorities, e.g.: BCPSEA, BCSTA or Ministry of Education consultations or initiatives.

Board Policy: December 2010

Revised: December 2013, February 2015, September 2015, December 2015, December 2017, April 2019



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

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 11:15 a.m. School Board Office - Gibsons, BC

TRUSTEES: S. Girard (Committee Chair), S. Girard, M. Hampvent, S. Haines, S.

Leech, T. Ste. Marie

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent; K. Kerr, Director of Instruction; K. Deasey,

District Principal; S. Magnussen, Inclusive Education Technology Coordinator; C. Spence, Principal; S. Mackenzie, CUPE Local 801, L. Leskie, CUPE Local 801; J. Kowalczyk, Education Director *shishalh*

Nation; E. Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: A. Amaral, Trustee

1. Call to Order

Trustee Girard called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. Trustee Ste. Marie attended the meeting by teleconference. The agenda was reordered for the purpose of presentations.

2. <u>Literacy (1.d.)</u>

Our students will be literate. They will be effective communicators, critical thinkers, and engaged citizens.

District Principal Deasey reported on district literacy assessments and other tools to support literacy. Ms. Deasey highlighted the following:

- New literacy goals included in the 2019-23 Strategic Plan,
- Provincial literacy assessments begin in 2019/20 for grade 10 students and in 2020/21 for grade 12 students,
- Early years programming continues to focus on literacy,
- The district writers anthology, Coastal Voices, is celebrating it's 10th anniversary,
- The Coastal Reads program continues across the district and is championed by teacher-librarians.
- National Literacy Week celebrations take place in schools,
- Author visits continue to inspire students,
- The secondary LIST (Literacy in Secondary Teaching) committee has invited Faye Browning to share ideas,
- SET BC will be visiting the district in November to discuss digital literacy,
- The FSA assessments provide valuable feedback to the district and are used to establish areas of support,
- The CARE committee has arranged a presentation by Adrienne Greer on strategies to support literacy.

A copy of District Principal Deasey's presentation will be included in the agenda package for the October meeting.

3. <u>Middle Years Development Index (MDI)</u>

http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/mdi/nh/sd46/

Director Kerr involved trustees in an exercise to review some of the data collected through the 2018-19 MDI. The MDI is a self reporting questionnaire that that is intended to provide collective data on health and well being during middle childhood. Students in grade 4 and grade 7 take part in the survey which evaluates physical health and well being, connectedness, social and emotional development, school experiences, and the use of after-school time.

The committee viewed a short video describing the purpose of MDI (https://youtu.be/SsQkcHavTYo).

Director Kerr noted that the MDI was administered during a different time frame than in previous years, due to the change in timing for FSA assessments.

A copy of Director Kerr's presentation will be included in the agenda package for the October meeting.

4. Digital Literacy (1.j.)

Our students will have the digital literacy skills to enhance and communicate their learning, and to responsibly navigate technology.

Inclusive Education Technology Coordinator, Sandy Magnussen, shared information on the various applications used to support students' digital literacy and the resources in place for staff and students.

Ms. Magnussen highlighted the following:

- District run accessibility workshops for educational assistants, teachers and teacher librarians,
- The TETT Project (Teachers Empowering Teachers in Technology),
- An upcoming visit from SET BC,
- The use of the *Engage!* sharepoint site as a central repository for digital literacy resources,
- Ongoing district license for the use of Read & Write.

The committee viewed a short video that demonstrated student use of Read & Write in the district. The video is available at https://youtu.be/mizgDdNpdtU.

A copy of Ms. Magnussen's presentation will be included in the agenda package for the October meeting.

5. Regulations for Review:

- 1. Reg. 1290 Student Leadership
- 2. Reg. 1360 Waivers and Informed Consent

The regulations will be reviewed at a future Education Committee meeting due to time limitations.

6. <u>Adjourn</u>

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE NOTES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 9:30 a.m. School Board Office - Gibsons, BC

TRUSTEES: M. Hampvent (Committee Chair), S. Haines, S. Leech

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent; N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer;

K. Kerr, Director of Instruction; R. Collison, Manager of Facilities and Transportation; M. Martens, Assistant Manager of Facilities and Transportation; S. Mackenzie, CUPE Local 801, L. Leskie, CUPE Local 801; E. Reimer, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: P. Ruth, Trustee; P. Luporini, District Principal of Technology

1. Call to Order

Trustee Hampvent called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. The committee engaged in a short mindfulness exercise before moving forward with the meeting's agenda.

2. Preliminary Budget Timelines

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reviewed the draft budget consultation schedule and timelines, noting that several meetings were still being arranged, and highlighted significant dates. The Ministry of Education has reported that the outcome of the funding model review is expected to be announced on March 15, 2020.

3. Cameras on Buses

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that a number of parents and organizations in the Pender Harbour area have been lobbying for the addition of dash cameras on buses in to help address drivers passing school buses while their stop lights are engaged.

The district has discussed the request with Thirdwave Bus Services and has received their support. Thirdwave has offered to supply dual lens cameras at no additional cost and has provided a camera to the district for testing purposes. The district has tested the equipment and has concerns that that quality of the capture may not be sufficient for the intended purposes. Other dual lens dash camera models will be tested. Thirdwave has agreed to work within the district's regulation on video surveillance, to ensure student privacy is protected.

Superintendent Bocking and Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that internal facing cameras may also help to address concerns regarding student or driver behaviours.

The committee requested that additional information be provided, including statistics, if available, from the RCMP on the number of infractions as well as feedback from SD47 regarding their experiences after having added cameras to their fleet of school buses.

Assistant Manager of Facilities and Transportation, Mike Martens, reported on an extended stop arm that is being piloted in Canada. The extended stop arm creates a physical barrier that prevents cars from passing.

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick agreed to collect additional information and report back at a future meeting.

4. Regulations for Review:

4.1 Reg. 3110 – Head Lice

Director Kerr reported that the district sought feedback from Vancouver Coastal Health's public health nurse and the Healthy Schools Committee when reviewing the regulation. The changes to the regulation reflect the recommendations from those discussions.

4.2 Reg. 3300 – Menstrual Products

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that the new regulation was developed on direction of the Ministry of Education to provide menstrual products to students. The regulation outlines how products will be made available. The district will install coin-free dispensers in female and gender neutral student washrooms in the fall. The district plans to incur the costs for installation and the initial product order, currently estimated at \$20,000-\$25,000. Dispensers will be installed in both secondary and elementary schools, per the ministry's direction.

4.3 Reg. 4150 – Soccer Nets

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that the regulation had been reorganized in order to add a rationale. The committee discussed whether the regulation would cover other items, such as shade tents. Secretary-Treasurer indicated that the regulation was specific to soccer nets, however the district would expect that any outdoor tent be secured in a safe manner.

4.4 Reg. 4170 – Use of Board Property for Licensed Child Care

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that the regulation had been re-formatted and a rationale had been added. The committee reviewed the regulation.

5. Local Government OCP and Zoning Referrals (standing item)

 District of Sechelt - Public Notice for Consideration of a Cannabis Retail Store for 5670 Cowrie Street The committee reviewed the notice and requested Secretary-Treasurer Weswick provide a response that conveys the board's previous assertion that a 300m buffer zone be maintained from schools and that advertising be consistent with provincial legislation.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.



Todd G. Stone, MLA Kamloops – South Thompson

October 4, 2019

Sunshine Coast
School District No 046 (Sunshine Coast)
PO Box 220
Gibsons BC V0N 1V0
Delivered via email: pruth@sd46.bc.ca

ATTN: Chairperson Bocking and the Board of Education

Dear Chairperson and the Board of Education:

I am writing to you today to ask for your support in demanding action from the B.C. Government to address surging youth vaping rates.

A new school year has begun and teen vaping is on the rise at an alarming rate. Earlier this summer, an article published by the British Medical Journal indicated that vaping among youth in Canada aged 16 to 19 is up 74 per cent since last year, and it's estimated that 30 per cent of B.C. teens in grades 10 to 12 are vaping on a regular basis.

Almost daily, we're hearing stories about people getting sick, and in some cases, even dying, as a result of vaping. There now appears to be an indisputable link between this practice and several dangerous and harmful acute health impacts, not to mention the potential long-term health implications that are not yet known.

Our kids are being drawn in and hooked to this unhealthy practice in increasing numbers as a direct result of the efforts vape companies have made to deliberately target youth with kid-friendly e-cigarette flavours like fruit medley, gummy bear, and mango. These companies – and the tobacco companies which own substantial interests in most of them – have also targeted our kids with savvy marketing and advertising. This is especially prevalent on social media, where sleek, modern, compact drug delivery devices are promoted in alluring packaging.

On April 11, 2019, I introduced a Private Member's Bill in the B.C. Legislature focused on taking action to combat rising levels of youth vaping here in our province. At the time, B.C.'s Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, and many other members of the government indicated that they shared my concerns about this public health issue and that they were committed to working with me to implement tough action to protect our kids from the harmful effects of vaping.

Unfortunately, nearly six months later, no action has yet been taken by the B.C. government, though Mr. Dix has suggested in recent media reports that government does intend to announce their intentions soon.

Numerous jurisdictions across North America have already said enough is enough and have taken action to curb youth vaping. Just last week, Washington State became the latest U.S. state to ban flavoured ecigarettes via an emergency order of the governor, joining Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, which have also taken this step. Numerous other U.S. states and jurisdictions — not to mention the U.S. federal government — are moving in the same direction. I believe that the B.C. government should do the same.

While I understand the B.C. government has recently indicated its desire to await further action from Health Canada, it is impractical to assume any immediate follow-up from Ottawa until the current federal election is over, a federal government has been sworn in, and federal cabinet priorities have been established. All of the above will take many months, which would mean losing almost the entire school year. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

My Private Member's Bill would legislate the banning of flavoured vapour products, the implementation of tighter retail controls (restricting sales to vape shops, tobacco shops and pharmacies), and would ensure tougher penalties for non-compliance. I've also called for the B.C. government to provide the resources necessary to fund evidence-based awareness, prevention and support programs – delivered by youth for youth – in every middle and high school across B.C. There are existing programs – such as Preventure – which have been piloted in various schools to date and have demonstrated promising results as students in schools with this program were less likely to use illicit drugs, cannabis and tobacco. And finally, there needs to be tougher online retail controls implemented for the sale of vape products (including ageverification), a complete ban on all marketing and advertising of vape products (exactly as is the case today for all tobacco products), reduced nicotine concentrations and enhanced enforcement.

I thank you and all professionals in B.C.'s education system for the efforts being made on the ground in classrooms today to combat youth vaping, and I would be very interested to learn from you as to any successful strategies and best practices to combat youth vaping that you've implemented or are aware of. That said, more needs to be done which is why I ask you to join me in urging the B.C. government to take immediate action on this important issue to prevent an entire generation of our youth from becoming addicted to nicotine and suffering potential acute and long-term negative health effects due to vaping.

It would be appreciated if wrote a letter to Minister Adrian Dix urging him to take action on this issue. Please copy me on your letter and e-mail it to me at <u>t.stone@leg.bc.ca</u>. As well, if you would like to discuss this matter further, I would be happy to take your call at 250-374-2880.

We need to work together to keep our kids safe and healthy. As one parent said to me recently in the context of no action having yet been taken in B.C. to combat youth vaping, "Our kids deserve better from us." I couldn't agree more.

Regards,

Todd G. Stone

MLA Kamloops – South Thompson

MARAAA

cc. Superintendent of Schools Bocking

Dan Davis, MLA Official Opposition Education Critic

October 25, 2019 Board of Education, School District #46

Dear Chair Ruth and Board:

It has been over three years since our "Better Fields" users' group made a presentation to your board of education, the SCRD board and the councils of Sechelt and Gibsons. Since then, it doesn't appear any local government has publicly discussed improving our fields and generally, our fields have become worse.

Despite our disappointment, we remain eager to work constructively with local governments, and to help raise funding. The fields our children play on have not been a local government priority for many years, and this needs to change.

We have asked the SCRD to revitalize its Joint Use function, including regular meetings of the Joint Use Committee, to get back to allocating funding to modestly maintain school fields across the Coast for community use (especially use by children outside of school). We are hoping that your board will strongly support this request, with a letter to the SCRD board supporting the return of Joint Use funding for fields, and a request to call a Joint Use Committee meeting for this purpose.

Secondly, we request your support for the participation of your Director of Facilities on an ad hoc committee we are starting to bring together local government personnel responsible for fields, to coordinate Coast-wide maintenance, best practices and planning, including the exploration of equipment sharing. We are hoping you can make this reasonable commitment immediately.

A third interest we have is in installing lighting at Elphinstone Secondary field. We recognize funding for this project will need to come from outside the SD#46 budget and will continue to work with your staff on this project.

Finally, in relation to the ad-hoc committee work, we are hoping to collect information on how school fields across British Columbia are funded and maintained to a higher standard than we have on the Sunshine Coast. We recognize your board's position that education funding should be put only minimally ("play" standard) toward fields. We expect models for outside funding (like Joint Use) are behind the better school fields in other communities, and hope your trustees and staff can help to inquire with other school districts about how they fund fields. We understand some joint staff research went into this inquiry a few years ago, but then the Joint Use Committee went dormant. Perhaps revisiting this could be a start.

Sincerely,

Grant Marshall

Per: Better Fields Committee

Dave Robens, Ed Pednaud, Warren Brander, Tony Waiters



November 1, 2019

BY EMAIL: pruth@sd46.bc.ca

School District #46 Attn: Chair Pammila Ruth 494 South Fletcher Road PO Box 220 Gibsons, BC VON 1V0

Dear Chair Ruth,

RE: Food Bank Services - Friendly Challenge

At the October 16, 2019 Regular Council meeting, the following Notice of Motion was brought forward to Council and endorsed:

'Whereas the food bank services of the Sunshine Coast have witnessed a 30 percent increase in participating households since 2018, representing over 1400 individuals of all ages in the Sechelt community alone, including single parent households, children, and seniors;

And whereas the food bank has recently completed its annual drive to raise 12,000 pounds of food to support the members of our community, and successfully raised 15,000 pounds, exceeding its goal;

That donations to the food bank services made by a District of Sechelt employee or member of council be matched and funded by the Council budget, with a maximum of up to \$10 per person; and

That the Mayor of the District of Sechelt issue a challenge to the Town of Gibsons, Sunshine Coast Regional District, and School District 46 to meet or exceed District of Sechelt contributions to the Sunshine Coast Food Banks as we start to enter the holiday season.'

In an effort to raise awareness of the Sunshine Coast food bank services and encourage community spirit, we are putting forward a friendly challenge to the School District #46 to join us by supporting a local food bank of your choosing, through a similar initiative. The District of Sechelt will be accepting and comparing donations up until December 1, 2019.

The best of luck.

Sincerely,

Darnelda Siegers

Mayor

October 15, 2019

Pammila Ruth, Chair Board of Education, School District 46 494 South Fletcher Road P.O. Box 220 Gibsons, BC, V0N1V0

Dear Ms. Ruth,

"We're not going to die," he said, "don't worry."

What a relief to hear an older teen offer that assurance to two younger kids at the recent climate strike on North Road.

It tells me that our young people are courageous enough to hold an opinion that runs against the popular belief. But I also remain concerned about children fearing for their lives in the face of impending climate doom.

My question to you is—are schools cultivating this terror? And if so, is there no concern for the consequences?

I've never been a school teacher, but lately I imagine myself leading a Science class. Climate issues strike me as a great opportunity to teach kids how to think critically and independently. And to practice research.

In support of that notion, I recently published a short essay. I'm the Science teacher my students encounter on the first day of school, and I have some advice for them. I've included the piece, which you can also read online at:

http://pireece.ca/the-majority-is-always-wrong/

So, who is PJ Reece?

Hydrometeorology was my first career. In the 1960s, I measured the hydrological cycle in the Zambezi watershed in south-central Africa. I became a documentary filmmaker on the prairies for twenty years, then focused on writing for film and television. I wrote two of the first programs on climate change for David Suzuki's *The Nature of Things*. Since then I've been finely tuned to climate matters.

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Yours truly,

PJ Reece