



**Education Policy Development Committee  
June 2, 2014 – Tolmie Boardroom**

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**REGULAR MINUTES**

**Present:**       **TRUSTEES**  
Bev Horsman - Chair  
Tom Ferris  
Michael McEvoy  
Diane McNally  
Peg Orcherton

**Regrets:**       Catherine Alpha  
Edith Loring-Kuhanga  
Deborah Nohr

**ADMINISTRATION**

Sherry Bell, Superintendent of Schools  
Pat Duncan, Deputy Superintendent  
Dave Pitre, Associate Superintendent  
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives  
Simon Burgers, District Vice Principal Languages and Multiculturalism  
Kristine Marshall, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m.

Chair Horsman recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

Trustee Orcherton indicated that Trustee Alpha would not be chairing the Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting this evening. The rationale reported by Trustee Alpha to Trustee Orcherton is that as a teacher in SD 62 (Sooke) it is Trustee Alpha's understanding that due to the BCPSEA lockout she is unable to attend to any Board business held on School District property.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved

That the June 2, 2014 regular agenda be approved.

**Motion Carried**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved

That the May 5, 2014 Education Policy Development Committee regular minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – none**

**4. PUBLIC REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE – none**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE – none**

**6. MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE - none**

**7. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - none**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Social Justice Collaborative Learning Project.

Ms. Tammy Renyard and Mr. Barry Janzen, Vice-Principals, Spectrum Community School, presented Spectrum's Social Justice Project. The inquiry-based project started with the question, "What does Social Justice mean to me?" One hundred-twenty Grade 9 students participated in the project which integrated English, Social Studies and Art and encouraged collaboration across classrooms. Through research on social justice concepts and involvement in detailed class discussions, students developed their own conceptualization of social justice. Students then created clay tiles to represent their understanding and utilized iPad apps such as Aurasma, an augmented reality app, to link their visual and audio reflections to their artwork. The audience can view the art piece, reflect, and connect to the student who created it using technology. The students' 'voices' are now immortalized into their artwork and are on permanent display outside the school office.

Spectrum students Sydney Elarid, Fiona Luo, and Nikki Leung explained the project and provided feedback about their experiences. "Throughout this process it was interesting to see a variety of different classes working together. More ideas were accumulated and it helped us create this project." "We didn't have to use a certain format. We had choice in what we wanted to create. It wasn't restricted to one type of expression." "The gala event was surreal, seeing your art piece on the wall it made me thankful that my teachers organized all of this." "This project helped us to become more aware of social justice issues that are not necessarily obvious." "Anything is achievable if you put hard work into it. Social justice is achievable."

Trustees asked questions and commended the students, staff, and administrators.

B. Culture and Community Committee Draft Statement of Principles

Ms. Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John Bird President, VCPAC and Mr. Tom Aerts, Principal, Reynolds Secondary School, presented the Culture and Community Committee Draft Statement of Principles. The committee, composed of parents, trustees, school principals, support staff, police and students, utilized an appreciative inquiry process to identify the district's core values. The Draft Statement of Principles derived from this work.

Encompassing relationships, engagement, personal growth and community, the Draft Statement of Principles promotes positive change in School District 61. It is the collective goal of the committee that schools and workplaces will actively embrace and give life to the values and opportunities represented by these principles.

Trustees asked questions, expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the committee's work and encouraged the committee to move forward with the next step, which is implementation.

C. French Immersion

Trustee Ferris and Mr. Simon Burgers, District Vice Principal, Languages and Multiculturalism discussed French Immersion registration. The French Advisory Committee examined registration processes for French Immersion from a parent's perspective and recommended the following changes: schedule Early French Immersion registration two weeks before regular Kindergarten registration to allow parents to make additional decisions if their child is unable to access a seat in their catchment area, and shift from a first come, first served process to a registration process that keeps intact the five established priorities and introduces a school draw in the event there are more spots needed than can be accommodated. This will provide every early immersion registrant an equal opportunity to pursue French

Immersion at their catchment area school. Eighty percent of BC School Districts have already gone to a lottery process.

These changes are procedural changes not philosophical changes. School District 61 continues to have the largest French Immersion enrollment per total student enrollment in the province and the demand continues to grow. Depending on the school and depending on the year, the demand could exceed the number of spaces.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) supports the work of the French Immersion Committee

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustees asked questions and thanked the presenters.

#### D. Community Literacy Plan

Ms. Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives, provided the Community Literacy Plan for information, which was prepared by Literacy Outreach Coordinator Jan Dupuis. The Community Literacy Plan continues to support the community literacy initiatives within the geographical boundaries of the Greater Victoria School District.

#### E. Achievement Contract

Ms. Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools presented the Achievement Contract. The Achievement Contract structure is similar to previous years. The goals of School District 61 remain the same. Superintendent Bell reported that we have many things to be proud of, in particular our graduation rate of 84.5%, which is higher than the provincial rate. Feedback from the Achievement Contract Advisory Committee and School Planning Councils have been incorporated into the Achievement Contract.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receives the 2014-2015 Achievement Contract.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### F. Updates

Ms. Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools updated the Education Policy Development Committee on the work of the District Leadership Team and Senior Management Team.

Suicide prevention programs: All Secondary Schools have had some form of suicide prevention programs in their schools this year. 9 out of 10 middle schools had 'Need2' presentations in their schools this year, with the remaining middle school having a Need2 presentation last year to the entire school.

Cyber bullying: Associate Superintendent Dave Pitre is reviewing all the policies and regulations with regards to cyber bullying, and it will continue to be a focus next year.

Student representative: Superintendent Bell meets with the Student Advisory Committee on June 6th and will have an update for the Board at the next Board Meeting.

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G. Notice of Motions Trustee Alpha

Due to Trustee Alpha's absence, the motions were moved to the Board Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.