



Education Policy Development Committee
February 3, 2014 – Tolmie Boardroom

REGULAR MINUTES

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Bev Horsman – Chair
Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Michael McEvoy
Diane McNally
Deborah Nohr
Peg Orcheron

Regrets: Catherine Alpha
Tom Ferris
Elaine Leonard

ADMINISTRATION

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools
Sherry Bell, Deputy Superintendent
Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives
Kristine Marshall, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved

That the February 3, 2014 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved

That the January 6, 2013 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. Rugby Academy at Esquimalt High School

Mr. Colin Roberts, Principal of Esquimalt High School, Mr. Ed Garlinge, Esquimalt High School teacher and Mr. Tom Woods, community member and member of the Esquimalt High School Rugby Advisory Committee, provided a presentation on creating a rugby academy at Esquimalt High School.

The vision of the Rugby Academy is to create a high caliber program for students interested in rugby. It will provide an athletically challenging program that will be open to 30 students both male and female from grades 9-12. The academy was created from interest expressed by the Esquimalt community and will benefit the community as a whole. Mr. Garlinge will be the head coach and will be assisted by Rugby Canada and on occasion professional athletes.

Students will participate in the academy during the last block of each day all year and will earn 8 credits per year. Members of the Rugby Academy will be required to be full-time, motivated students and will be required to complete the application package. Students will not be denied access to the program due to personal funding challenges.

Mr. Woods spoke about the benefits for students having access to high level coaching and mentoring. This type of academy helps students to stay in school and creates character development.

The proposed Rugby Academy would benefit students academically, athletically, emotionally and socially due to the team building and mentoring aspects of the academy. The program would be cost efficient and the community will ensure that students who cannot afford the program are not turned away.

Trustees asked questions and thanked the presenters.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Rugby Academy at Esquimalt High School.

Motion Defeated

Trustees for: Horsman, McEvoy, Orcherton **Trustees against:** Loring-Kuhanga, McNally, Nohr

B. Board Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses: Rugby 10, 11, 12

Mr. Ed Galinge Teacher Esquimalt High School presented the rationale for the Board Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses: Rugby 10, Rugby 11, and Rugby 12.

The rugby courses would be offered in 3 x 80 minute blocks of skills/fitness and 2 x 80 minute blocks of classroom time. They may be concurrent units. Grade 10 will focus on fundamentals, grade 11 will focus on dynamic applications and grade 12 would include advanced strategies and tactics. Assessment will follow the physical education framework.

The rugby courses will focus on holistic athleticism, physical literacy, promoting healthy lifestyles, transferable life skills and character development.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the following Board Authority Authorized courses: Rugby 10, Rugby 11 and Rugby 12

Motion Carried

Trustees for: Horsman, Loring-Kuhanga, McEvoy, Nohr, Orcherton, **Trustees against:** McNally

C. Foundation Skills Assessment

Superintendent Gaipman presented information about the Foundation Skills Assessment. On January 18, 2010 the Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) continues to honour all parent requests to withdraw from the Foundation Skills Assessment testing.

Motion Carried

This motion resulted in fewer students writing the FSA in grade 4 and grade 7. For example, in 2007 7% of students did not write the FSA, and by 2013, 23% of students did not write the FSA.

Deputy Superintendent Sherri Bell explained how to calculate and interpret FSA data. Ms. Bell explained that the current data cannot be compared with data from prior to 2008 since the Ministry made changes to the FSA in 2008. Different timelines, standards, scales and web-based portions of the FSA are now being used. The data prior to 2008 published both performance rates and participation rates, as the only performance data listed was for those students who wrote the exam. The current data now includes 'performance level unknown', which incorporates data from all students in the cohort.

Prior to 2008, the percentage of meeting or exceeding could be calculated easily. Beginning in 2008, calculating the percentage of students meeting and exceeding involves subtracting the number of students in 'performance level unknown', which is the number of students that did not write, from the cohort. It is essential to exclude the number of students who did not write in order when calculating the number of assessed students who are meeting and exceeding expectations.

Trustees asked questions and thanked Ms. Bell for the presentation and clarification.

D. Trustee McNally presented a motion:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Premier urging her not to appeal a recent decision by Judge Griffin.

Motion Tabled

Trustee McNally spoke to her motion. Motion tabled to the next board meeting by unanimous consent.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.