



Education Policy Development Committee
October 6, 2014
Ecole Secondaire Reynolds Secondary School - Library

Regular Minutes

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Catherine Alpha, Chair
Tom Ferris
Bev Horsman
Diane McNally
Debra Nohr
Peg Orcheron

Regrets: Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Elaine Leonard
Michael McEvoy

ADMINISTRATION

Sherry Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Pat Duncan, Deputy Superintendent
Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent
Cam Pinkerton, Associate Superintendent
Tom Aerts, Principal of Reynolds Secondary
Topher Macintosh, Principal of Central Middle School
Heather Brown, Vice-Principal of Reynolds Secondary
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives
Dezy Manuel, Student Representative
Connie Schmidt, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Chair Alpha 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 October 6, 2014 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

2. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - none

3. PUBLIC REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE - none

4. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE - none



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5. MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE - none

6. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Sherri Bell introduced Student Representative Dezy Manuel. Ms. Bell explained that the Representative Advisory Council of Students (RACS) consists of seven students representing each secondary school in the District; an additional student will be joining RACS from the S.J. Willis Education Centre in the near future. Student Representative Dezy Manuel expressed her wish to add a student voice to the Education Policy Committee.

B. Impact of Student Leadership

Tom Aerts, Principal of Ecole Secondaire Reynolds Secondary, Reynolds teacher Dean Norris-Jones, Reynolds Vice-Principal Heather Brown and three Reynolds students shared their experiences from the 2014 'Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock' campaign. Principal Aerts and Vice-Principal Brown spoke about the impact that this decade-long fund-raising initiative has had on Reynolds Leadership students and the entire school community. A Reynolds student presented a powerful Spoken Word poem, one student outlined Reynolds' fund-raising initiatives this year, and a third student described the impact her hair shaving experience had on her life. A slideshow of the head-shaving events at Reynolds Secondary was presented, and teacher Dean Norris-Jones shared his personal experience as guest rider in the 'Cops for Cancer' campaign.

Trustees and administration expressed their appreciation and congratulated all those involved. Trustee Horsman presented Dean Norris-Jones with a District Appreciation Certificate for his fostering of student leadership and social responsibility through the Tour de Rock fund-raising initiatives at Reynolds Secondary.

C. Project-Based Learning in Action

Topher McIntosh, Principal of Ecole Central Middle School, introduced teacher Allison Balabuch. Ms. Balabuch described Project-Based Learning (PBL) at Central Middle School, which involved a cross-curricular, multi-class community-focused initiative. She outlined Central Middle School's 'Miracle Beach Project', where three classes worked together collaboratively with teachers and naturalists to create new displays for the Miracle Beach Nature House. This in-depth inquiry project involved student-generated questions, student voice and choice, thorough research and extensive revision and reflection in order to create



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high quality displays for the public visiting the Nature House. Ms. Balabuch described the positive impact of project-based learning on student engagement and achievement, and she noted the community's appreciation of the students' involvement in this authentic project. Ms. Balabuch concluded her presentation by sharing a student-created video that summarized the project.

Trustees and the Student Representative asked questions and thanked Ms. Balabuch for her presentation.

D. Staffing Update

Superintendent Bell provided the Committee with a staffing update. She explained how the Learning Improvement Fund was utilized for both teacher staffing and support staffing.

A discussion of the information took place.

E. Notice of Motion

Trustee Orcherton presented her motion and provided her rationale.

A discussion followed. Trustee Ferris recommended tabling the motion and revisiting the notion at a later date.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) encourage the Education Partners' Council to reconvene for the purpose of: rebuilding relationships with educational stake holders, collaborative advocacy for our students and supporting Public Education.

Motion tabled

For: Trustees Alpha, Ferris, Horsman, Nohr, Orcherton
Against: Trustee McNally

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.