



**Education Policy Development Committee
November 3, 2014 - GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

Regular Minutes

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Catherine Alpha, Chair
Bev Horsman
Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Michael McEvoy
Debra Nohr
Peg Orcheron

ADMINISTRATION

Sheri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent
Cam Pinkerton, Associate Superintendent
Sean Powell, Principal of Arbutus Global Middle School
Cindy Sanderson, Principal of Strawberry Vale Elementary School
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives
Jonah van Driesum, Student Representative
Connie Schmidt, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Tom Ferris
 Elaine Leonard
 Diane McNally

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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 November 3, 2014 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING - *October 6, 2014***

It was moved:

That the October 6, 2014 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - none

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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. Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Sherri Bell introduced the Student Representative Jonah van Driesum from Oak Bay High School. She explained that a Representative Advisory Council of Students (RACS) was established with students from every secondary school in the District. Student Representative van Driesum shared his belief that schools are a great place for every student to achieve their goals. He expressed his desire to add a student voice to the Education Policy Committee.

B. Learning Outdoors

District Principal Janine Roy provided a brief overview of the growing interest in learning outdoors across our District, due in part to the commencement of the District's pilot Coastal Kindergarten project in September, 2014. She explained that an after school professional development series would be offered by Learning Initiatives this year focusing on the latest research in learning, self-regulation and nature-based learning. Presentations by teachers this evening would be featured as one of the sessions in the series focused on nature-based learning.

Teacher Alex Lemon from Arbutus Global Middle School described the Outdoor Education Exploratory program that he developed for Grades 6-8 students. He explained that the program engaged students in purposeful learning activities by exploring the outdoors through mapping, observation, orienteering, geo-caching, and photography. He noted that his students were very enthusiastic about using photography to express their creative ideas visually. He concluded his presentation by stating that the outdoor education exploratory had been extremely successful at Arbutus, and that further sustainability projects were being implemented at the school this year.

Principal Cindy Sanderson introduced Strawberry Vale teachers Lenny Ross, Jenn Horton, Kiersten Brookes, Marjorie Roach and Colleen Neves who outlined the many nature-based learning opportunities offered at their school. The teachers explained how the cross-curricular outdoor initiatives provided rich, varied learning experiences for all learners. Activities based in the outdoors had a positive impact on social responsibility, student health, student behaviour, and student engagement. Teachers shared research supporting their instructional practices, and provided student feedback and parent surveys to highlight the impact on learning observed over time. They reported that nature-based learning met a wide range of learning styles and promoted student achievement.

Trustees expressed their deep appreciation for the dedication of staff and the powerful programs and projects incorporating learning outdoors shared by teachers at both Arbutus Global Middle School and Strawberry Vale Elementary.

C. Motion

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and provided her rationale.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) develop through a review process at the Education Policy and Operations, Policy and Planning meetings a District Code of Conduct which would be relevant and appropriate for students, parents/guardians, community members, staff, and district employees who attend our schools; the engagement process with partner groups to be determined at a later date.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Alpha, Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr

Against: Trustee Horsman, McEvoy, Orcherton

During the discussion, Trustee Horsman recommended tabling the motion until such time when the Culture and Community Committee provided a report of their work to the Board.

It was moved:

That the motion be tabled until such time when the Culture and Community Committee could provide a report.

Motion to Table Defeated

For: Trustee Horsman, McEvoy, Orcherton

Against: Trustee Alpha, Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr

Following the defeat of Trustee Nohr's motion, Trustee Horsman provided a Notice of Motion for a future Board of Education meeting regarding requesting a report from the Culture and Community Committee.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.