



**Education Policy Development Committee
January 5, 2015 - Rockheights Middle School**

Regular Minutes

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Deborah Nohr, Chair
Tom Ferris
Diane McNally
Peg Orcherton
Rob Paynter
Jordan Watters
Ann Whiteaker

ADMINISTRATION

Sherrri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Patrick Duncan, Deputy Superintendent
Nella Nelson, Coordinator, Aboriginal Nations Education
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives
Maryanne Trofimuk, Principal of Rockheights Middle School
Joanna Snow, Vice Principal of Rockheights Middle School
Nadine Naughton, Principal of Shoreline Middle School
Monica Watters, Student Representative
Connie Schmidt, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Elaine Leonard
Edith Loring-Kuhanga

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

Chair Nohr 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

Trustee McNally and Trustee Watters asked that the agenda be amended with two additional motions, one with regard to Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) and one with regard to the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement. It was agreed that both motions be added to the agenda under section 8.G. Motions. Greater Victoria Teachers Association (GVTA) Representative Jason Gammon asked permission to add a presentation under "Public Request to the Committee". It was agreed that the presentation be added to the agenda under "Public Request to the Committee".

It was moved:

That the January 5, 2015 regular agenda be approved with two additional motions under section 8. G. Motions and a presentation added to "Public Request to the Committee".

Motion Carried

For: Trustees McNally, Nohr, Orcherton, Paynter, Watters

Abstain: Trustees Ferris, Whiteaker

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - November 3, 2014

It was moved:

That the November 3, 2014 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - none

4. PUBLIC REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Jason Gammon, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA), shared a letter with the committee outlining the GVTA position with respect to the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). After the letter was read to the committee, Trustee Ferris suggested that any comments should be heard when the meeting had proceeded to Section 8.G. Motions of the agenda.

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 Student Representative Monica Watkins from Victoria High School. She explained that a Representative Advisory Council of Students (RACS) was established with grade 11 and grade 12 students from every secondary school in the District. Student Representative Watkins shared her belief that schools are a great place for every student to learn. She shared that she is enjoying being part of RACS to see the political decision-making process in action.

B. Graduation Rates

Superintendent Bell reviewed the improvements shown in the District's Six Year Completion Rate. She provided data that demonstrated significant improvements in the District's completion rates for all students, Aboriginal students and students enrolled in Special Education programs since 2009. Superintendent Bell explained that the District graduation rates in 2012/13 and 2013/14 exceeded the provincial average; this is a tremendous success, and she praised all District educators for their hard work and continuous efforts to provide students with excellent education.

A brief question and answer period followed.

C. Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement

Superintendent Bell introduced Nella Nelson, Coordinator of Aboriginal Nations Education. Ms. Nelson explained that during her 35 years in the Greater Victoria School District, Aboriginal education has always been greatly supported by District administration. She outlined how the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement has impacted and shaped education in the Greater Victoria School District since it came into existence seven years ago. Ms. Nelson explained that over the past several years, numerous community groups have become an integral part of our District's education system through the work and connections formed via the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement. Teachings of Aboriginal cultures, languages and skills have been integrated into the curriculum of all students. The Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement is a living document that is reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

Chair Nohr thanked Ms. Nelson for her presentation and her dedicated work and contributions. A brief discussion followed.

D. Weaving Aboriginal Ways of Learning and Knowing For All Students

Chair Nohr introduced Ms. Maryanne Trofimuk, Principal of Rockheights Middle School. Ms. Trofimuk described how programs and projects that take place at her school are infused with Aboriginal ways of knowing and learning and this benefits all students. She explained that Aboriginal connectedness is extremely important and provided examples of how Rockheights students learn about Aboriginal culture and teachings. Her presentation was followed by a group of Rockheights students who, along with their teacher, Willo Bennett, and vice-principal, Joanna Snow, sang and drummed two Aboriginal songs. Some trustees were provided with drums and were able to join in with the drumming as well.

E. Box of Treasures

Leslie McGarry, Culture and Community Liaison with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, presented a program called First Peoples Box of Treasures. This program is offered to K - 12 students. Through classroom visits and visits to the Royal BC Museum, students are introduced to First Nations people in B.C, learn about their languages and different cultures, take guided tours through the First Nations gallery, complete hands-on First Nations crafts, and learn songs, dances and stories. Ms. McGarry explained that the students develop cultural awareness by learning about living with the earth versus on the earth and by stories that involve lessons they are challenged to discover.

Chair Nohr thanked Ms. McGarry for her presentation and a brief discussion followed.

F. Digital Story-Telling

Nadine Naughton, Principal of Shoreline Community Middle School, introduced Brenda Pohl, teacher at Shoreline Community Middle School. Ms. Pohl shared spotlights of her digital story-telling activities with students. She explained that through digital storytelling, Aboriginal students are engaged and eager to share their newly gained knowledge with other students. As well, digital storytelling provided excellent opportunities to connect with families and the community.

G. Motion

Trustee Orcherton presented her motion and provided her rationale.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 direct the Superintendent to form a working committee including a Trustee (s) and representatives from our stakeholder groups to develop a draft Policy on Concussion Awareness and Care Protocol (as per Bylaw 9210 The Development of Policy).

Trustee Paynter proposed an amendment to the motion:

That the Board of Education of SD 61 select one trustee and direct the Superintendent to appoint two staff members to form a working committee ~~including a Trustee (s) and representatives from our stakeholder groups~~ to develop a draft Policy on Concussion Awareness and Care Protocol, circulate it to stakeholder groups in draft form for review and comment and report to the March 2015 Education Policy Development Committee with a draft policy and implementation recommendations (as per Bylaw 9210 The Development of Policy).

Trustee McNally proposed an amendment to the amendment to the motion:

That the Board of Education of SD 61 select one trustee and direct the Superintendent to appoint two staff members to form a working committee ~~including a Trustee (s) and representatives from our stakeholder groups~~ to develop a draft Policy on Concussion Awareness and Care Protocol, circulate it to stakeholder groups in draft form for review and comment and report to the March 2015 Education Policy Development Committee with a draft policy and implementation recommendations (as per Bylaw 9210 The Development of Policy).

A discussion ensued.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of SD 61 select one trustee and direct the Superintendent to appoint two staff members to form a working committee to develop a draft Policy on Concussion Awareness and Care Protocol, circulate it to stakeholder groups in draft form for review and comment and report to the March 2015 Education Policy Development Committee with a draft policy and implementation recommendations (as per Bylaw 9210 The Development of Policy).

Motion Carried

For: Trustees McNally, Paynter, Watters, Nohr

Against: Trustee Ferris

Abstain: Trustees Orcherton, Whiteaker

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of SD 61 select one trustee and direct the Superintendent to appoint two staff members to form a working committee ~~including a Trustee (s) and representatives from our stakeholder groups~~ to develop a draft Policy on Concussion Awareness and Care Protocol, circulate it to stakeholder groups in draft form for review and comment and report to the March 2015 Education Policy Development Committee with a draft policy and implementation recommendations (as per Bylaw 9210 The Development of Policy).

Motion Defeated

For: Trustee McNally

Against: Trustees Nohr, Orcherton, Watters, Whiteaker, Ferris, Paynter

G.1 Motion

Trustee Watters presented her motion and rationale. A discussion ensued.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Superintendent review with Principals the need to honour all parent requests to withdraw students from the Foundation Skills Assessment testing, and refrain from contacting parents with regards to their decision.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees McNally, Watters
Against: Trustees Whiteaker, Orcherton, Ferris
Abstain: Trustees Nohr, Paynter

G.2 Motion

Trustee McNally presented her motion and rationale. A discussion ensued.

It was moved:

That the Superintendent bring an information item update to the Board meeting in February regarding the GVTA's status as non-signatory to the Enhancement Agreement

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees McNally, Watters, Nohr
Against: Trustees Whiteaker, Orcherton, Ferris,
Abstain: Trustee Paynter

H. Tour of Rockheights Middle School

Committee members and members of the public were invited to join Principal Trofimuk on a tour of Rockheights Middle School.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.