



**Education Policy Development Committee
April 7, 2015 - Tolmie Building, Board Room**

Regular Minutes

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Deborah Nohr, Chair
Tom Ferris (exited the meeting at 8:46 pm)
Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Diane McNally
Rob Paynter
Jordan Watters (exited the meeting at 8:35 pm)
Ann Whiteaker (exited the meeting at 9:16 pm)

ADMINISTRATION

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Patrick Duncan, Deputy Superintendent
Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent
Cam Pinkerton, Associate Superintendent
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives
Simon Burger, Coordinator, Languages and Multiculturalism
Deb Whitten, District Principal, Student Services
Read Jorgensen, VPVPA
Cindy Graf, Professional Development Chair, GVTA
Kaitlyn Gantt-Mann, Student Representative
Connie Schmidt, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Peg Orcherton

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.

Chair Nohr also welcomed the members of the public who were in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved:

That the April 7, 2015 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - *March 2, 2015*

It was moved:

That the March 2, 2015 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - none

4. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE - none

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 Kaitlyn Gantt-Mann from Esquimalt High School. She explained that Kaitlyn is a member of the Representative Advisory Council of Students (RACS) and that Kaitlyn will be attending the Board meetings scheduled in the month of April 2015. Student Kaitlyn then introduced herself and told the Board that she is excited to be participating in the April meetings of the Board.

B. French Immersion

Simon Burgers, Coordinator, Languages and Multiculturalism, presented an overview of the District's French Immersion program. He provided a brief history of French Immersion, outlined the program goals and objectives, and provided information on the District's French Immersion participation rates, enrollment, and retention rates. He also provided details about program availability and accessibility, and informed trustees about the registration process. Mr. Burgers explained that School District #61 is the only district in BC that offers French Immersion courses through a distributed learning model that leads to graduation with a Dual Dogwood; this distributed learning model enrolls students from across the province. He provided information on French Immersion teacher recruitment and hiring, and the professional development opportunities for French Immersion teachers.

Mr. Burgers provided an overview of the English Language Learners (ELL) program and outlined the ELL eligibility criteria. He presented information regarding to the

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program and the various partnerships with community agencies and organizations.

Trustee were invited to ask questions during and after Mr. Burgers' presentation. They thanked Mr. Burgers for a highly informative overview.

C. Student Services

Deb Whitten, District Principal, Student Services, provided a presentation on the Student Services Department, outlining how the department supports students, families and schools. She described key components such as: CommunityLink/School Meals Program; Healthy, Safe & Caring Schools; graduation programs; Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). She outlined the work of various District and community committees and working groups, such as the Concussion Committee, Culture and Community Committee, and District Gay Straight Alliance Working Group. She also spoke to the many ways the Student Services team provides support for vulnerable learners.

Trustees asked questions throughout Ms. Whitten's presentation. They expressed their appreciation for Ms. Whitten's concise overview.

8. PUBLIC REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE

Follow-up Presentation to Pro-D Fund Proposal

Cindy Graf, Greater Victoria Teachers Association (GVTA) Professional Development Chair, provided a follow-up presentation regarding a professional development funding request. Ms. Graf stated that the GVTA Professional Development Committee was requesting an additional \$300,000 for professional development in addition to the funding the District provides to the Joint Professional Development Fund.

A discussion ensued.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.