



**Education Policy Development Committee
September 14, 2015 – International Student Program, 3461 Henderson Road**

Regular Minutes

Present: TRUSTEES
Deborah Nohr, Chair
Tom Ferris
Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Diane McNally
Peg Orcherton
Rob Paynter
Jordan Watters
Ann Whiteaker

ADMINISTRATION

Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools
Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent
Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent
Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives
Jeff Davis, Director, International Student Program
Robert Tucker, District Administrator, International Student Program
Cindy Graf, GVTA
Ted Goodwin, VCPAC
Read Jorgensen, VPVPA
Jonah van Driesum, Student Representative
Connie Schmidt, Recording Secretary

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 Watters advised that will she will give notice of a motion under Item 6: Notice of Motions.

It was moved:

That the September 14, 2015 amended regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – June 1st, 2015

Trustee McNally advised that meeting minutes should take note of absences of only those trustees who are appointed to the Education Policy Development Committee and requested that the June 1st meeting minutes be amended accordingly.

It was moved:

That the June 1st, 2015 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - none

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS - none

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Piet Langstraat introduced Student Representative Jonah van Driesum from Oak Bay High School. He explained that Jonah is a second year member of the Representative Advisory Council of Students and that Jonah will be attending the meetings of the board scheduled in the month of September 2015.

B. Introduction of International Student Program Staff

Jeff Davis, Director of the International Student Program, welcomed all present to the Uplands Campus. He introduced Robert Tucker as the newly appointed District Administrator of the International Student Program and gave a brief overview of the Program, new initiatives, and future projects.

Trustees thanked Mr. Davis for his presentation and a brief question and answer period followed.

C. Communicating Student Learning Update

Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent, provided trustees with an update on the development of a District Elementary Report Card. She explained that the Report Card working group has been in on-going communication with the GVTA as well as collaboration with the District Information Technology department in order to create the new reporting document. This document will be presented to teachers at the end of the month for their feedback. Ms. Green also explained that the use of the

draft District Elementary Report Card document is optional and just one of the various reporting tools available to teachers this year. Ms. Green briefly updated the Committee on the progress of the FreshGrade pilot.

A question and answer period followed, and trustees expressed their appreciation of the work being done around elementary reporting.

D. Well Ahead Update

Ms. Whitten, Associate Superintendent, provided trustees with a follow up from her presentation on June 1, 2015. She explained that the J.W. McConnell Well Ahead Initiative is a district-wide initiative aimed to improve students' social and emotional well-being. The Esquimalt Family of Schools was chosen for a pilot where sustainable and scalable every day strategies and initiatives will be introduced to help improve students' well-being. Ms. Whitten explained that Marnice Jones, Coordinator of Healthy, Safe and Caring Schools is coordinating and facilitating this initiative and that the District has received \$25,000 from the Well Ahead Initiative to support her work.

A short question and answer period ensued.

E. Early Learning Initiatives

Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives, gave an overview of the various early learning offerings available to families with children age 0 to 8. She explained that early learning activities impact brain development and greatly benefit the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of children. Early learning offerings in Greater Victoria School District include Strong Start programs at six elementary schools, early literacy and numeracy programs, Ready/Set/Learn, and more. Ms. Roy shared that the District collaborates with community partnerships, Island Health, and day care centres in order to promote the well-being and development of young children.

Trustees thanked Ms. Roy for her presentation. A brief question and answer period followed.

F. Suicide Prevention Update

Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives, provided the Committee with an update on suicide prevention initiatives in both middle and secondary schools and explained that according to a survey conducted at the end of the year, schools identified a strong need for ongoing suicide prevention initiatives.

6. Notice of Motions

Trustee Watters informed the Committee that she will bring a motion to the next Board Meeting. The motion will be involve the recognition of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report and Recommendations.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.