

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Chairperson: Trustee Deborah Nohr

Monday, October 5th, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Location: James Bay Community School, 140 Oswego Street

Dialogue with the Public is welcome during Standing Committee Meetings

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

ITEM	PRESENTER	STATUS	ATTACH
1. Approval of the Agenda			
2. Approval of the Minutes of Education Policy Development Committee Meeting - September 14 th , 2015			Pg. 3-6
3. Business Arising From the Minutes			
4. Public Presentations			
5. New Business			
A. Introduction of Student Representative	Piet Langstraat, Superintendent and Student Representative Willow Mak, SJ Willis Education Centre	Info	
B. Coastal Kindergarten Pilot Program Review	Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives	Action	Pg. 7-9
<i>Recommended Motion:</i>			
<i>That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) continue to provide the Coastal Kindergarten program of choice at James Bay and South Park as supported by staff, parents and the community.</i>			
C. Ministry of Education New Curriculum Announcement	Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent & Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives	Info	Pg. 10-11

D. Motion

Trustee Watters

Action

That the Board of Education of School District 61 (Greater Victoria) formally dissolve the District Gay Straight Alliance Advisory Committee in order to reflect that the District GSA currently functions as a club.

E. Motion

Trustee Watters

Action

That the Board of Education of School District 61 (Greater Victoria) rescind the motion passed May 19, 2015 stating, "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to task the District Gay Straight Alliance Advisory Committee with developing a draft policy on Gender Identity and Gender Expression (in accordance with Bylaw 9210 The development of Policy; and Policy 1163 Consultation) to ensure the safety and support of transgender and gender variant students and their families, and present it to the Education Policy Development Committee with recommendations for implementation," in light of the fact that the District Gay Straight Alliance Advisory Committee has dissolved and the development of the policy on Gender Identity and Gender Expression is being undertaken by the District Gay Straight Alliance club.

6. Notice of Motions

7. Adjournment



**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.

Coastal Kindergarten Pilot Program Review October, 2015

Overview

- Nature-based Kindergarten program-of-choice two-year pilot began in Sept. 2014 at South Park Family School and James Bay Community School
- Learning activities following the provincial Kindergarten curriculum take place both outdoors and in the classroom on a daily basis
- Environmental stewardship and Aboriginal ways of knowing and learning are foundational components of this program

Timeline

- Nov. 2014 Greater Victoria School District approves two year Coastal Kindergarten (CK) pilot
- Jan. 2014 CK Information Session attended by over 100 parents
- Jan. 2014 2014-15 CK Registration held two weeks prior to regular registration. Both CK classes fill along with regular Kindergarten classes in each school
- Sept. 2014 Pilot program begins
- Dec. 2014 CK Information Session for 2015-2016 attended by over 100 parents
- Jan. 2015 2015-16 CK Registration held two weeks prior to regular registration. Both CK classes fill along with regular Kindergarten classes in each school
- Mar. 2015 CK parents surveyed for program feedback
- Apr. 2015 CK teachers and administrators provide feedback
- Jun. 2015 CK teachers, parents and administrators present at Ed Policy Meeting
- Oct. 2015 Program Review is presented to the Board

Enrollment Impact

- CK programs had a positive impact on Kindergarten enrollment as two Kindergarten classes consistently filled in each school for two years, as past Kindergarten enrollment had fluctuated
- CK programs had a positive impact on school enrollment, as the majority of CK families remained in their school for Grade 1
- CK programs did not negatively impact registration in regular Kindergarten programs at each school, as both CK and regular Kindergarten programs filled annually
- CK programs did not negatively impact registration in neighbouring schools
- Spaces reserved for in-catchment students at James Bay Community School filled

“School choice improves academic outcomes by allowing students to find the schools that best match their needs...”

- Dr. Greg Forster, 2013

- Spaces reserved for students of Aboriginal heritage were filled in both programs in 2014-15 and 2015-16
- Aboriginal student registrations tripled in South Park CK in 2015-16

Student Impact

- Coastal Kindergarten programs are well-attended on a daily basis
- All students are able to participate in the daily outdoor learning activities
- Teachers report positive impact on student learning in the areas of:
 - student engagement
 - curiosity and student inquiry
 - self-regulation, personal responsibility and independence
 - social interactions between the students as a result of daily outdoor journeys

“Access to active play in nature and outdoors... is essential for healthy child development.”
 - 2015 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth

“The... time at the beach with sticks, stones, logs to play on has impacted all areas of his development: cognitive, physical, emotional, creative and social.” - CK parent, 2015

Coastal Kindergarten Parent Feedback

- Original request for an outdoor-based Kindergarten program came from parents
- 100% of CK parent respondents reported that the program had a positive impact on their child
- 100% of CK parent respondents recommended that the program continue beyond the 2 year pilot

James Bay and South Park PAC Feedback

- James Bay Community School PAC and South Park Family School PAC are supportive of CK at their schools
- CK Information Sessions were supported and attended by PAC executive members from both schools

Community Partnerships with Coastal Kindergarten

- Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation were supportive of the Coastal Kindergarten Program pilot
- City of Victoria staff partnered with Greater Victoria School District to plan collaborative initiatives and communication strategies to support the program

- University of Victoria staff are working with Coastal Kindergarten teachers and administrators to plan a study of the impact of outdoor Kindergarten programs on learning and health

Operational Needs Impact

- CK Program did not affect the operational needs of the School District
- Housed within existing facilities and maintained without transportation assistance
- Subject to established planning and staffing schedules established by the District
- As both schools housed two Kindergarten programs in the past, designating one class as Coastal Kindergarten did not place any additional financial commitments on the school.

District Impact of Coastal Kindergarten

- Due to interest expressed by teachers across the district, 'Learning Outdoors' professional development sessions were offered after school and were well-attended by K - 12 teachers.
- Teachers plan to continue their after school collaborative sessions focused on environmental literacy for 2015-16

“Outdoor play has a positive effect on issues of social development, motor skills, and activity level.” Katen, Hirt and Mollin (2011); Louv (2005); Youell (2008); Staempfi (2009); Dymont and Bell (2008).

Conclusion

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) continue to provide the Coastal Kindergarten program of choice at James Bay and South Park as supported by staff, parents and the community.

The Ministry of Education New Curriculum Announcement

Victoria - The world is changing and parents expect government and teachers to work together to make sure students have the skills they need to succeed.

That is why the government has partnered with more than 100 teachers to develop new curriculum being introduced to classrooms over the next three years.

Minister of Education, Mike Bernier, and BC Teachers' Federation president, Jim Iker, announced a wide-ranging support plan so teachers get the information and training they need to bring BC's new curriculum to life in their classrooms. The support plan includes \$1 million to fund targeted training this school year, as well as dedicated time worth \$100 million over three years so public school teachers can prepare for the curriculum. Bernier and Iker were joined at the announcement by representatives from the wide range of education partners dedicated to student success - including the British Columbia Trustees' Association, the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the Federation of Independent School Associations British Columbia, the BC Principals and Vice Principals' Association, and the British Columbia School Superintendents' Association and the BC Association of School Business Officials.

The support plan includes:

- learning sessions for teachers at the provincial and local levels;
- webinars, videos and district-level teams in place so teachers can learn first-hand what is working in the classroom;
- extra time set aside throughout the three years so districts and teachers associations can collaborate on training for teachers;
- dedication of two existing professional days to the new curriculum in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The new K-12 curriculum maps out what teachers teach and what students are expected to learn. While it focuses on the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, the new curriculum teaches them in a way that students also learn the collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills needed to succeed after high school.

The curriculum will be phased in over three years. K - 9 is available for teachers to use this year on a trial basis before fully being implemented next school year. By 2017-18, the entire K - 12 curriculum will be used throughout the province.

Curriculum Support Plan

Year 1: 1 \$M for targeted training and 10 new hours of non-instructional time dedicated to curriculum implementation.

Targeted Training: 2000 teachers trained will be trained via Local Learning sessions. A group of teachers will be brought together at the district level for a provincial overview and will spend a full day working directly with the new curriculum and design how the collaboration time (10 hours) could best be structured in their district. These teachers will return to their schools prepared to help their colleagues phase in the curriculum.

10 hours of non-instruction time for all teachers this school year to become familiar with the new curriculum. How the time is spread throughout the school year will be decided by local school districts and teacher associations based on a provincial framework.

Provincial Framework: a provincial framework to be used by teachers and school districts to guide their work designing the 10 hours non-instructional time. This provincial framework will be co-created between the Ministry and the BCTF.

Provincial Support: provincial webinar, instructional videos, printed brochures, planning guides and PowerPoint materials.

Year 2: 5 new hours of non-instructional time dedicated to curriculum implementation plus government's designated pro d day.

Year 3: 5 new hours of non-instructional time dedicated to curriculum implementation plus government's designated pro d day.