



**Education Policy Development Committee
October 5, 2015 – James Bay Community School, 140 Oswego Street**

Regular Minutes

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

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 Mitchell, Principal, James Bay Community School
Sean McCartney, Principal, South Park Family School
Cindy Graf, GVTA
Ted Goodwin, VCPAC
Read Jorgensen, VPVPA
Willow Mak, 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

It was moved:

That the October 5, 2015 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING – September 14th, 2015**

It was moved:

That the September 14, 2015 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

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 and welcomed Student Representative Willow Mak from S. J. Willis Education Centre. Willow is a second year member of the Representative Advisory Council of Students and will be attending the meetings of the board scheduled in the month of October 2015.

B. Coastal Kindergarten Pilot Program Review

Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives, provided trustees with a review of the Coastal Kindergarten Pilot. She briefly outlined the Pilot's positive enrollment impact, student impact, feedback from parents and community partnerships, the operational needs and the District impacts and presented the following recommended motion:

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.

Trustees thanked Ms. Roy for her presentation. A discussion ensued and resulted in a suggested amendment to the recommended motion.

It was moved:

That the 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" be amended by deleting the words "continue to provide the Coastal Kindergarten program of choice at James Bay and South Park as supported by staff, parents and the community" and adding the words "extend the Coastal Kindergarten Pilot program of choice at James Bay and South Park by one year to June 2017."

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustee McNally

The Chair called the question on the main motion as amended.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) extend the Coastal Kindergarten Pilot program of choice at James Bay and South Park by one year to June 2017.

Motion Carried

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

C. Ministry of Education New Curriculum Announcement

Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent, spoke to the New Curriculum Announcement of the Ministry of Education and shared with trustees the 3-Year Curriculum Support Plan.

A question and answer period followed.

D. Motion

Trustee Watters presented her motion and provided trustees with her rationale.

A discussion ensued.

It was moved:

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.

Motion Carried Unanimously

E. Motion

Trustee Watters presented her next motion.

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.

Trustee Watters explained the rationale for her motion. This was followed by a discussion and a recommendation to amend the motion.

It was moved:

That the motion "*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*" be amended by deleting the words "*and the development of the policy on Gender Identity and Gender Expression is being undertaken by the District Gay Straight Alliance club.*"

Motion Carried Unanimously

The Chair called the question on the main motion as amended.

It was moved:

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.

Motion Carried Unanimously

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS - none

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.