



**Education Policy Development Committee
May 4, 2015 - Tolmie Building, Board Room**

Regular Minutes

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Deborah Nohr, Chair
Tom Ferris
Edith Loring-Kuhanga (exited the meeting at 8:00 pm)
Diane McNally
Peg Orcherton (exited the meeting at 8:34 pm)
Rob Paynter
Jordan Watters

ADMINISTRATION

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent
Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives
Deb Whitten, District Principal, Student Services
Leslie Lee, Principal, George Jay Elementary
Terri Smith, Vice-Principal, George Jay Elementary
Raven Natrall, Student Representative
Connie Schmidt, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Elaine Leonard
 Ann Whiteaker

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 students and parents of George Jay Elementary as well as members of the public who were in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved:

That the May 4, 2015 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - April 7, 2015

It was moved:

That the April 7, 2015 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- 3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - none**
- 4. PUBLIC REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE - none**
- 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 Raven Natrall from the S. J. Willis Education Centre. She explained that Raven is a member of the Representative Advisory Council of Students who will be attending the Board meetings scheduled in the month of May 2015. Raven shared that she is excited to add her student voice to Ed Policy and is looking forward to participating in the May meetings of the Board.

B. Chromebooks Pilot

Ms. Leslie Lee, Principal of George Jay Elementary, provided an overview of how the school's 60 Chromebooks had been piloted in a 1-to-1 (one device to one student) computing environment at George Jay Elementary, as the school received these digital tools as part of her "Canada's Outstanding Principals Award" in 2014. Trustees learned that Chromebooks are computers that connect to Google Apps for Education (GAPE) through wireless technology, which enable students to learn and work collaboratively to research, synthesize and evaluate information from anywhere in and around their school. By using GoogleDrive, students are able to access and save their work on multiple platforms such as iPads, Chromebooks and personal computers using cloud-based online applications and storage. Ms. Lee thanked school district staff for supporting the implementation of these new tools with students.

Ms. Lee then introduced Vice-Principal Terri Smith. Ms. Smith, George Jay teachers Robin Lam and Sunny Jun, and George Jay students provided an overview of the digital learning environment and presented various research and writing projects that they created and published using GAFE with the Chromebooks. Teachers and students provided examples of students using GAFE and Chromebooks to develop student research skills, enhance critical thinking skills, develop problem-solving and decision-making skills, increase creativity and innovation, develop digital literacy and citizenship, and facilitate effective communication and collaboration.

Trustee asked questions during and after the presentation. They thanked the students and school administrators for a highly informative presentation.

C. Victoria Conservatory of Music Technology

Ms. Leslie Lee presented an overview of this technology-based fine arts project initiated by the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Through this partnership, George Jay students learn music at their own pace using keyboards and software provided by the Victoria Conservatory. The school has worked with the Victoria Conservatory of Music on this project for two years, and the project has now been implemented in three additional schools in our district. Ms. Lee shared that this innovative project benefits students in many ways as they foster their ability to play a keyboard using the technology provided, improve their focus and self-regulation, and increase their knowledge of classical music as part of this initiative.

Trustees expressed their appreciation.

D. Community Threat Assessment Protocol

Ms. Deb Whitten, District Principal, Student Services, informed the Trustees about the development of the Community Threat Assessment Protocol. She explained that this protocol will have a positive impact on the safety of students, staff and others, and will enable and promote a cooperative response in a multidisciplinary manner. The protocol will facilitate a method of sharing information and resources with community partners. The draft protocol was created using School District #62 and School District #63's completed protocols as templates and the work of Kevin Cameron, Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response. Ms. Whitten also outlined why it is important that the protocols of the three school districts share a similar language and process.

Trustees asked questions, and then thanked Ms. Whitten for her informative presentation.

E. Concussion Committee Update

Ms. Whitten provided an update on the work of the Concussion Committee that is comprised of GVTA members, a CUPE 947 member, an ASA representative, a VCPAC member, Trustees Orcherton and Paynter, a School Principal, Associate Superintendent Pinkerton, and District Principal Whitten. She explained that the committee has met three times and will finalize a draft of the Concussion Awareness Policy in the near future.

F. Motion

Trustee Watters presented the rationale for the motion. A discussion ensued.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District 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.

Motion Carried Unanimously

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.