



**Education Policy and Directions Committee  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 – Colquitz Middle School, 505 Dumeresq Street**

**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  
Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent  
Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent  
Nella Nelson, Coordinator, Aboriginal Nations Education  
Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives  
Marvella Preston-Bain, District Principal, Special Education  
Cindy Graf, GVTA Representative  
Dawson Gittens, Student Representative  
Gord Mitchell, Principal, Colquitz Middle School  
Karen Walters-Edgar, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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 and seconded:

That the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 regular agenda be approved with the following additions/changes:

- Under *New Business*
- a) Introduction of Student Representative
  - b) Home Learner's Link/The LINK
  - c) Student Transit Passes
  - d) Aboriginal Student Achievement Data Report
  - e) Process Review for Educational Assessment

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved and seconded:

That the April 4, 2016 Minutes of the Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - none

## 4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE - none

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Piet Langstraat welcomed Student Representative Dawson Gittens from Lambrick Park Secondary. The Superintendent expressed his appreciation of having a student voice at the table. Dawson will be attending scheduled Board meetings for May 2016.

### b) Home Learner's Link/The LINK

Superintendent Piet Langstraat, explained that the K - 8 Home Learners Link is being re-evaluated due to a decrease in enrollment.

Superintendent Langstraat and Associate Superintendent, Deb Whitten then engaged in a discussion with trustees. They answered questions from trustees around clarifying current practices, envisioning a broader and different funding model and also questions around the direction for the kind of program the District wants to model for students with multiple needs. The Superintendent said that he will bring forward a proposal to the Board of Education, as well as recommendations, in the form of a report.

### c) Student Transit/Bus Passes

The Superintendent said that he met with the Student Representatives in regard to bus passes. The Superintendent stated that he needed to do a bit more research with regard to the daily and annual passes.

Trustee Whiteaker stated that families were buying saver tickets, which you can no longer buy, and this places undue hardship on low income families. After further discussion, Trustee Whiteaker proposed the following motion:

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the student initiative on June 21st, 2016 at the BC Transit office to lobby for student exemption from the recent fare increase.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustee Watters also put forward a motion regarding BC Transit student fare exemptions:

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to establish a liaison with the Sooke and Saanich boards to coordinate a request to BC Transit for a student exemption.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### **d) Aboriginal Student Achievement Data Report**

Nella Nelson, District Coordinator of Aboriginal Nations, and Janine Roy, District Principal - Learning Initiatives, presented a PowerPoint with regard to the Aboriginal Student Achievement Data Report. Nella and Janine described what the current data reflects around attendance, attachment and achievement. The trustees asked several questions during the presentation and discussed the specifics of the report at length.

#### **e) Process Review for Educational Assessment**

Marvella Preston-Bain, District Principal of Special Education, presented a PowerPoint with regard to current processes in place for students who may require educational assessments. Ms. Preston-Bain was joined by numerous district school support staff who assisted in answering questions during her presentation.

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## 6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- a) Chair Nohr read a motion that she would like to present at the next Education, Policy and Directions Committee:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) initiate a temporary change to the start time for the Education, Policy and Directions meetings in the months of September, October, November and December, 2016 with a new start time of 4:30 - Bylaw 9360.2 (4): a review of the effectiveness of this time change will be undertaken at the December Education, Policy and Directions meeting.

## 7. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved:

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.