



**Education Policy and Directions Committee
September 11, 2017 – Tolmie Board Room**

Minutes

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Ann Whiteaker, Chair
Diane McNally
Deborah Nohr
Peg Orcherton
Rob Paynter
Jordan Watters

Regrets: Tom Ferris

ADMINISTRATION

Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent
Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent
Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent
Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools
Simon Burgers, District Principal, Languages and Multiculturalism
Ilda Turcotte, GVTA Representative
Jeanette Alexander, ASA Representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Whiteaker welcomed everyone back from summer break. She also wished everyone all the best for the upcoming school year.

Chair Whiteaker recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, learn and do our work.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Orcherton:

That the September 11th, 2017 Education Policy and Directions agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee McNally:

That the June 5th, 2017 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting Regular Minutes be approved with the following amendment: in the last paragraph for *French Advisory - Terms of Reference* on page 6, change the word **deferred** to **postpone**.

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 Langstraat introduced Meghan Scott, Esquimalt Secondary School Student Representative for the Education Policy and Directions Committee for the month of September.

B. Dress Code

Associate Superintendent, Deb Whitten, provided background and an overview of the work that has been completed to date with regard to the District's Dress Code expectations and guiding principles.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and provided feedback.

It was moved by Trustee Watters:

1. That the School Code of Conduct will not include any other statements regarding expectations of dress, say for the following:
2. Our school is committed to creating a learning community that values diversity and is free of all forms of discrimination. In line with the BC Human Rights Code which prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and age, (insert school name) promotes a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights. Actions through verbal and non-verbal communication (including clothing) must demonstrate support for the BC Human Rights Code.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C. French Advisory - Terms of Reference

Superintendent Langstraat provided a brief history in regard to the French Advisory Committee and the French Advisory Ad Hoc sub-committee. The Superintendent then asked Simon Burgers, District Principal, Languages and Multiculturalism to provide greater details.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and provided feedback.

It was moved by Trustee Orcherton:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) establish a French Advisory Ad Hoc Committee to meet at least annually or as required.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Elementary Counselling Services

Trustee Nohr explained her rationale and provided background information for presenting this motion.

Trustees discussed the issue and asked questions of the Superintendent.

It was moved by Trustee Orcherton:

That Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Superintendent provide a report and recommendations on elementary counselling supports for elementary children and their families for the November 2017 Education Policy and Directions meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. VISTA (Vancouver Island Trustees' Association)

Trustee Watters stated that as a VISTA representative on the BCSTA Professional Learning Committee, she can now confirm that Esquimalt Secondary School will be the host site for next year's VISTA Branch meeting on March 2 and 3, 2018.

Trustee Watters provided details as to the events that will occur over the 2 days. Trustee Watters also stated that the Minister of Education, parents, students and Esquimalt and Songhees Band members will also be in attendance at this 2-day event.

Trustee Watters also asked that if anyone has additional ideas for the meeting, to please contact her.

E. BCSTA (Provincial Council on Early Childhood Education)

Chair Whiteaker explained the purpose of providing the handout from the BCSTA in regard to Early Childhood Education motion. VISTA would like to once again put this forward as an emergent motion for upcoming Provincial Council meeting. Chair Whiteaker discussed the pros/cons of putting forth the motion as emergent at the Provincial Council meeting or waiting until the Annual General Meeting.

Trustees discussed the issue. It was agreed that Trustee Watters would write a letter to VISTA advising them that the Board of Education would prefer to bring forth the motion as representatives at the AGM so that there is sufficient time to properly address the issue.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS - None

7. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Trustee Orcherton:

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.