



**Education Policy and Directions Committee
October 2nd, 2017 – Tolmie Board Room**

Minutes

Present: TRUSTEES

Ann Whiteaker, Chair
Diane McNally
Deborah Nohr
Peg Orcherton
Jordan Watters
Tom Ferris

ADMINISTRATION

Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent
Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent
Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent
Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools
Louise Sheffer, Director, Learning Team
Nella Nelson, Aboriginal Education Coordinator
Craig Schellenberg, Aboriginal District Principal
Sean McCartney, VPVPA Representative
Darren Companion, GVTA Representative
Karen Walters-Edgar, Meeting Recorder

Guest: Katie Simmonds, Vice Principal, Northridge Elementary

Regrets: Jeanette Alexander, ASA Representative

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

Chair Whiteaker welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

Chair Whiteaker also 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 October 2nd, 2017 Education Policy and Directions agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Ferris:

That the September 11th, 2017 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting Regular Minutes be approved as amended by deleting the sentence on Page 2 of the Minutes, 5B - **Dress Code**, "Trustees agreed that the following motion needs to move forward to the Board of Education."

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Langstraat introduced Student Representative, Ben Rutkowski, from Victoria High Secondary School. Ben then introduced himself and provided the Committee with a little background information about himself. Ben also said that he looked forward to attending October's Standing Committee meetings and also the Board meeting.

B. Inclusive Learning

Associate Superintendent, Deb Whitten, showed a PowerPoint presentation, as well as a memo, that provided background information and an overview of the work plan and strategies to support inclusion in the District for all learners. Associate Superintendent Whitten stated that the Learning Support Team continues to work with School Based Teams and Administration to ensure each school has systems in place to access supports and ensure services are made available within our district and the community at large.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and provided feedback.

On behalf of the trustees, Chair Whiteaker thanked Associate Superintendent Whitten, the Learning Support Team and the Learning Team for all the work they have put into place to ensure all students receive equitable supports and are challenged in their physical, social and academic learning community.

C. Truth & Reconciliation

Deputy Superintendent, Shelley Green, provided background information and explained the goals in regard to the work currently being done in the district as well as future recommended initiatives. She also provided all trustees with a Truth and Reconciliation binder. Deputy Superintendent Green stated that this school year, every Education Policy and Directions Committee will have Truth and Reconciliation on the agenda and will be adding information to trustees' binders at each Ed Policy meeting. The purpose of addressing Truth and Reconciliation at each meeting will be to:

- review the recommendations of the commission;
- examine how the new curriculum responds to these recommendations;
- receive information in regard to the variety of initiatives in our school district that respond to the recommendations;
- hear from representatives from our Nations in response to the recommendations;
- review other initiatives that connect and respond to the recommendations.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and provided feedback.

D. School Family Groups

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

It was moved by Trustee McNally:

That Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) change every instance of "School Family Groups" on the SD61 website and in other communications to "School Catchment Pathways."

Trustees discussed the motion. The motion will be referred to the Student Registration and Transfer Committee.

E. SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)

Trustee Watters provided background information for presenting this motion.

It was moved by Trustee Watters:

That Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) publish a letter, as per the BCSTA message of support to Boards of Education, for SOGI policies and initiatives in fostering safer and more inclusive communities for all British Columbians.

Trustees discussed the motion. The motion will be referred to the October 23rd Board Meeting.

5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS - None

6. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Trustee Orcherton

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.