

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
EDUCATION POLICY AND DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Chairperson: Ann Whiteaker

**Monday, October 2nd, 2017 – 7:00 PM
Location: Board Room, Tolmie Building**

Dialogue with the Public is welcome during Standing Committee Meetings

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

ITEM	PRESENTER	STATUS	ATTACH
1. Approval of the Agenda			
2. Approval of the Minutes of Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting – September 11, 2017			pgs. 2-4
3. Business Arising From the Minutes			
4. New Business			
		<i>(Estimated time)</i>	
A. Introduction of Student Representative	<i>Piet Langstraat, Introduction of Ben Rutkowski Victoria High Student Rep</i>	- Info	
B. Inclusive Learning	<i>Deb Whitten</i>	- Info (30 min.)	pgs. 5-6
C. Truth & Reconciliation	<i>Shelley Green</i>	- Info (30 min.)	pg. 7
D. School Family Groups	<i>Trustee McNally</i>	- Action (10 min.)	
<p>That the 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."</p>			
D. SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)	<i>Trustee Watters</i>	- Action (10 min.)	
<p>That the 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.</p>			
5. Notice of Motions			
6. General Announcements			
7. Adjournment			



**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.

Trustees agreed that the following motion needs to move forward to the Board of Education for consideration:

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.

MEMO**From: Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent****To: The Education Policy Committee****Date: October 2, 2017****RE: Inclusive Learning Updates**

The Learning Support Team and Inclusive Learning Team have had new members added to the teams and as a result have met throughout the month of September to create and share a common definition of inclusive learning, identify strategies to support inclusion in the Greater Victoria School District and create a District Service delivery model so all staff are aware of the variety of supports and services available in our One Learning Community.

The following information was co-created by the Learning Support Team and was shared with staff in the district.

What is inclusion in the Greater Victoria School District?

Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting, grounded in a belief that with the right supports, every learner can be successful in their schools and classrooms. Inclusive schools embrace the value of our diversity and see our differences as strengths. All students have an authentic sense of belonging in their school community and are supported to develop their full potential in the academic, social-emotional and physical domains.

What does inclusion look like in the Greater Victoria School District?

Inclusion equitably supports and appropriately challenges all learners. All GVSD staff members work together to create welcoming, flexible and responsive learning opportunities that adapt to the changing needs of students. As much as possible, inclusive classrooms are places where students do not have to leave to learn; collaborative supports are brought to students in their classrooms and, as a result, benefit the full range of learners. At times, dependent on student needs, more targeted and specialized interventions are offered to individuals or smaller groups in classrooms or other inclusive learning spaces.

Strategies to support inclusion in the Greater Victoria School District

- Align planned initiatives with the District Strategic Plan's focus on Learner Success, Aboriginal Learners and Vulnerable Learners
- Offer ongoing professional learning opportunities for all staff

- Further develop and support teams of professionals so that they may co-plan and co-deliver instruction in inclusive ways
- Involve students and parents in planning meaningful learning opportunities
- Build relationships with our community partners to support inclusion

Our Learning Support Team continues to work with School Based Teams and Administration to ensure each school has systems in place to access supports and services available in our district and with our community partners. We are also providing extra support to our schools that previously had district programs. These supports are applied to ensure all students from these programs are placed in the most enabling learning environment. We remain committed to equitably supporting and appropriately challenging all students in the physical, social and academic learning community.



MEMO

To: Education Policy and Directions Committee

From: Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent

Re: Truth and Reconciliation

Date: October 2nd, 2017

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was officially launched in 2008 as part of the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

The link <http://nctr.ca/reports.php> will connect trustees to the various reports in the "Calls to Action" report that was published in 2015.

Within the "Calls to Action" report, there are four recommendations under the Education for Reconciliation section.

During the year, our Education Policy and Directions Committee meetings have Truth and Reconciliation on every agenda. At the meetings the Board will:

- 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.

The goal will be to examine our current practice and initiatives in regard to the action report and recommend future initiatives for the Greater Victoria School District to implement.