



Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting

MINUTES

September 14, 2020

Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Trustees Present:	Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker
Administration:	Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools, Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent, Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Andree Porter (recorder), Kim Morris, Secretary Treasurer, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent
Stakeholders, Other Staff & Guests:	David Hovis, District Principal, Tammy Renyard, District Principal, Shelly Niemi, District Administrator of Indigenous Education Department, Connor McCoy, VPVPA President, Cindy Graf, GVTA Representative, Kristil Hammer, VCPAC Vice-President

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

A.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

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

A.2 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Ferris

That the September 14, 2020 Education Policy & Directions Committee meeting agenda be approved with the following amendments:

Add C.7 Dispensation for secondary level French Immersion students impacted by COVID-19

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3 Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Painter

That the June 1, 2020 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4 Business arising from Minutes

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1 Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Green provided Trustees with a brief introduction to 5 of our 9 new Student Representatives for the 2020-2021 school year. In attendance were, Gillian Clark of Lambrick Park Secondary School, Felix Jensen of Victoria High School, Celeste Vickery of Oak Bay High School, Lassah Johnson and Thunder Defayette of Esquimalt High School.

C.2 Equity Scan - Shelly Niemi

Shelly Niemi, District Administrator of the Indigenous Education Department, provided Trustees with an overview of the District's upcoming participation in the Ministry of Education's Equity Scan via their Equity in Action initiative. Questions of clarification were asked.

C.3 District Team Updates (August - Fall 2020) - Tammy Renyard & David Hovis (verbal)

Chair Duncan provided a brief introduction of the District Team's structure. District Principals Tammy Renyard & David Hovis provided Trustees with an update on the District Team's recent focus and efforts in regards to Learning, School Systems/Structural Support, and Transitions for students and teachers returning to school. Questions of clarification were asked.

C.4 Rescindment of January 19, 2015 Motion re: Foundation Skills Assessment Testing - Superintendent Green

Superintendent Green provided Trustees with an overview of the Foundation Skills Assessment and the history surrounding the original motion from January 19th 2015. Discussion ensued.

Moved by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) rescind the following motion that was carried at the January 19, 2015 Board of Education meeting:

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to inform school-based principals to honour parent requests to withdraw their child from the FSA testing and to refrain from contacting them upon receipt of their withdrawal request form as of January 2016.”

For (3): Trustee Ferris, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Watters

Against (1): Trustee McNally

Abstain (1): Trustee Duncan

Motion Carried (3 to 1)

a. Letter from GVTA re: FSA

C.5 Parent Education Fund (2020-2021) Update - Deputy Superintendent Whitten

Deputy Superintendent Whitten referred Trustees to the Parent Education Fund memo included in the meeting package.

C.6 Draft Terms of Reference - Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee - Associate Superintendent Caldwell

Associate Superintendent Caldwell provided the Committee with a brief background regarding the framework used to create the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the amended Draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

Discussion ensued among the Trustees with a recommendation to amend the Terms of Reference as follows:

Moved by Trustee McNally

That "including consideration of cessation of the program." be added to the end of item #2 under "Purpose" of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad-Hoc Committee.

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Watters

Against (1): Trustee Ferris

Motion Carried (4 to 1)

Further discussion ensued among Trustees with a recommendation to amend the draft Terms of Reference as follows:

Moved by Trustee Painter

That "2 Secondary Students" be stricken from the "Membership" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee, and be replaced with "1 Student from each Secondary School who identifies as being racialized" be added.

Prior to voting on this amendment, further discussion ensued and an amendment to the amendment was suggested.

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That "2 Secondary Students" be stricken from the "Membership" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee, and be replaced with "1 Student from each Secondary School who identifies as a member of an equity seeking community".

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Watters

Against (1): Trustee Ferris

Motion Carried (4 to 1)

Discussion ensued and the following motion was put forward.

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That "interventions" be stricken from item #4 under the "Deliverables" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee, and be replaced with "Data Driven Assessments of PLO programs informed by such surveys or other data requests the Committee deems necessary."

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion ensued and the following motion was put forward.

Moved by Trustee Watters

That "(preferably from an equity seeking group)" be added to "2 Parents/Caregivers" under the "Membership" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Two friendly amendments were made to the document. The first is in regards to references to SRO which will be stricken from the document and replaced with PLO. The second friendly amendment is to strike "Prioritizing" from item # 3 under "Deliverables" and to replace that with "Reviewing". After receiving all recommendations, Chair Duncan put forward the draft Terms of Reference, as amended, for approval.

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the amended Draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C.7 Dispensation for secondary level French Immersion students impacted by COVID-19 - Trustee Paynter

Trustee Paynter presented the following motion and provided a rationale.

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (School District 61) instruct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education asking that Graduation Program Requirements for the Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique be relaxed for secondary students unable to attend in person classes to receive French language instruction during the 2020/2021 school year.

A discussion took place among Trustees. A recommendation to amend the motion and refer to the Advocacy Committee was made.

Moved by Trustee Watters

That the motion "That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (School District 61) instruct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education asking that Graduation Program Requirements for the Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique be relaxed for secondary students unable to attend in person classes to receive French language instruction during the 2020/2021 school year." be referred to the Advocacy Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. NOTICE OF MOTION

E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Ferris

That the meeting adjourn.

Note: This meeting is being audio and video recorded. The video can be viewed on the District website.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer