



EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 4:00 P.M.
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
425 Jermyn Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT **Bill Bidlake, Trustee**
Shelley Clarke, Trustee
Bruce Johnson, Trustee
Ginny Manning, Trustee
Julie Planiden, Trustee
Barb Sheppard, Trustee
Linda Van Alphen, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT **Wendy Hyer, Superintendent of Schools**
Todd Manuel, Assistant Superintendent
Jane Owen, Executive Assistant
Jason Corday, Director of Instruction
Susan Thomson, Director of Instruction

1. Call to Order

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded.

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1 Pathways Addictions Resource Centre

Chair Johnson welcomed Darryl Meyers to provide a presentation on the work that the Pathways Addiction Resource Centre has been doing in the district. Unfortunately, Victoria Monkman was unable to attend in assisting with the presentation.

With the many years of experience working with students in the schools, Ms. Meyers understands that students and parents appreciate assistance when it comes to providing information and help when recognizing and dealing with the prevention of substance use.

Pathways have been in the community for 42 years. In the past, there was more focus placed on alcohol issues however, today the community is dealing with all types of dangerous street drugs that have been made readily available in the community.

The staff at Pathways focus on education and prevention and are often invited to conduct presentations in the schools. The presentations are not only about drugs, they also do work on cyberbullying and social media issues as they feel these pressures can be precursors to students experimenting with drugs.

The time and work that Pathways has been doing within the district has been extremely valuable. In 2015-16, they met with over 1100 students and while the district is fortunate to benefit from these services (free of charge); Pathways feels their services may be underutilized.

Educating students and parents is paramount, especially due to the serious issues emerging with Fentanyl in BC. While all street drugs are potentially dangerous, they are even more so now due to the lethal drug combinations being created. Fentanyl is 80 times stronger than morphine and is being found in marijuana, ecstasy and other drugs.

Ms. Meyers recommended watching the TV show 'Dateline - *One Small Dose*' for a better look as to trends that are taking place out in communities.

Superintendent Hyer suggested that Pathways approach DPAC to see whether there is interest in providing information/education sessions for parents.

Pathways also recommended seeing the play 'Sweet Dreams Mr. Heroin' which was written by a playwright from Dublin, Ireland. Two shows will be held at The Nest & Nectar in the Cannery on October 18 & 19 – additional information on their website at: <http://pathwaysaddictions.ca/>. Summerland will also look at putting on a play.

Chair Johnson thanked Darryl Meyers for the presentation as well conveyed appreciation to the staff at Pathways for the beneficial work they are doing out in the community.

4. Information Items

5. Action Items

5.1 Policy No. 740 - Smoke-and Tobacco-Free Environment

On September 1st the government of BC introduced amendments to the Tobacco and Vapor Products Control Act to regulate the use of vapor products that will help stop the growing use of e-cigarettes by young people. As a result of the amendments, changes to Policy #740 have been made.

Superintendent Hyer recommended changing the policy name to 'Tobacco-and Vapor-Free Environment to reflect the policy more accurately.

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded.

That the Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education that Policy No. 740 - Smoke-and Tobacco-Free Environment be approved in principle and forwarded to partner groups for any suggestions for changes.

CARRIED

6. Upcoming Policies

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded.

That the Education Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.