



EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 3:00 P.M.
 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
 425 Jermyn Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bruce Johnson, Chair
Ginny Manning, Trustee
Bill Bidlake, Trustee
Barb Sheppard, Trustee
Linda Van Alphen, Trustee
Shelley Clarke, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT

Wendy Hyer, Superintendent of Schools
Dave Burgoyne, Assistant Superintendent
Pam Butters, Director of Instruction
Don MacIntyre, Director of Instruction
Jane Owen, Executive Assistant

Alison Reigh, representing CUPE

1. Call to Order

Trustee Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded
 That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. School District No. 67 Ikeda Exchange 2015

Dr. Don Grant from Princess Margaret Secondary, provided information about the Ikeda Exchange Program as well as information about students who recently visited Penticton and their experience during their stay. An itinerary was presented for an upcoming Ikeda Exchange trip to Tokyo being planned for September 30 to October 10, 2015. In 2016, plans are underway to welcome 12 Ikeda students to the district. Trustees thanked the many people involved in the program and reiterated their appreciation to Dr. Grant for taking the lead with this educational program and for the exceptional work and effort maintaining its continued success.

3.2. Maggie CARES

Principal Terry Grady and Vice Principal Sandra Richardson presented on a new program at Princess Margaret Secondary called 'Maggie CARES'. A logo has been designed by a Princess Margaret student to help brand the program. The program assists staff, students and parents to learn how to identify stress, anxiety and other pressures in life and how to deal with them as they arise before they develop into serious mental health issues.

Staff are attending workshops and are using those skills in the classroom. A book pertaining to this subject, 'Fighting the Invisible Tiger' has been key to the beginning success of the CARE program as those methods are being practised.

Ms. Richardson complimented Health Promoting Schools Coordinator, Jenny Mitchell for her resources and networking through the community as well as her work on the initial framework of the program. Students from grades 9 to 11 will be involved in an upcoming conference in February for staff, students and parents (Penticton Indian Band students were included and sponsored by the Penticton Veas). The Rotary Club has also contributed financially by allocating a \$20,000 grant. In February comedian 'Kevin Breele' will be focussing on this topic in an upcoming presentation. Several trustees thanked Mr. Grady and Ms. Richardson for their involvement and for initiating a program that will greatly benefit all grade levels in the future.

3.3. 2015-16 Calendar Proposals

Leslea Woodward, President of the Okanagan Skaha Teachers' Union, presented two proposals regarding professional development and a two-week spring break for the 2015-16 calendar:

1. Five (5) Pro D days: (Five Pro D days are contractual - and OSTU would like to keep within school calendar). Members felt it was beneficial to have professional development days ongoing through the school year rather than front loading the days. The suggestion of Pro D for five days encourages teachers to work on their self directed Pro D and is favourable in observing how this success effects other colleagues they work with. Ms. Woodward requested that the district consider ongoing Pro D days throughout the year.

2. Two-Week Spring Break: It was suggested by members to keep Pro D and spring break separate. The suggestion is to have a two-week spring break from March 21 - 25, 2016 and March 28 - April 1, 2016. The one week spring break had been discussed at previous OSTU meetings; however, a two week spring break was considered more suitable.

Chair Johnson thanked Ms. Woodward for her proposals and for relaying the Okanagan Skaha Teachers' Union member requests.

4. Information Items

4.1. 2015-16 School Calendar

Superintendent Hyer discussed the procedure with regards to the 2015-16 school calendar and that currently the draft 2015-16 school calendar provided is for discussion regarding feedback for the upcoming board meeting on Monday, February 2.

Assistant Superintendent Dave Burgoyne provided a Power Point presentation on the draft school calendar for 2015-16. It was noted that the 2015-16 school year is unique with school start-up being later than usual (September 8), Easter weekend impacts spring break dates and the last day of school will be June 30. The summer break will be 10 weeks, which is longer than usual. Discussion continued around the three options given: Option A, Option B and Option C.

A proposed draft calendar will be presented at the board meeting on Monday, February 2. As per Board motion, the draft calendar is then made available to the public and partner groups for input (Feb 3 to March 3, 2015). The approved 2015-16 school calendar must be submitted to the Ministry of Education by March 31, 2015.

Trustee Sheppard thanked those involved in providing an informative presentation.

The Education Committee agreed to bring forward Option A for discussion at the Board Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2015.

4.2. Late French Immersion Program

Superintendent Hyer discussed an overview of the policies and procedures with regard to Late French Immersion, the history and the current details of the program. The French Immersion program is held in Penticton at KVR Middle School and in Summerland at Summerland Middle School.

The application deadline is 12:00 Noon on Monday, February 2, 2015. Based on the number of applications, the number of classes established and location of classes will be determined. The deadline for families to confirm their participation is April 15. If necessary, a waitlist may be established for the September start-up.

Trustee Sheppard thanked the district for clarifying the process.

5. Action Items

5.1. General

5.2. Policy**a. Policy No. 315 - Physical Restraint and Seclusion**

Superintendent Hyer with the assistance of Director of Instruction Butters, reviewed Policy No. 315 - Physical Restraint and Seclusion. This policy had been previously brought to the board at the November 10, 2014 board meeting and circulated to partner groups. It was suggested that the word 'serious' be removed from the policy.

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded
That the committee recommends that Policy No. 315 - Physical Restraint and Seclusion be brought to the next Board of Education meeting for approval.

CARRIED

6. Question Period**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.