



EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 4:00 P.M.
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
425 Jermyn Avenue

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

ALSO PRESENT **Wendy Hyer, Superintendent of Schools**
Bonnie Roller Routley, Secretary-Treasurer
Dave Burgoyne, Assistant Superintendent
Todd Manual, Director of Instruction
Don MacIntyre, Director of Instruction
Jane Owen, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1 ASD Kindergarten Pilot Project

Chair Johnson welcomed Sarah Lowe, Speech Language Pathologist and Susan Thomson, District Principal (Student Services) to the Education Committee as they provided an informative presentation on the work they are doing with regards to the ASD Kindergarten Pilot project in the district.

This pilot project originally was created and supported by Pam Butters (former Director of Instruction, Student Services) and Manisha Willms, Executive Director of OSNS they realized a number of students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder starting Kindergarten needed extra support and were not always ready for school.

Ms. Thomson explained their policies and mandates are based around inclusion. Some children do well transitioning into Kindergarten, others need more support. They came

up with a plan of organizing a transition process (Applied Behaviour Analysis) which allows children with autism to learn how to deal with everyday situations going into school. This groundwork is helpful as it also prepares parents who may feel anxious about their children in a new environment. This model became the ASD Kindergarten Pilot Project.

The Government contributed additional funding to channel children into Kindergarten. This important work ahead was discussed with parents and they were excited. In September Ms. Thomson met with the team and key players so ensure each school had one key contact, making parents and children feel they had someone to turn to if required. Everyone is deeply invested in the children to make sure they do well transitioning into a regular classroom environment.

The startup was individualized for each Kindergarten student based on their needs, i.e. one student could have two sessions while another may need three weeks of sessions. Seven students were involved in the pilot project this year and each of their schedules were different.

Ms. Lowe collected school schedules and organized the Behaviour Interventionist's (BI's) who facilitated and shared information they learned with the EA's and classroom teachers while in school. Questions and information would be shared with the OSNS team.

Teachers brainstorm with the team which allows a better understanding of the student's behavior in advance. This program has been a success for both the students, parents and teachers.

In 2015-16 the team's first meeting will be in March 2016 with OSNS and will follow in May/June planning meetings with OSNS, SD67 and parents preparing the student and family for Kindergarten entry. Ms. Thomson and Ms. Lowe are excited about what is developing from this pilot project.

3.2 Autism Spectrum Disorder EA's

Susan Thomson, District Principal (Student Services) provided information on the EA's in the district whose role it is to provide support for children with suspected ASD and/or classrooms who require additional support based on need. Ms. Thomson reported that SD67 currently have five EA's who are placed based on the needs of a child, or classroom, and not necessarily on any diagnosis. Based on Transition planning information provided by OSNS staff, the District recognized that the greatest needs in early September would be Kindergarten classrooms. The EA's would support the students in self-regulation and becoming familiar with the classroom routines. Out of the five EA's, three continue to be placed in their original classrooms and one has moved to a Grade 3 classroom while one other is now supporting a new Kindergarten classroom. The length of time the EA's are in the classrooms depend on the needs with a transition plan put into place as the EA moves into a new assignment. Every two weeks Ms. Thomson meets with the ASD EA team to complete a Case Study, review a learning module, and gather resources to support the students and classrooms they are working in.

4. Information Items

4.1 K-12 Innovation Partnership Project

At the end of the last school year, Jason Corday, Principal of Summerland Middle and Darcy Mullin, Principal of Giant's Head Elementary spoke about moving into using a different reporting system called Fresh Grade which allows more interaction between the teachers, parents and students through a digital 'real time' method. Other school districts have been using this successful method of grading.

The Board of Education approved that project and based on that concept the Ministry of Education sent out a request. Superintendent Hyer was pleased to announce that Mr. Corday and Mr. Mullin put together a proposal for the Ministry of Education and was one of 17 projects selected into the K-12 Innovation Partnership by the Innovation Partnership Working Group. Over 75 proposals were received from Districts and Independent schools across BC. Giant's Head Elementary, Trout Creek Elementary, Wiltse Elementary, Uplands Elementary, Summerland Middle, Queen's Park Elementary, Columbia Elementary, Naramata Elementary, Skaha Lake Middle and ConnectED will be taking part in this project. The "Making Learning Visible" concept is evidence that the Ministry, students, teachers and parents are excited about this type of reporting opportunity.

5. Action Items

5.1 Policy No. 312 - District Discipline Committee

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded.
That the Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education that Policy No. 312 - District Discipline Committee be approved in principle and forwarded to partner groups until December 9, 2015 for any suggestions for changes. CARRIED

5.2 Policy No. 471 - Copyright Laws

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded.
That the Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education that Policy No. 471 - Copyright Laws be approved in principle and forwarded to partner groups until December 9, 2015 for any suggestions for changes. CARRIED

6. Upcoming Policies

- Policy No. 211 - Distribution of Materials to Students
- Policy No. 212 - Trespassers on School Property
- Policy No. 230 - School Response for Critical Incidents
- Policy No. 240 - Parent Advisory Councils
- Policy No. 300 - Student Registration
- Policy No. 317 - Harassment/ Threats/Intimidation/Racial Prejudice/Violence
- Policy No. 322 - Work Experience Programs
- Policy No. 340 - Graduation Functions - Secondary Schools
- Policy No. 440 - Locally Developed Courses

7. Question Period

There were no questions brought forward.

Chair Johnson thanked Craig Reigh and Alison Reigh for attending on behalf of CUPE as well as Jan Ramsay for attending on behalf of the BCPVPA.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm.

MOTION: Duly moved and seconded.
That the Education Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED