



EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 4:00 P.M.
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
425 Jermyn Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT **Bruce Johnson, Chair**
Bill Bidlake, Trustee
Shelley Clarke, 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
Maureen Hayter, Director of Finance
Todd Manuel, Director of Instruction
Don MacIntyre, Director of Instruction
Jane Owen, Executive Assistant

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

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

CARRIED

3. **Presentations**

3.1 **Through a Different Lens**

Judith King thanked the committee for the opportunity to give an update on the Through a Different Lens initiative and that they were fortunate to continue with the work as they recently received a second grant. By continuing with this work, the team felt they needed to create a larger leadership team of people in order to grow the work broader and deeper within the district.

The plan was to have four inquiry groups involved. English First Peoples has continued with 110 students per year (one of the largest groups in the province). The team is also working with the Penticton Indian Band as well as School District No. 53.

Wendy Hyer then spoke about nominating the leadership team for the Cmolik Award. This award is due to a donation of \$50,000 from Simon Fraser University. A recipient from SFU won the award this year (SD67 came in second out of 48 teams). The school district will apply again next year as the TADL team is doing significant work that is greatly impacting students.

With the four inquiry groups, fifty teachers are working together with the ability to positively impact numerous teachers and students. Jeff Fitton team teaches with the groups and is looking forward to the positive results. Many teachers have mentioned that being a part of an inquiry group has allowed them to move forward in what they are doing – what they had wished to do all along – grow people! Focusing on their personal growth with their students allows the work to be more meaningful.

Naryn Searcy spoke about the English First Peoples and her satisfaction in teaching the course for three years, partnering with many groups in the community and building strong relationships. Students are more comfortable bringing up issues that they may have been silent about. A sense of Aboriginal history and having the opportunity to get to know past stories has been an important part of these relationships. Moving students outside of the classroom, teaching other skills and allowing students to be creative has been an effective way of proving that this does work and learning can happen in a different way.

Judith mentioned another highlight is working with PIB to produce posters of role models in the community and partnering with SD53 for sharing ideas and resources. All in all it is an exciting time to focus on students and teachers.

Chair Johnson thanked everyone for their commitment and commented how seamlessly this work could be adapted into the new curriculum.

3.2 New K to 9 Curriculum

Chair Johnson welcomed Kirsten Odian to present about the new curriculum and the important work being prepared within the district.

Ms. Odian described the concept of the Educated Citizen and how this concept was used to create a foundation of what we are seeing in the new curriculum today, tapping into what students are passionate about and translating that into real life. There are some fears that reading, writing and math may be put aside however, it is about having a balance.

The new curriculum's model outlines: Know | Understand | Do. The plan is organized around three core competencies: Communication Competency, Thinking Competency and Personal & Social Competency. The cores are foundational and uniquely represented in each area.

Kirsten spoke about one - the Communication Competency. Trustees were asked to review a handout and take part in the exercise.

The handout was an example of how people learn at different levels and that there is no wrong answer. Teachers worked together and they asked the question 'how as helping teachers can we support other teachers'? That's when they decided to go a different route in trying to infuse the new curriculum into what they were already doing. An informative website is being created so teachers can learn from each other. Focusing on that it is not about the curriculum but how they engage student learning. Kirsten reported that this is work under construction and is ever-changing.

Chair Johnson and Superintendent Hyer thanked Kirsten for all her hard work in the district.

3.3 Making Grading and Reporting Personalized at the High School Level

Chair Johnson welcomed Myron Dueck, Rachel Stubbert and Shona Becker.

Myron Dueck and a team of teachers have been working on what they call the SSS Experience – a trial reporting method. This inquiry is spreading beyond Summerland Secondary. Myron spoke about how important the core competencies are and that they have heard a lot about how businesses and universities are finding different ways in attracting people and it's not necessarily grade related.

The idea is to allow students to self-report. Teams have had many conversations on assessment and that students could look at their own work to assess on a scale whether they are a novice, apprentice or expert. Then this six point scale would have a number spread attached to it. For example, students could decide where they felt they were at, 30%, 40% or 45% - from there each fit with letter grades. Teachers reported that their gradebooks now look a lot different. Students are constantly getting feedback on where they are at for their goals. They are assessing themselves and self-reporting and this is what they look at when it is time to do report cards. They get a sense of where they are. Teachers are feeling this self-awareness is allowing students to push themselves forward with their learning. Teachers are excited about how this fits with the new curriculum and how this assessment has really aligned with the core principals of learning.

ASCD and Myron Dueck produced a DVD that touches on these key points.

4. Information Items

4.1 Artists in Education Grant Allocation for 2016-17

6. Upcoming Policies

Superintendent Hyer reported that the upcoming policies will be reviewed closer to the 2016-17 school year as time has not permitted with being engaged in numerous school closure and budget meetings.

- Policy No. 211 – Distribution of Materials to Students
- Policy No. 230 – School Response for Critical Incidents
- Policy No. 240 – Parent Advisory Councils
- Policy No. 300 – Student Registration
- Policy No. 322 – Harassment/Threats/Intimidation/Racial Prejudice/Violence
- Policy No. 440 – Locally Developed Courses

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

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

CARRIED