



EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 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**
Dave Burgoyne, Assistant Superintendent
Todd Manuel, Director of Instruction
Don MacIntyre, Director of Instruction
Jane Owen, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1 Play-Based Intervention in Kindergarten Project

Kirsten Odian, District Early Learning/Literacy Helping Teacher was welcomed and provided a presentation on the work that is being accomplished in the district at the Kindergarten level.

Kirsten called this project 'stepping stones to success', as teachers focus on laying a strong learning foundation for Kindergarten children. This is the second year this play-based intervention project has taken place (pilot was in 2014-15). Both administrators and teachers felt strongly about the successful work as it had an impact on oral language and phonemic awareness.

Teachers attended in-service to prepare for the pilot project. The outcome was focusing on learning through play. TTOC's were brought into the classroom to assist teachers. This allowed teachers to work hands-on with individual or small groups of Kindergarten students.

In March, the group did their baseline data screen to determine where Kindergarten students may need support. With this data, they were able to review where the gaps were to provide appropriate intervention.

Cohort data is collected and student progress will be monitored. This program is being funded by LIF.

Chair Johnson thanked Kirsten Odian for the excellent work she is doing in the district.

3.2 Discovering Cultural Identity

The committee welcomed Tammy Kay, Helping Teacher at Uplands Elementary for sharing her work with Cultural identity.

Upon moving from West Bench Elementary to Uplands Elementary, Ms. Kay undertook a personal appreciative inquiry. In moving to a new school environment, Ms. Kay noticed that demographics have changed in the school and that school has become more complex. She wanted to incorporate additional awareness of Aboriginal Education with not only her students, but various age groups in the school. With the assistance of teacher, Christi Bevington at Princess Margaret Secondary, they decided to work on Aboriginal awareness around language and resources and to incorporate that into their teaching.

They started First Nations culture & protocols through the high school and elementary students to expose students to cross curricular opportunities. The students watched films and read books about culture as well as met in groups of 4-8 students; older students with younger students.

The group met with parents at Theo's Greek Restaurant to share ideas and network on the Aboriginal culture. In depth dinner discussions took place, prompting some powerful reflective discussions. Parents and students were grateful for the awareness and sharing of knowledge. Overall feedback from parents was outstanding. Requests for resources and future book clubs developed due to these worthwhile collaborations.

Trustees thanked Tammy Kay for her remarkable work as they felt this awareness for students fits in well with the new curriculum.

3.3 Outdoor School - Naramata Elementary

Todd Lindsay, Principal of Naramata Elementary presented on the work with regards to Naramata's outdoor school.

As a staff, they decided to take advantage of the beautiful outdoor environment of Naramata. They wanted to develop a way that students could learn outside and to develop their physical environment and learn how to treat their environment. Outdoor learning increases motivation in student learning as well as helps students that have difficulty sitting long amounts of time. They decided to request assistance in how they would approach this concept, with local staff at the Naramata museum.

With help from the staff at the museum and assistance from Hoodoo Adventures, the students had six events, i.e. snowshoeing, read maps, compasses, ecology hikes, etc.,. They looked at what was around their environment and also learned about team building and problem solving.

While the staff enjoyed being outdoors with the children, they felt they needed to incorporate more curriculum into the outdoor school. With the help of eCommunity staff, they were able to incorporate curriculum and programs that offered an Aboriginal education perspective. As this was expensive, Mr. Lindsay applied for a grant and was fortunate to receive one to fund this informative program.

Students as well as staff have enjoyed learning about the importance and respect of the Aboriginal culture in so many ways. The entire experience has been engaging and an immense topic of conversation.

The trustees thanked Mr. Lindsay and his staff for being involved in this exciting work at Naramata Elementary.

4. Information Items

4.1 Cmolik Prize for the Enhancement of Public Education in BC

In November, Superintendent Hyer nominated the Through a Different Lens group for enhancing excellence in Education, the Cmolik prize for \$50,000. It is a prize awarded through SFU and Russ & Ellen Cmolik's (entrepreneurs) who are passionate about education and inspirations gained from their visits of other schools around the world. Of the 47 nominees the TADL team was shortlisted as one of the three top finalists for the

prize. While they did not receive the prize, the team did receive recognition by SFU for the innovative work they are doing in the district and were invited to an informative celebratory evening in Vancouver.

4.2 SD67 Year End Performances 2016

A detailed list of SD67 yearend performances were given to the trustees regarding Grad performances, family fun nights, events, etc., for their information.

4.3 Documentary Project - The Future of Physical Education

Previously in February, Dr. Dean Kriellaars, Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Manitoba visited the school district. Dr. Dean had been speaking about physical literacy, activity and spoke highly of the work staff are doing at SD67.

We are pleased to announce that Princess Margaret Secondary School has been selected to be highlighted regarding a documentary about the future of physical education. This documentary shows the valuable work that Maggie has been doing around physical education and developing programs in order to stay physically active. Princess Margaret Secondary also won the BC School Sports Outstanding School Award.

5. Upcoming Policies

Superintendent Hyer recommended that the upcoming policies be reviewed in September in the 2016-17 school year.

- 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

6. Question Period

James Miller from the Penticton Herald asked if the board would consider developing a LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer|Questioning) Policy as other districts in the province have done.

Chair Johnson suggested the Education Committee could look at reviewing this request in the 2016-17 school year.

7. Adjournment

Chair Johnson thanked everyone for attending and for their efforts in the incredible work being achieved in the district.

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

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.