1. CALL TO ORDER
The Chair will call the meeting to order and recognizes that tonight’s meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw people.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

3. DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

4. CHANGE IN ORDER

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
6.1 Minutes - November 5, 2014
That the minutes of the Education Committee meeting held November 5, 2014 be adopted.
[02 - Nov 05 14.pdf]

7. PRESENTATIONS
7.1 Derek Degear
RE: District Policy for Continuous Improvement of Instruction and Assessment
[AssessmentPresentation.pdf]

8. LEARNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
John Blain, Deputy Superintendent

8.1 Learning Services Portfolios

8.2 District Wide Assessment

9. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
9.1 Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) correspondence referred from December 17, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
Mr. Ball, President, NDTA
Nanaimo District Teachers’ Association (NDTA)
RE: Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)
[NDTA FSA Correspondence.pdf]
10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Discussion of goals for the Education Committee and Stakeholders

12. QUESTION PERIOD
Questions from the audience must be submitted in writing and given to the Board’s Executive Assistant (Kelsey Toye) for submission to the Chair. The question period is intended to enable the public to obtain clarifying information regarding a current agenda item.

*Forms are available in the information rack near the entrance of the Board Room*

13. ADJOURNMENT
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2014

PRESENT:
Trustees
K. Howland, Chair
D. Allen
B. Bard
J. Brennan
N. Curley
D. Neary
B. Robinson
T. Saunders
S. Welch

Staff
D. Hutchinson, Superintendent/CEO
J. Blain, Deputy Superintendent
D. Reimer, Director of Communications
C. Kelt, Executive Assistant

Meeting No. E02

ABSENT
S. Iverson, NDTA Rep
J. Smith, CUPE Rep
D. McGonigle, NSAA Rep
C. McKay, DPAC Rep

IN ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER
The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and recognized that tonight’s meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw people.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
There were no additions to the Agenda this evening.

DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
There were no deletions to the Agenda this evening.

CHANGE IN ORDER
There was no change in order to the Agenda this evening.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Brennan
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Curley
Folio E14/11/06-01
That the Agenda be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Bard
It was seconded by Trustee Saunders

That the minutes of the Education Committee meeting held October 1, 2014 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATIONS

Michelle Cruickshank, Manager
Community Development for
Special Olympics BC

Michelle Cruikshank from Special Olympics British Columbia made a presentation about their program. This program provides high-quality programs and competition opportunities that help people with intellectual disabilities celebrate personal achievement. The organization has several youth programs, starting with a focus on developing basic motor skills, and progressing to sport skill development and sport training.

Special Olympics BC said they would like to work with the district to develop and implement unique physical activity programs for students with special needs. The Education Committee is recommending that staff be asked to consider starting Special Olympics programs in schools.

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Saunders
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Brennan

That the Special Olympics presentation be moved to New Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Dr. Lloyd Mah, Chair
Eye See..Eye Learn
BC Association of Optometrists

Dr. Lloyd Mah, spoke to the Education Committee about the Eye See . . . Eye Learn program, which is sponsored by the B.C. Association of Optometrists. This program is designed to help remove barriers to children’s academic and developmental success by providing diagnosis of eye and vision problems at an early age. The program encourages families of Kindergarten students to visit an optometrist for an eye exam. The exam and any glasses prescribed are at no cost, either through the parents’ insurance or through the program. Currently the program is being promoted in six school districts in B.C.
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Brennan  
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Allen  
Folio  
E14/11/05-04  
That the Eye See..See Eye presentation be moved to New Business.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  

LEARNING SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT  

Deputy-Superintendent's Report  
Mr. Blain provided the Education Committee with a report on class sizes in schools this fall. He said that all of the 148.5 intermediate class divisions in the district have 30 or fewer students. All 174.5 primary divisions also meet all class size requirements. At the secondary level, 792.5 classes have 30 or fewer students, with 40 classes exceeding 30 students because they have been organized on a rationale of program support, for such classes as band, theatre, or distance learning, as allowed by class size legislation.

Enrolment Update  
Mr. Blain provided the Education Committee with a report on class sizes in schools this fall. He said that all of the 148.5 intermediate class divisions in the district have 30 or fewer students. All 174.5 primary divisions also meet all class size requirements. At the secondary level, 792.5 classes have 30 or fewer students, with 40 classes exceeding 30 students because they have been organized on a rationale of program support, for such classes as band, theatre, or distance learning, as allowed by class size legislation.

DPAC Anti-Bullying Campaign Update  
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch  
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Bard  
Folio  
E14/11/05/-05  
That the Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) that the original motion from June 25th to commit a minimum of $15,000 from the 2014-2015 Operating Budget for the School District 68 Anti-Bullying Campaign.

Trustee Bard left the meeting at 7:33 pm.
Motion to Amend  
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Neary  
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Allen  
Folio  
E14/11/05-06  
That the motion be amended to include “contingent on the co-sponsorship and support of CUPE & NDTA.  
Opposed by Trustees Welch, Saunders, Robinson, Brennan, Robinson and Howland  
Defeated

Motion to Amend  
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Brennan  
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Saunders  
Folio  
E14/11/05-07  
That the motion be amended to “a maximum of $15,000”  
Opposed by Trustee Welch  
CARRIED

On the Main Motion as Amended  
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch  
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Bard  
Folio  
E14/11/05-08  
That the Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) that the original motion from June 25th to commit a maximum of $15,000 from the 2014-2015 Operating Budget for the School District 68 Anti-Bullying Campaign.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE  
REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
There was no correspondence referred to the Education Committee from the October Board Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
There was no Unfinished Business on the Agenda this evening.

NEW BUSINESS  
There was no New Business on the Agenda this evening.

QUESTION PERIOD  
There were no questions this evening.
Draft Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held November 5, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Brennan
IT WAS SECONDED BY Trustee Robinson

Folio
E14/11/05-09

That the Education Committee Meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm
Below are selections taken from district communications on assessment in our district:

DATE: June 17, 2011  
TO: The Board of Education  
SUBJECT: Assessment and Accountability Task Force Recommendations  
“Following extensive conversations, the Task Force has agreed upon the following statements of belief:  
- The purpose of the assessment must be clear, transparent and respected;  
- Both formative and summative assessment practices are necessary to support student learning;  
- The summative structures of the BC Performance Standards and report cards are key indicators at the school and district level and should be utilized to assess achievement and progress of students and specific programs and initiatives.”

From: Cathy Kelt  
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 10:02 AM  
Subject: Notice of Motion - Policy 1.8  
“The attached draft Policy – 1.8 The Continuous Improvement of Instruction and Assessment was approved to be sent out as a Notice of Motion at last week’s Board Meeting. Please distribute this to your staff.  

If there are any comments and/or suggestions please forward them to me by June 23rd.  

This policy will be on the June 26th Board Agenda.”

November 12, 2013  
From: David Hutchinson  
To All District Staff  
“In August of 2013, the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Board of Education adopted a district policy on the Continuous Improvement of Instruction and Assessment.”

Full documents and additional communications can be provided on request.
March 3, 2014
From: Darlene Crane
To: Member of District Assessment Review Committee

“The Department of Learning Services and Superintendent both have validated our work and our recommendations.”

“For grades four through nine, the assessment review committee recommends that the district design a common formative assessment as opposed to adopting either the RAD or the DART.”

November 27, 2014
From: David Hutchinson
To: All Teaching Staff

“Last year, the Board approved a policy on The Continuous Improvement of Instruction and Assessment.”

“To clarify, all K-3 teachers are expected to administer the Primary Years Literacy Assessment, and all Grades 4-9 teachers are expected to administer either the RAD or DART literacy assessments, as per the attached 2014-2015 school year schedule.”

Board Governance Policy 1.7
Continuous Improvement of Instruction and Assessment

(1.0) “Results of provincial assessments should be communicated to participating learners in order to facilitate personal growth and goal setting.”

Full documents and additional communications can be provided on request.
Steve Rae, Chair  
School District 68 Board of Education  
395 Wakesiah Road  
Nanaimo, BC,  
V9R 3K6  

Dear Mr. Rae  

Re: Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA)  

The annual round of FSA testing is set to begin once again on January 15, 2015. The BCTF and the NDTA are opposed to these tests for many reasons and have shared these views with the Ministry of Education, previous Boards, and District Administration each year. The use of the assessments by the Fraser Institute to rank schools is particularly insidious and destructive to the Public Education System in BC. Due to concerns about the validity of the data generated by the FSAs, we believe that they are not used for any valid purpose in our individual schools, and are therefore a waste of six or more hours of valuable class time.  

The NDTA will once again have teachers send brochures home with students to inform parents/caregivers about our specific concerns regarding the FSA. The brochure also encourages parents to request that the school principal excuse their child from the tests. In past years principals have contacted the parent, challenging the parent right to withdraw their child from the testing, and have insisted that the student must complete the testing. In other cases, requests have simply been ignored, leaving parents confused and angry.  

We are asking the Board to respect and honour all parent requests to exclude their child from FSA testing. We request that the Board direct Senior Management to honour these requests. The NDTA feels strongly that parents should not feel pressured to have their children write these tests.  

Included with this letter is a copy of a Vancouver School Board’s 2011 letter to parents of students in grades 4 and 7. In the letter the VSB makes it clear that they “respect the right and responsibility of parents and students to determine whether or not the student’s participation in the FSA is in the best interest of the student.” The NDTA requests that this Board send a similar letter home with our students in School District 68.  

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,  

Mike Ball, President  
Nanaimo District Teachers’ Association  

pc:  
Dave Hutchinson, Superintendent  
Kerry Richardson, BCTF
To the Parents and Guardians of Students in Grades 4 and 7

As the Board of Education Trustees for School District No. 39 (Vancouver), we wish to communicate our perspective on parent choice regarding student participation in the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) testing program. The FSA is given to all BC students in Grade 4 and Grade 7 each year to assess basic knowledge and skills in reading, writing and numeracy. As a provincially prescribed program all Grade 4 and Grade 7 students are expected to participate in the FSA.

We believe strongly in the importance of effective assessment, which includes testing, to inform and guide student learning and instruction. We are therefore committed to developing and using various assessment instruments and practices that provide a combined picture of each student’s performance.

As a Board, we respect the right and responsibility of parents and students to determine whether or not the student’s participation in the FSA is in the best interest of the student. We therefore support the Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) executive’s position that:

"...it is up to each family, considering what they know about their student(s) and think is in their best interest to decide whether or not their children should participate."

Facts about the FSA

- FSA is a set of three tests. It covers specific reading, writing and numeracy skills in the provincial curriculum.

- FSA measures skills students gain over several school years, not only in a single year.

- The reading and numeracy tests consist of multiple-choice questions and written answers. The writing section has two writing tasks—one shorter and one longer.

- FSA scores are not letter grades or percentages; they do not count towards students’ report card marks.

- Other FSA information is available at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa, and on the BCCPAC website at www.bccpac.bc.ca.

Board of School Trustees:
Patti Bocbus - Chairperson
Jane Bouey - Vice-Chairperson
Allan Blakey Ken Clement Ken Denike
Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi
Allan Wong
Participation guidelines

- Principals determine if students are excused from one, two or all three FSA components based on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and English-as-Second Language (ESL) proficiency. Parents must be advised of these.

- Parents may request the principal excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances.

Request to Excuse a Student from Participating

As a parent or guardian, should you wish to request that a student be excused from participating in the 2011 FSA, please provide the following information and submit this document to the Principal of the student's school by Friday, January 14, 2011.

Student Name: ________________________________
Grade: ________________________________
Division: ________________________________
School: ________________________________

I am requesting that the above-mentioned student be excused from participating in the 2011 FSA due to (please check):

☐ Family emergency
☐ Illness
☐ Extenuating circumstance: ________________________________

Signed: ________________________________

Parent / guardian Date

Print name

Please note: A student who is excused from participating will be marked “absent” during the testing period. His or her standing on the test will be recorded as "performance level unknown".

Should you have questions or points you wish to raise concerning the above information, please direct these to the Principal of the school involved.

Sincerely,

Patti Bacchus
Chairperson