THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD MARCH 2, 2011

PRESENT:
Trustees - Voting
J. Brennan, Chair
R. Dale
S. Welch

Staff
M. Munro, Superintendent/CEO
F. Frisson, Assistant Superintendent
C. Southwick, Assistant Superintendent
D. Reimer, Director of Communications
C. Kelt, Executive Assistant

NOT VOTING

ABSENT

IN ATTENDANCE
J. Green, NDTA Rep
R. Farino, CUPE Rep
C. Lintott, NSAA Rep

Meeting No. E7

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 Dale
Folio
E11/03/01-01
That the Agenda be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dale
Folio
E11/03/02-02
That the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held February 9, 2011 be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Gordon Graham, Teacher, Dover Bay Eco Club

The Dover Bay Eco Club made a presentation about their school’s environmental initiatives.

The students showed committee members the video that the club produced to showcase recycling and other environmental projects at Dover Bay. The video was part of the school’s entry for a contest sponsored by Staples Canada – a contest in which the Dover Bay Eco Club took first place in Canada, winning $50,000 in computer equipment for the school.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE - Report from Ms. Frisson and Ms. Southwick

Fine Arts Programs

The Education Committee received an update on performing arts programs in the district from Ms. Frisson.

- The Woodlands Secondary choir performed several musical selections for the committee.
- Of the 31 elementary schools in the district, 18 schools have a band program with almost 1,000 Grades 5, 6 and 7 students enrolled. Eleven schools have a music program.
- In secondary schools, there are 30 blocks of dance, 39 blocks of drama, 36 blocks of band, 3 blocks of choir and 2 blocks of musical theatre.
- Dover Bay has 125 students registered in the Performing Arts Academy.
- Wellington has 183 students registered in the Jazz Academy.
- Secondary schools throughout the district scheduled almost 150 performing arts special events in the past 12 months. These include concerts, competitions, theatre productions, festivals and performances for feeder schools.

Ms. Shelley Belezny, District Coordinator Literacy, Learning and Instructional Support

RE: Student Achievement Graduation Rates

Ms. Belezny, District Coordinator of Literacy, Learning and Instructional Support, gave a presentation to the Committee about some promising new initiatives in schools. She said that in order to make a difference for today’s students, teachers and schools need time to learn, build teams and find ways to use
technology to bring people together to share knowledge. She said we have what we need to improve student achievement, but we just have to find a way to connect the parts.

CORRESPONDENCE
REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There was no correspondence referred to the Education Committee from the February Board Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Strategies for Registrations and Transfers

The following motion was referred to the Education Committee from the Board of Education.

Folio SB10/10/13-02 That the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) asks the Education Committee to have discussions that could look at strategies to ensure registrations and transfers at schools are done within acceptable time lines.

The Committee reviewed the district’s current policies and practices for the registration of students for the new school year. Committee members made suggestions about ways to enhance the information communicated to parents. As well, there was a discussion about French Immersion registration, which is a topic that is likely to be addressed in the current French Immersion review process.

NEW BUSINESS

VISTA

At the VISTA meeting, held February 5, 2011, the following motion was passed.

“That VISTA request member boards to forward to VISTA their district’s definition & vision for 21st Century/Personalized learning to inform discussion at the next VISTA meeting.”

Ms. Parker, VISTA President, requests that each district send their definition and vision for 21st century/personalized learning to her by March 31 so the VISTA executive can plan for discussion at the next VISTA meeting. Trustees at the meeting believed it was important for boards to have this discussion, if they have not already.
“That BCSTA advise the Minister of Education that change in public education for the 21st century will be enthusiastically embraced if that change:

1. has at its foundation the importance of positive relationships, particularly for students, and also among individuals and groups at all levels;

2. is based on a vision developed through a collaborative process;

3. recognizes and builds on the existing strengths and successes of BC’s public schools;

4. is purposeful in enhancing the public system and deepening the democratic governance of public education;

5. is adequately resourced.”

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch

Folio
E11/03/02-03

The Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith endorses VISTA’s five points and requests that the deadline be extended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dale

Folio
E11/03/02-04

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.