THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2011

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

NOT VOTING
N. Allen
D. Murchie
D. Neary

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

Meeting No. E3

ABSENT
J. Smith CUPE Rep
H. Tarasewich, DPAC Rep
C. Lintott, NSAA Rep

IN ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER
The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and recognizes 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.

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

CHANGE IN ORDER
There was no change in order to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch
Folio
E11/11/09-01
That the Agenda be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch
Folio
E11/11/09-02
That the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held October 12, 2011 be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Wanda Erickson
Special Education Students

There were no presentations this evening.

Ms. Wanda Erikson spoke to the Education Committee about ways she would like to see schools improve their support of students with neurological disorders.

- Allow students with neurological disorders to participate in special events such as Halloween.
- Don’t send students with neurological disorders home when they can’t meet certain behavioral standards.
- Engage parents in a discussion about how schools can better work with students with neurological disorders.
- Carry out a performance audit on the services schools are delivering to children with neurological disorders.
- Look at the connection between people who are homeless and people with neurological disorders.

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

Achievement Updates

Chair Brennan advised the Committee that the Chair of the Education Committee will be invited to sit on the Aboriginal Education Committee.

Ms. Southwick distributed an Educational Update from her and Ms. Frisson. She said that they would provide a written report each month.

Ms. Frisson and Ms. Southwick gave the Committee an update on several educational topics in the school district.

They said that in an effort to improve literacy achievement in the district, five schools in which a significant percentage of Grade 1 students were not meeting expectations by the end of the last school year are participating in a Grade 2 literacy project.

The Assistant Superintendents reported that the district is currently in the process of hiring additional teachers-on-call in the areas of
secondary math and science, French Immersion and elementary generalists. In addition, an updated hiring process is being developed with the intention of hiring the very best teachers for the district.

A new Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement has been developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal communities and will be officially signed on December 1.

At the end of November the district will be hosting its first Level 1 Threat Assessment Training led by the district's own Threat Assessment Team.

The Assistant Superintendents are visiting Kindergarten classrooms in the district for the purpose of gathering information about the facilities available in each classroom.

The Committee previewed the new elementary report card system, which is web-based.

CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There was no correspondence referred from the October Board Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business on the Agenda this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Year-Round Schooling

The committee reviewed information about year-round education.

- A literature and research review of year-round education by Elizabeth A. Palmer and Amy E. Bemis looks at the advantages and disadvantages of year-round education.

- A guide to year-round education outlines the different types of programs.

- A BCTF annotated bibliography and synthesis of the research looks at the question of whether year-round schools
improve student learning.

The discussion of the topic centered around whether there might be educational benefits to a year-round calendar.

**IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dale**

E11/11/09-03

That the Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) that the year-round calendar be referred to the Board's strategic planning process.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Trades Training for the 21st Century - Positioning the District for the Ship Building Industry**

The Committee members reviewed the new Best Practices Guide published by the B.C. Technology Education Association. Topics discussed included safety of students in technology education classes, class sizes relative to the amount of space in a school shop, teacher qualifications and the need for education assistants to have training when they are supporting a student who is enrolled in a technology education class.

**IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dale**

E11/11/09-04

That the Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) that it supports the immediate establishment of a provincial advisory committee as recommended in the Best Practices Guide in the BC Technology Education Association through BCSTA.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dale**

E11/11/09-05

That the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) refers to staff the Best Practices Guide from the BC Technology Education Association for consideration by the Secondary Task Force in Nanaimo.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions this evening.
ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dale Folio

E11/11/09-06 That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.