THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011
immediately following the Special Board Meeting
BOARD ROOM

A G E N D A

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 - October 14, 2011
   That the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held September 14, 2011 be approved.

7. PRESENTATIONS
   7.1 Dorothy Watchman - Books for Kids
   Helen Fall
7.2 A Day Made Better
Jane Saunders - Davis Road Teacher

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

9. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

9.1 Community Members - RE: Education Assistants

Referred from the September 28th Board Meeting

The Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) receives and refers the correspondence from the community members regarding education assistants to the Education Committee.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Aboriginal Education Committee - Update

12. FOR INFORMATION

12.1 Balanced Calendar

13. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions from the audience must be submitted in writing and given to the Board’s Executive Assistant (Cathy Kelt) 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
Please note that the proceedings of this meeting are being recorded to assist in the preparation of the minutes of the meeting. The recording of this meeting are records of the School District, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and as such may be the subject of access requests under the Act.

14. ADJOURNMENT
THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

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

NOT VOTING

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

ABSENT

IN ATTENDANCE

Meeting No. E1

CALL TO ORDER
The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and recognized that tonight’s meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw people.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
Proposed Cell Tower - Cedar was added to New Business as item 11.2

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
That the Agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Folio
E11/09/14-01

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch
That the Minutes of the June 8th, 2011 Education Committee meeting be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Folio
E11/09/14-02

PRESENTATIONS
There were no presentations this evening.
EDUCATIONAL UPDATE -
Report from Ms. Frisson and Ms. Southwick

All Day Kindergarten

Ms. Southwick told the Committee that this year, ten schools started the full-day Kindergarten program, joining the 19 other schools that started the program last year. The district held a forum in May for the schools that had the program last year, in order to collect tips and advice for the schools that are starting the program this year. Over the summer, the district moved portables to create space in buildings for full-day Kindergarten at four schools, and conversion work was done at a number of other schools.

Ms. Southwick also gave the Committee preliminary information on enrolment. She said that the preliminary enrolment numbers show an increase over projections of about 130 elementary students, while secondary enrolment is very close to projections. Because the district is receiving funding protection this year from the Ministry of Education, the higher-than-projected enrolment does not result in any additional funding.

Threat Assessment Update

Ms. Frisson told the Committee that five years ago, the district started training staff in threat assessment procedures. Now, all administrators and a number of counsellors have received level one training and many have received level two training. This summer, four district staff members received the necessary training so that they can now provide level one and two training sessions themselves. The value of a threat assessment program is that it is a tool that addresses student behavior issues on a variety of levels.

CORRESPONDENCE
REFERRED FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There was no correspondence referred from the August Board Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Teaching the Khan Way

Committee members saw a video about teaching the Khan way which uses technology, including videos, that allows students to proceed at their own pace. The Committee discussed the applications that such a program might have in schools.

Cell Tower - Cedar

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Dale

Folio E11/09/14-03

The Education Committee recommends to the Board of Education that it write to Telus demanding/requesting construction of a proposed cell phone tower to be a safe distance from schools in sub-divisions in the Cedar Community.

Motion to Refer

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch

Folio E11/09/14-04

That the motion be referred to the Facilities Planning Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED BY Trustee Welch

Folio E11/09/14-05

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.
A Day Made Better
Jane Saunders - Davis Road Teacher
Ms. Shaan Welch

Dear Sir or Madam,

July 21, 2011

We are writing to you to express our concern about decisions to reallocate educational funds in our school district. We understand that a recent audit has led to changes to the number of Education Assistants (EAs) planned for our school. Children with clusters of learning challenges are not considered eligible to generate funds to provide EA hours. In our district children with ASDs will only generate 7.5 hours of EA time instead of 12.5 hours.

Fewer EAs in the school will mean less help for the most vulnerable learners in our classrooms. Other students (usually several others) who need assistance but did not meet criteria for “designation” will also suffer directly as a result of these changes. This includes children with ADHD, Developmental Coordination Disorder, learning disabilities, behaviour and socioeconomic challenges and combinations of these. Children of average and above average abilities will be negatively affected as their teachers resources are stretched even thinner than before.

Many children with learning challenges need additional help and do not qualify for it under the present arrangement. The process for obtaining a designation is complex, challenging, time consuming and overwhelming for most parents. How can a child with a learning disability, never mind a cluster of learning challenges, be denied the support that he or she needs?

Denying support to these children represents a step backwards.

We have chosen to accommodate all learners in our education system, and this “Inclusive Model” requires adequate resources, both human and financial. All of our children have the right to a quality education, with sufficient funding and appropriate staffing to meet their needs.

Please do what you can to increase the funding to a level that will meet the educational needs of all students in the public education system. Further, support measures to foster the maintenance and development of our “Inclusive model” system. Students with learning challenges are starting out with a huge disadvantage. The playing field must be leveled, not made steeper against those who will already struggle harder. These children deserve educational support, and they need it! It will benefit the education system, and society as a whole if we can help these individuals to reach their potential.

The definition of “special needs” needs to be broadened. Funds need to be found to help children with learning challenges. We need our EAs back at school.

I am sending this letter to the Ministry of Education, our local MLA, and our local school district.

Thank you for your consideration,

cc: Min Ed G Abbott, MLAs L Krog, R Centelon, SD #68 M Munro, P Turin, S

School District No. 68
Nanaimo-Ladysmith
Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

July 11, 2011

Copies to:
2011 - 2012 Glendale Year Round School Calendar

Curriculum Implementation Day
School Opening Day
Professional Development Day
Thanksgiving Day
Professional Development Day
Parent-Teacher Interview Days
Not In Session Days (NIS)
Remembrance Day
Winter Vacation Period
Schools Re-open after Winter Vacation
Professional Development Day
Professional Development Day
Good Friday
Easter Monday
Spring Holidays
School Re-open after Spring Vacation
Professional Development Day
Victoria Day
Canada Day Stat
Not In Session Days (NIS)
Last Day of Classes
Administrative Day
Holidays

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School District 27, Cariboo-Chilcotin

http://www.sd27.bc.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5707&Itemid=118   10/7/2011