Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Location: Brooklyn Elementary School
Address: 1290 Guthrie Road, Comox BC
6:30 pm

Members:

Committee Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay	✓
Board Chair, Tom Weber, Area B/Lazo North	✓
Trustee, Ian Hargreaves, Puntledge, Black Creek	✓
Trustee, Sheila McDonnell, Baynes Sound (Denman/Hornby Islands)	✓
Trustee, Clifford Boldt, City of Courtenay	✓
Trustee, Peter Coleman, Town of Comox	✓
Trustee, Vickey Brown, Village of Cumberland	✓
Superintendent, Sherry Elwood	✓
Assistant Superintendent, Tom Demeo	✓
Director of Instruction (Elementary Curriculum) Allan Douglas	✓
Director of Instruction (Student Services) Esther Shatz	✓

A G E N D A

1.   Brooklyn Update   Lisa Scheck, Principal

Lisa Scheck presented an overview of the start-up at Brooklyn. Based on the concepts learned at last years' Imaginal Learning Workshop, a group of staff met over the summer with the goal of creating a different learning experience for the students at the start of the year.

This group decided to plan a learning adventure based around the concept of "Brooklyn the Village". The students were divided into 3 cohorts:

- the primary cohort grades 1-3 looked at Brooklyn, present;
- the grade 4-5 group studied Brooklyn, the past; and
- the grade 6-7 cohort looked at Brooklyn, the future.

Teachers in the school were divided into cohorts as well. Each staff member designed activities for the cohort and students were able to rotate through the activities designed for their respective cohort.

The learning adventure culminated with a presentation to parents, staff and students.

Staff commented that this experience was one of the best, least stressful start-ups to a school they had ever experienced. Many teachers mentioned that they appreciated being able to work with all students in a cohort not just one class.

The students enjoyed the variety of learning activities they were able to participate in as well as a chance to work with other students on projects.

2.   **Aboriginal Education Update**   Bruce Carlos, District Principal

Bruce Carlos gave an update on many of the current activities and initiatives which are occurring in our Aboriginal Education Centre.

Bruce also presented an overview of SD 71's involvement in the support of the journey towards reconciliation.

Some of the initiatives district staff have been part of include:

- 3rd year as provincial leaders in the *Orange Shirt* day campaign;
- sharing TRC information / posters with schools to be displayed and for use by students;
- attended regional sessions regarding Aboriginal world views and perspectives;
- participation in the Projects of Hearts;
- developed and created teacher in-service models;
- sent district teams to the St. Michael's decommissioning ceremony;
- presented at BCSSA/FNESC and Nanaimo conferences;
- developing presentations with Elders;
- working with schools in teaching about reconciliation.

We are proud of all the great work our Aboriginal Education department accomplishes not only locally for our staff and students, but also their influence on a provincial level.

3.   **Oxford Video Presentation**   Peter Coleman, Trustee (Town of Comox)

Trustee Peter Coleman shared a video which he presented at a session in Oxford. The focus of the video is "*Why is this (SD 71) a good school system*?" The video once again reminded us of the many great things going on in our district.

4.   **Heart and Minds Update**   Doug David and Jay Bridges

Doug David and Jay Bridges presented highlights of their recent trip to the *Design for Change* Conference. They also shared some of the projects/activities which are occurring in our district. Their passion and enthusiasm for this project was very evident. They thanked the Board for the opportunities they have been given and the support they have received as they continue to educate our students on how each one of us can become agents of change.

Next Education Committee Meeting:

✚   **DATE**:   Tuesday, November 10, 2015
     TIME: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
     LOCATION: Valley View Elementary School