



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12:00 pm, Wednesday, October 9, 2024
School Board Office

NOTES

Present: Jaclyn Miller, Rob Hill, Dale Lawson, Maureen Mason

Also in attendance: Vianne Kintzinger (Interim Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

Regrets: Kirsten Van't Schip

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by D. Lawson, who chaired in J. Miller's absence as she was arriving late.

MOVED: R. HILL

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda of October 9, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. STANDING COMMITTEES

2.a) Finance and Facilities

2.a.i) Quarterly Financial Summary

S. Hopkins presented the quarterly financial summary, noting that the report was consistent with the previous year. A more detailed financial discussion will occur in future meetings. Trustees requested clarification on items listed under the "services" line. S. Hopkins explained that this line item includes software costs, administrative travel, governance expenses, and core supplies.

2.b) Education and Strategic Planning

2.b.i) School Growth Plans

V. Kintzinger reviewed a summary of school growth plan highlights, which was included in the agenda package. She emphasized that the plans are purposefully aligned with the strategic plan and are largely connected to the Board's goals of

cultivating connection and supporting an ethic of learning. While some areas of growth that support additional strategic plan goals may not be explicitly recognized in the plans, schools are actively engaged in these areas.

Common themes across the school growth plans include:

- Focus on literacy.
- Increasing connections within schools and with the broader community.
- Prioritizing mental health and wellness.
- Adopting numeracy goals as literacy strengths improve.

It was noted that school growth plans are live documents, with some still in progress—this is typical across the province. School growth plans will be presented to the Board during regular meetings throughout the year. The schedule will be included in the board work plan.

Regarding sustainability goals, V. Kintzinger acknowledged that while many sustainability activities are ongoing, they may not be explicitly outlined in the plans. She will bring this to administration's attention, as setting measurable goals in some areas can be challenging. There may also be an opportunity to add a question to the Ministry survey to gather data on these efforts.

Trustees suggested shifting presentations that were scheduled at the end of the school year to an earlier date, combining presentations if necessary.

2.b.ii) Proposed Program Review Cycle

V. Kintzinger presented a cycle of program review for consideration by the board. The board supported the cycle and requested an adjustment to the review date for Inclusive Education, with a presentation in April of May.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the proposed Program Review Cycle.

2.b.iii) Graduation Program Planning

A. Burt provided an overview of graduation planning, reviewing ministry-approved graduation pathways for students.

The K-9 curriculum is standardized, but from grades 10-12, there are more opportunities for personalization and flexibility, following a student-centered design for the graduation program. The three main graduation pathways are:

- Dogwood Diploma: Requires a minimum of 80 credits, along with specific assessments. Additional guidelines apply for students pursuing dual diplomas (e.g., French Immersion).
- Adult Dogwood: For students who complete 80% of the program after turning 18. Some credits may be earned through post-secondary education or work experience.
- Evergreen Certificate: A celebration of completion for students who do not meet the formal graduation requirements. However, students receiving an Evergreen Certificate are considered non-graduates in the official graduation assessments

The BC course curriculum offers a wide variety of options, but it can be challenging to deliver all courses in smaller communities. Schools strive to meet community needs and interests.

- BAA Courses: Locally developed courses that address needs not covered by the standard BC curriculum.
- External and Equivalency Credits: Credits earned for courses taken outside the traditional BC school system.

The course selection process is driven by student goals and needs, with decisions based on student interest. Courses are selected in the prior school year, with a small window at the beginning of the current school year for adjustments. To create the course selection list, students are surveyed about their interests. The Career Pathways Coordinator works to identify local needs and goals, and if there's student interest and a teacher willing to lead, the development of a BAA course may be considered

2.b.iv) Child Care Program at Henderson Elementary

R. Rainbow provided an update on the district's decision to reinstate the child care program at Henderson Elementary. He also noted that in future years, pre-kindergarten families will be included in surveys regarding the sustainability of child care programs at schools.

2.c) Audit

2.c.i) N/A

2.d) Policy Development

2.d.i) N/A

3. OTHER INFORMATION

3.a) Election Advocacy – Draft Letter to Party Candidates

Trustees reviewed a draft advocacy letter to party candidates and provided feedback. Comments included:

- Rather than asking for "targeted funding," it was suggested to change the language to "targeted strategies and funding," emphasizing responsiveness to community needs rather than advocating for specific funding streams.
- For the section on teacher training, the phrase "expanding teacher training programs" should be revised to: "...expand teacher training and programs for educational professionals.

3.b) South Coast Branch Advocacy Discussion

This item was deferred to the November meeting when K. Van't Schip will be available to present her notes.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: R. HILL

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

STATUS: CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.

SH/attachments