



**COAST MOUNTAINS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 82**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

**HYBRID MEETING
BEAR VALLEY SCHOOL
IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023
5:00 P.M.**

MEETING HANDOUT:

Agenda Item #11.2.1 – Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting, June 7, 2023 Pages 1-11



EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 – 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Committee Members:

- Trustee Karen Jonkman (Chairperson)
- Joslyn Bagg, Co-President, Coast Mountain Teachers' Federation (CMTF representative)
- Aaron Callaghan, Superintendent of Schools
- Robert Clifton, Director of Instruction, Indigenous Education
- Geraldine Lawlor, Director of Instruction, Graduation & Innovation
- Geoff McKay, District Technical Skills Administrator, Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre (CMAA representative)
- Julia Nieckarz, Director of Instruction, Learner Support
- Shannon Ridsdale, Education Coordinator, Hagwilget Nation (First Nations representative)
- Trustee Julia Sundell
- Trustee Margaret Warcup

Regrets:

- Monica Brady, President, CUPE Local 2052 (CUPE representative)
- Trustee Wayne Jones
- Sandy Kenmuir, Vice Principal, Thornhill Primary School (CMAA representative)
- Marian Kotowich-Laval, Education Coordinator, Kitsumkalum Nation (First Nations representative)
- Angie Maitland, Director of Education, Haisla Nation (First Nations representative)

Guests:

- Phillip Barron, District Principal
- Trustee Mike Maxim
- Tina McDonald, District Vice Principal, Early Learning & Child Care
- Shawna Wilson, District Food Program Coordinator

Recording Secretary:

- Carole Gagnon, Executive Assistant

MEETING MINUTES

Items	Action
The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. chaired by Trustee Karen Jonkman, Education Committee Chairperson.	
1. Acknowledgement of the Territories, Introductions & Welcome	<p>Chairperson Jonkman acknowledged with respect the school district's business being conducted on the traditional territories of the Gitksan, Haisla, Nisga'a and Ts'mysen Peoples. We are honoured to work with their children and privileged to live, learn and play on this land.</p> <p>Committee members and meeting guests who joined the virtual meeting were welcomed followed by introductions. Regrets were extended by Chairperson Jonkman. Trustee Margaret Warcup (Board Chair and ex-officio) attended the meeting on behalf Trustee Wayne Jones, who was unable to attend the meeting.</p>

<p>1. Acknowledgement of the Territories, Introductions & Welcome <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>Chairperson Jonkman spoke to the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June is Indigenous History Month, a time to celebrate the diverse cultures, achievements and resilience of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples. Let's continue to listen and learn from their stories and histories as we collectively embrace Reconciliation. • June is Pride Month and Coast Mountains School District is bringing awareness to the LGBTQ2S+ community. During Pride Month we celebrate the diversity within gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation as we strive to create safe, inclusive and welcoming space for all learners! <p>Information only; no action required.</p>
<p>2. Previous Meeting Minutes, May 10, 2023</p>	<p>The meeting minutes of the previous Education Committee Meeting held on May 10, 2023 were received.</p> <p>Information only; no action required.</p>
<p>3. Food Programming in Coast Mountains School District</p>	<p>Superintendent Callaghan introduced and welcomed Shawna Wilson, District Food Program Coordinator to the Education Committee Meeting to present on the work she has been involved in since assuming this new school district role in January 2023. Shawna's role involves working on food securities and food programming throughout the school district with the added support of the province's Student & Family Affordability Fund. At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced a one-time grant to school districts to help make life more affordable for families who are facing financial challenges. Coast Mountains School District received a grant of \$510,045 to be used primarily to support healthy food programming and expenses related to school fees and supplies.</p> <p>Shawna shared her first task was to conduct an audit of all schools on their current food programs to gauge an overall view of the school district's operations. The audit criteria included the number of meals and foods provided, the number of students who took advantage of the food program versus the size of the school, capabilities of the kitchen and type of staff providing the food service. The audit reflected approx. 2,573 meals are prepared daily based on the 4,132 student enrolment for the 2023-2024 school year noting that all schools serve some short of food. Additionally, a survey was issued to Principals to help determine how the Student & Family Affordability Fund would be allocated. Principals prepared requests that were submitted to the Secretary Treasurer Fuller with an explanation of how they would use the funds to supplement their food programs. This fund provided 18 schools with a combined total budget of \$123,000.</p> <p>Shawna reported good news was received at a Farm to School Meeting she attended today, sharing the Coalition of Healthy Schools funding commitment will not end following the initial three-year commitment. Federal funding will be allocated to establish a National School Nutritious Meal Program which is a key element for evolving food policy for Canada.</p> <p>Additionally, the school district receives support from the Breakfast Club of Canada Pilot Project ending June 2023 where all schools were supplied with yogurt, Babybel cheese and mini rolls, Laughing Cow cheese, applesauce and oat bars. Although this Pilot Project is ending, the school district will continue receiving support in partnership with the Breakfast Club of Canada in the form of small kitchen equipment, waffle irons, which does not take into consideration the larger grants for commercial kitchens, stoves, griddles, etc.</p>

3. Food Programming in Coast Mountains School District *(continued)*

Shawna indicated a CMSD Food Programming Working Group was created that included 3 Principals/Vice Principals and herself with the purpose to improve the proposed CMSD82 School Nutrition Standards. The Working Group's goal is to create a healthy, stigma-free food environment for all students which can lead to improved school performance, improved attention span and improved behaviour and mood stabilization by:

- Increasing access to healthy food and drink.
- Limiting exposure to highly processed items.
- Providing tangible examples of what health meals consist of.

Shawna further shared some of the ideas discussed by the Working Group for future initiatives include school gardens, an option to pay what you can on a sliding scale (caregivers could help offset the program funding by paying anonymously to avoid stigmas), non-profit food society funds (helps schools expand their food program or a food program start-up), online ordering systems to help schools order their food instead of having somebody go out grocery shopping, etc. She noted each school operates their food program differently with their hope to simplify the process. Food grants and funds are being researched, such as the Farm to School grants for school gardens which she would like to start on that provide fresh vegetables for school salad bars for the summer months and vegetables can be frozen for the fall.

Superintendent Callaghan noted the connection of the Food Program initiatives to the District's Strategic Plan around student health and well-being. He further extended his thanks to Shawna for presenting to the Education Committee sharing the important work she has been doing regarding food programming in CMSD. Shawna's presentation provided a good sense of what is happening in every school and an overall view of the food programs and environment throughout the school district.

Information only; no action required.

4. District Education Team Updates

Literacy Working Group Efforts

Director Lawlor spoke to the work by the Literacy Working Group, which aligns with one of the goals of the Strategic Plan to action the K-3 Literacy initiative in all our primary/elementary schools. The initiative started with a team of Principals/Vice Principals participating in the Working Group with Director Lawlor to examine certain aspects of the Literacy Plan, specifically Tiers 1, 2 and 3. The following two recommendations were brought forward from the Working Group:

- A commitment to provide professional learning and to provide in-service for the Tier services (resources, binders, K-3 teacher classrooms – special shout-out to District Vice Principal Tina McDonald for her tremendous efforts in facilitating these services) and the in-service training for Tier 3 (intervention part of the plan).
- Onboarding a District Literacy Coordinator working with District Staff to bring this K-3 initiative to life.

Superintendent Callaghan noted the exciting part of this work is the investment in teachers and the investment in resources. He extended his thanks to both Director Lawlor and District Vice Principal McDonald for their efforts over the past year working on this initiative. Superintendent Callaghan further noted the school district has been in conversation with community-minded industry/businesses interested in supporting the K-3 Literacy initiative - certainly money well spent building capacity in our schools with the goal of students being successful and reading by Grade 3.



4. District Education Team Updates *(continued)*

Teacher Mentorship/Student Voice

District Principal Barron spoke to the mentorship support that began at the start of the school year and will run to the end of June with a focus on new teachers and staff new to the district on a Letter of Permission. Currently there are 34 staff working on Letters of Permission. The mentorship support is optional; however, it was extremely well received with teachers accepting ongoing support after school, virtually, on professional development days, etc. Mentors worked directly in the classroom planning for classes, for the year, report writing, etc. Sessions were also held on professional development day for collaboration, and in each of our communities we are hosting a year-end celebration to get feedback on what we can improve next school year. Our second-year teachers have recommended that we continue with this program next year.

Student Voice

District Principal Barron reported it was an exciting and an enjoyable experience working with the middle/secondary students this school year on the Student Voice initiative. Student voice describes how students give their input in terms of what happens within their school and classrooms. The school district's desire is for students to know that their opinions, ideas and expertise are valued in all aspects of their school life. He elaborated as to what student voice looks like and the process followed:

- Diverse representation from all seven Middle and Secondary Schools (Hazelton Secondary, Bear Valley, Kitimat City High (Alternate), Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary, Parkside Secondary (Alternate), Skeena Middle and Caledonia Secondary schools).
- Groups ranged in size from 9 up to 18. More than 80 students in total participated.
- The sessions began in circle together and time was spent getting to know one another.
- The session worked through 16 questions – student responses were anonymous, written on 'sticky notes' and then attached to larger chart paper with the question.
- Each group was great! Very engaged and curious!
- Results for each school were shared with Principals and Vice-Principals – they were asked to share the results with staff and the group of students who participated.
- A ThoughtExchange survey was developed and is available to all middle and secondary school students until the week after June 14.

District Principal Barron shared the school district is going to build on the Student Voice initiative next school year to include working with elementary students. Superintendent extended his appreciation to District Principal Barron for sharing with the Committee members and for his work this school year and going forward.

Early Learning

District Vice Principal McDonald spoke to the Early Learning Pilot Projects offered this school year:

- We currently run two Just B4 Preschool Earning Learning programs in Terrace schools; one at Cassie Hall Elementary and the other at Thornhill Primary. This program is specifically designed for 4-year-old children who will be entering kindergarten the following school year. The curriculum focuses on both the First Peoples Principles of Learning and the Early Learning Framework while incorporating outdoor learning. The program runs 5 days/week, 2.5 hours/day. Active, outdoor play is an essential part of the programming for this preschool.

4. District Education Team Updates *(continued)*

- We currently have one Seamless Day Kindergarten Program that runs in Terrace at Cassie Hall Elementary. During the 2023-2024 school year, we will be expanding this program into the following schools: Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School in Hazelton, Nechako Elementary School in Kitimat, Ecole Mountainview and Suwilaawks Community School in Terrace.

District Vice Principal McDonald noted the Pilot Project programs were a good start with plans to expand to additional schools. She further noted licensing is in place at our Before/After School Care Programs. Licensing has been initiated for additional Before/After School Care Programs at Ecole Mountainview, Suwilaawks Community School, Kildala Elementary School, Nechako Elementary School and Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School; however, we need to ensure we have staff and students in place to offset these costs including grant applications to provide best rates for families and funding for these programs.

Superintendent Callaghan noted these programs are so closely tied to Federal funding across the country to increase these opportunities and District Vice Principal McDonald is working closely on the early learning piece as well as connecting with partnership in the communities. He extended his many thanks for her hard work over the year on these important initiatives.

Mental Health Framework

Director Nieckarz shared the school district had five school teams with five staff members per team this school year involved in mentorship with provincial Inclusion Lead, Shelley Moore, who led the teams to integrate new distributed learning practices. Shelley met with the teams throughout the school year on specific inquiry projects such as how to use our profile, focus on general needs in the classroom, how do design from a universal design for learning perspective, etc. Teams picked topics, developed inquiry projects and documented their work through videos.

Additionally, five school teams, who represented our LGBTQ students, worked on their mentorship with Bryan Gidinski, Provincial Lead around SOGI. The school teams met several times virtually with Bryan where he encouraged them to come up with an inquiry practice, shift their practice to ensure those students had a specific topic to document. The Tillicum Twin Theatre was booked for teaching and support staff and community members to celebrate their learnings. Prizes were available and Bryan attended the celebration in person. All the Mentorship School Teams fell in love with Shelley and Bryan who are very dedicated in making supportive environments.

Superintendent Callaghan shared it was nice to hear Bryan speak so highly of our teachers this year, and we were proud to hear him speak of our School-Based Teams and to thank him for his support. Superintendent Callaghan further noted the budget priority for work action grants to support student well-being and student mental health. He shared his thanks to Director Nieckarz for her presentation and work on the Mentorship School Teams this school year.

First Nations Resource Centres & Connection Rooms

Director Clifton spoke to the area of co-design for the First Nations Resource Centres and how they are being used, and the significance of removing barriers, having access to enhance for student learning as well as for teachers. It is important the Resource Centre collections are kept infused, embedded into schools, which is a very complex way to both organize and distribute and make decisions.

4. District Education Team Updates *(continued)*

This is not my decision to make, the collective is what makes sense for what schools and informed decisions make their way into libraries, some kept in reserve, and items the community shared should be in schools. No final decision has been made and that will be made over the coming year. In that statement, no new rooms are being created. Indigenous Support Worker use is for all students for the understanding that the Indigenous curriculum is for all, we are moving to a by all approach. Enhancing how the spaces are being used while considering many ideas such as wanting to see Role Models and Elders in schools more frequently, that Elders or Knowledge Keepers could use that space as well to meet with teachers, students and parents. Director Clifton noted in his previous district, these spaces were called All Nations Rooms where community identifications are reflected. Meetings take place in the All Nations Rooms, a safe place for parents to build their sense of trust and belonging. These are just ideas that Director Clifton is considering, not to be decided without the collective of partners, rights holders, feedback, etc.

Superintendent Callaghan shared it was good to summarize since the issuance of the announcement at the end of May 2023. This helps clarify the decision to move the First Nations Resource Centres.

Information only; no action required.

5. Education Committee Meetings – Member Feedback

Superintendent Callaghan spoke to the attached documents addressing member feedback pertaining to the Education Committee Meetings in preparation for the 2023-2024 school year. He revisited the mandate and structure with committee members, spoke to the focused conversations at meetings over the course of 2022-2023 school year, and posed the questions should we start, stop, continue as follows:

Start

- What should we start doing?
- What new approach would improve our meetings?

Stop

- What should we stop doing?
- What is not having the intended impact?

Continue

- What are we doing right that needs to continue?
- What works well that we shouldn't change?

Superintendent Callaghan noted big ideas were discussed this school year with many connected to the Strategic Plan, lots of evidence under achievement, education programming, student services and schools with broad topics. He noted the whole purpose of this discussion is to review what the year was like, however, we want to be able to make good recommendations for next year's committee meetings. Superintendent Callaghan asked members to spend 5-7 minutes in breakout rooms and come back with two suggestions:

The following feedback was shared once the break-out rooms were closed:

- Meeting agendas to be issued earlier; there is not enough time to review properly prior to the meeting.
- District Education Team to offer bookends to align with Strategic Plan checkpoints.
- Important to distinguish the difference with governance and operations; conversations in the Education Committee Meetings connect to the Strategic Plan that is really the foundation in which we should be directing our actions.



<p>5. Education Committee Meetings – Member Feedback <i>(continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education Committee Meetings should be what we are identifying for the Board to advocate at partner tables, challenges and concerns. • Insights to stop doing – perhaps changing the approach to sharing of information, not necessarily impactful. Do it on a more transparent way with parents, etc. Really have to be efficient, not to meet just to meet, meet to grapple with decision making, diverse groups, challenging our thinking and move things up to the Board that they need to hear. • Perhaps there are other structures that would enhance the way we go about our work so that we increase our ability to have critical conversations that have the desired impact. • Have face-to-face meetings in the fall and in the spring, at least more favourable to travel. Guests could be invited to the meeting. • Stop doing – recognized the presentations from the schools, however, should be targeted to the Strategic Plan. • Suggestion that we could possibly look at specific meetings that require approval by the Board, i.e., Field Trips, Board Authorized/Authority Courses – transition next year so that schools present on one date in the fall and one date in the spring. • Like the information piece, having the opportunity to have information and provide feedback is appreciated. • The meetings are too prescriptive, there is no time to digest the information. Need to go way and let it sit, because of the timeline and moving forward, an idea for something new, maybe have themes pre-determined. First meeting information, second meeting discussions/conversations from a comprehensive system, a more generative state, less structure and have those conversations bringing thoughts and stakeholders to the third meeting to finish that conversation. Less prescriptive, more time for thinking and analysing. Want it to look and feel different. There is an effort to try to shift it and analyse the evidence this year. <p>Superintendent Callaghan liked the idea of the themes, giving more time to digest and review the meatier subjects. Chairperson Jonkman thanked everyone for their feedback and thoughts.</p> <p>Information only; no action required.</p>
<p>6. Submitted Items</p>	<p>There were no submitted items received.</p> <p>Information only; no action required.</p>
<p>7. Next Meeting & Adjournment</p>	<p>The next virtual Education Committee Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.</p>

Coast Mountains School District Education Committee Meetings

Feedback for 2023-24



1

Education Committee Mandate

To meet with the Superintendent of Schools, the Directors of Instruction, and other appropriate staff to **review** and **recommend** to the Board, **policies** and **actions** pertaining to:

- ***Achievement Accountability***
- ***Educational Programs***
- ***Student Services***
- ***Schools***



2

Committee Notes from 22-23

- Membership/Guests includes: 3 Trustees (mid-year shift in membership), 1 CUPE, 2 CMAA, 1 CMTF, 1 DPAC, 10 Education Coordinators, 5 District Staff (23 total)
- Secondary learners participated 4 meetings
- 9 meetings September to June, including 1 in person (April)
- Submit an Item option – 2 items submitted by members



3

Focused Conversations in 22-23

- **Strategic Plan**
- **Achievement**
 - Enhancing Student Learning Report
 - Foundational Skills Assessment
 - Middle Years Development
 - On Track with Literacy
 - Suspensions
 - How Are We Doing Report
 - Data Dashboard
- **Educational Programming**
 - Literacy Strategy
 - Student Voice
 - Board / Authority Authorized Courses
- **Student Services**
 - Mental Health Planning
 - Student & Family Affordability Fund
 - Food Programming
- **Schools**
 - School Growth Plans
 - School Inquiry Projects
 - Code of Conduct
 - Student Success Planning
 - Field Trips



4

Looking Back on 2023-24 Start, Stop, Continue...

START

What should we start doing?

What new approach would improve our meetings?

STOP

What should we stop doing?

What is not having the intended impact?

CONTINUE

What are we doing right that needs to continue?

What works well that we shouldn't change?