

# Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013

**Location:** *Miracle Beach Elementary School*

**Address:** 8763 Paulsen Road, Black Creek, BC

6:30 pm to 8 pm

## Members:

Committee Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay	✓
Board Chair, Tom Weber, Lazo North	✓
Trustee, Paula Selby, Puntledge, Black Creek	✓
Trustee, Sheila McDonnell, Baynes Sound (Denman/Hornby Islands)	✓
Trustee, Donna Gambacorta, City of Courtenay	✓
Trustee, Rick Grinham, Village of Cumberland	✓
Trustee, Peter Coleman, Town of Comox	✓
Superintendent, Sherry Elwood	✓
Assistant Superintendent, Tom Demeo	✓
Director of Instruction (Elementary Curriculum) Allan Douglas	✓
Director of Instruction (Student Services) Esther Shatz	✓

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## 1. **Presentation by Miracle Beach Elementary** – Erica Black Principal

Erica gave the Trustees and Sr Management an overview of some of the initiatives at Miracle Beach. This evening the focus was on 2 particular programs:

A) Fit Boot Camp – guests were treated to a demonstration of the work out that the students of the school go through weekly. The school’s undertaking of fit camp sessions was developed to boost student fitness, strength, agility, movement and general body awareness. The teacher Casey Antoine explained that all students take part in the program. The students that were leading the demonstration are actually leaders who will lead other students through the activities. It was interesting to note that many times during these Fit Camps the classes are multi graded. The school reported that since the start of these fit camps student on task time and engagement in their other classes has increased.

We are proud of Casey’s leadership with this project and it is being recognized within our own school community, and following her Pro D session, now district wide. A great way to resurrect DPA and QDPE.

B) Music – Bruce Gardiner (teacher) presented an elementary music program designed to have band-like instruction starting in earlier grades through the use of “re-keyed” keyboards versus band instruments. The keyboards are used to play the band instrument sounds, thus replicating a band. Students are learning how to read music, rhythm patterns as well as developing intonation and ear training. The benefit of this approach is that they do not have to focus on learning all of the above skills as well as finger placement and creating a sound on a new instrument. It is felt that with this background training when these students enter grade 7 they can focus on learning their instrument finger placement and embouchure techniques, thus being able to engage in more complex music and an earlier level.

The students excitement and engagement in music was clearly evident, and very enjoyable to watch and hear.

We would like to thank Miracle Beach staff and students for an entertaining and informative evening. We would also like to acknowledge all the hard work and commitment by the staff of Miracle Beach who have created valuable learning experiences for their students.

2. Assistant Superintendent Tom Demeo made a presentation to the Board outlining the various district based programs that are available for our students. These programs are open to all our students and are located at the various schools.

Two new programs:

- a. ACE-IT Carpentry Program which will be located at Mark Isfeld. This program currently has students from all 3 high schools enrolled in it.
  - b. Connections Programs – and integrated environment I /social justice program. This will be offered to all students and will be housed at the Glacier View Alternate School.
3. Director of Instruction Allen Douglas updated the Board on the following:
    - a. Growing Chefs - we are the first district out of the lower mainland to have the program in our schools. There are volunteer chefs working in the schools on cooking, growing food and nutrition. The three schools are Royston, Arden and Cumberland El.
    - b. ILC (Island Leadership Coalition) - we have a large team attending the first session of the ILC in Nanaimo on April 26....Sherry Elwood is leading the ILC and she has arranged for John Abbott to be the keynote speaker at the first session.
    - c. Faye Brownlie will be completing the last part of her three part series on writing. She will be at Miracle Beach on April 17 doing demonstration lessons in primary and intermediate classes. She will be working with teachers in the evening at Glacier View. Faye is a national expert and speaker on language arts and we are very lucky to have her work with our teachers and students.
    - d. Assessment work - we have a small group of teachers working on new ways to report student learning to parents and students. The work has received the attention of the Ministry of Education resulting in a visit from the Superintendent of Achievement Rod Allen. The Ministry of Education was very impressed with our work and they have been sharing our reporting work with other districts in the province. The Ministry of Education will be visiting our district on April 22 to meet with our assessment committee.

#### **Next Education Committee Meeting:**



**DATE:** Tuesday, May 14, 2013

**TIME:** 6:30 pm

**LOCATION:** TBA