

# Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

Tuesday, April 17, 2012  
Courtenay Elementary School  
6:30 pm to 8 pm

## Members:


|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Committee Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay                | ✓       |
| Board Chair, Tom Weber, Lazo North                              | Regrets |
| 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                           | Regrets |
| Superintendent, Sherry Elwood                                   | ✓       |
| Assistant Superintendent, Sheila Shanahan                       | Regrets |
| Director of Instruction (Elementary Curriculum) Allan Douglas   | ✓       |
| Director of Instruction (Student Services) Esther Shatz         | Regrets |

- 
- 1- **Early Learning: Strong Start and Pre-School Programs:** Presentation by Strong Start facilitators from SD71. A wonderful and informative presentation was given to the Board about what is Strong Start, how many students and families come to the program and what they do while attending. Strong Start has expanded from that first pilot program six years ago with 100 children registered to a vibrant program in which there are now 900 children registered and how this program benefits not only the community, but the schools in which they are located.

The Board was given a tour of the classrooms used by the Early Headstart Aboriginal Program, Jump Start - a program for older children in partnership with the Child Development Center and SD71, and the Strong Start classroom. Thank you to Terry, Janet and Heather from Early Headstart for Aboriginal students, Laurel Hodkins from Jump Start and Colleen Friendship, Carlene Steeves, Pamela Tessman, Phylis Edgar and Maureen Wagner for sharing their experiences and time with the Board.

- 2- **School Completion:** Jeff Taylor, District Principal, Education Technology gave a verbal update on the district's completion rates, and the follow up he did with a number of students who left school and did not obtain their Dogwood. The Board acknowledges that while our graduation rates have been below the provincial average, there are many contributing factors that will continue to have an impact on those numbers and that the district will continue to work with all educational stakeholders, including students, to improve those numbers.

## Next Education Committee Meeting:

 **DATE:** Tuesday, May 8, 2012  
**TIME:** 6:30 pm to 8 pm  
**LOCATION:** Highland Secondary School