

Education Committee Meeting—MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Location: *Cumberland Elementary School*

Address: 2644 Ulverston Avenue, Cumberland, 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	✓

AGENDA

1. **Cumberland Elementary Presentation**

Dirk Den Otter (Principal)/Katy Doran (Vice-Principal) and Staff

A. Cumberland Community Schools Society (CCSS):

- 150-175 students participate in these activities:
 - o Garden Club
 - o BMX
 - o Theatre
 - o Hula Hoop Club, etc.
- Partner with local community agencies
- Offer community programs – free or low cost to promote life-long learning; weekly support for new Moms; employment workshops
- Santa’s Breakfast
- Main source of funding from CommunityLinks (\$20,000)
- Fund Raising (\$8,800)
- Donations (\$5,500)
- Gaming (\$16,000)
- Lunch Sales (\$5,000)
- CCSS Challenges—would love to run activities on weekends/during holidays

B. A pilot project: Elective Program at Cumberland Elementary School

Electives for Gr. 5 and 6 students:

- Technology
- Artist in the Schools
- Yoga
- Outdoor Education
- Cooking
- Puppetry

These electives engage and stimulate learning for students. Students shared that almost 100% enjoyed their electives and would look forward to another elective rotation. Note: will offer a third term before the end of this year. Perhaps an artist will come into the school and facilitate a mural. The elementary school was able to use the junior secondary facilities.

Outdoor classroom started in January – came from the desire to address the issue of students not getting very much outdoor time as they sit for longer periods “in front of the screen”.

Nature Kindergarten history comes from Europe – Pat Para

In Cumberland they are looking at outdoor Kindergarten and outdoor classrooms based on inspiration from Arden Elementary and the Sooke School District.

The goal is to touch on all areas of the curriculum outside, using the environment as the resource. Free play is an integral part of this type of classroom. The children are engaged in observing, wandering, exploring, investigating, collaborating, problem solving, communicating, turn taking, team work, some of the 21st C learning skills, ie., data collecting. What’s Next—Project Wild at Arden. Staff will participate from Cumberland.

EA’s are pooled and scheduled to support this program. The Kindergarten teachers are using their PLC time to create the program as well as working with teachers at Arden. PLC time has been a valuable resource and will continue to enable the sharing of ideas.

2. PLC Presentation Series (Part 2)

a) Guest Charlie Schellinck—***Past Success with a PLC Model in SD 71***

Charlie has a history of leading PLCs in our district. He noted that teachers working together produces excellent work. He noted that the primary program was successful because of the collaboration time given to teachers to create the program. It is good teaching practice to collaborate, share and create better practice.

Charlie covered some basic premises about PLC time. He also shared data about the success for students at Aspen – pre and post PLC/collaboration time. Learning becomes the focal point, students will not fail, intervention plans are designed, teachers who work together through PLCs build a culture of trust, to risk innovation and to share critically to grow as learners themselves. It is action-oriented and teacher leader-based. Teachers move from followers to transformational leaders. Teacher collaboration can improve practice. Data can be used to drive the actions and affirm the direction of PLC work. Data can be combined with knowledge to plan and change transformational teaching.

PLCs will continue to grow the work of Professional Partnerships and school-based inquiry projects. When the district staff, school-based leaders and teachers work together, it is more efficient and will optimize what schools have been involved to date.

b) **Question and Answer with Panel**

Panel of Teachers and Administrators

This was an opportunity for trustees and parents to ask questions. Tonight's panel of teachers and administrators included:

Debbie Fullerton (Valley View), Geoff Manning (Arden), Cheryl Adebar (LRC), Katy Doran (Cumberland EI), Carol Walters (LRC), Charles Schilling (Huband Park), Jen Turner (Puntledge Park), Lynn Swift (AbEd), Steve Stanley (Mark Isfeld), Charlie Schellinck (G.P. Vanier).

Next Education Committee Meeting:



DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2013

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Miracle Beach Elementary School