

# Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015

**Location:** Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School (Library)

**Address:** 1551 Lerwick Road, Courtenay, BC

6:30 pm

## Members:

Committee Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay	✓
Board Chair, Tom Weber, Area B/Lazo North	
Trustee, Ian Hargreaves, Puntledge, Black Creek	✓
Trustee, Sheila McDonnell, Baynes Sound (Denman/Hornby Islands)	✓
Trustee, Clifford Boldt, City of Courtenay	✓
Trustee, Peter Coleman, Town of Comox	✓
Trustee, Vickey Brown, Village of Cumberland	✓
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) Highland Aboriginal Student Council (HASC) members Andrew Jutte, Cailan Switzer, Kaleb Andrew, Desteni Hardy and their sponsor Josie Andrew gave an overview and brief history of their council to the Board.

In 2010-2011 a group of students from Highland were looking for a way to address important issues, and as a result an Aboriginal Student Council was created. In February 2012 the Council applied for and received a grant from the AEC. The grant was put toward leadership workshops, gatherings and bringing cultural teachers in to work with the students, as the group continued to develop and grow they changed their name to Highland Aboriginal Student Council (HASC).

Since 2012 HASC has had over 100 students members take part in their events. Over the years HASC has met with a variety of dignitaries such as MP and Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, Minister of Education Peter Fassbender, and Lieutenant Governor Steven Point to name a few.

The Council has expanded its knowledge and skills by attending various workshops on leadership, resiliency and advocacy. In 2013 the Council hosted an Aboriginal Awareness Day at Highland. Over the years they have been instrumental in helping other schools create and develop their own Aboriginal Student Councils.

In 2014/2015 HASC was nominated for the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Award. HASC is a very proactive and inclusive group that promotes awareness of issues that affect aboriginal youth.

- 2) Danielle Houglund, Community Literacy Development coordinator and Lynn Joseph from Success by 6, gave a community Literacy update. Highlights included overviews of the various programs throughout our community which promote literacy for our youth as well as our adults. Some of these are Adult Learning Centres, Intergenerational Projects, Waiting for the Bus programs, Early Years Centre and 1000 by 5, to name a few. They also explained how the Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative has taken all of these services and put them under one umbrella.

A highlight for the group was the raise a reader fundraising campaign which raised \$20,000 in our community. Those funds are put back into our community to promote literacy.

- 3) Jeff Taylor – Principal, Mark Isfeld Secondary School gave an overview of the four pillars: Athletics, Academics, Arts and Citizenship which form the foundation of the school. Mr. Taylor gave an detailed overview of the Arts Pillar.

Highlights included:

Visual Arts, including 2D, 3D, photography, crafts

Performing Arts, including band, choir, drama and Improv

Practical Arts, including foods, baking, computer animation, graphic design, information technology

Industrial Arts, including wood, metal, carpentry, welding and robotics

- A display of school team achievements in Robotics is on your way into the library. Isfeld students placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the World Vex Robotics two years ago and 2<sup>nd</sup> last year.
- This year, Isfeld placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the provincials and qualified to go to California again, but chose not to go.
- The final match between Isfeld and Shawnigan at the provincials set the worldwide record for total points scored between competing teams.
- Isfeld had three students advance at the Regional Skills Canada competition: One 1<sup>st</sup> place and two 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in Cabinetmaking.
- One student wins the gold and silver in Carpentry at the Provincials for Skills Canada.
- After several years of decline, Isfeld's computer courses are starting to see a rebound in course requests. Graphic Design 9 leads the revival.
- MITV season six has a tough act to follow and a bit of a rocky start, but has found their way, meaning three consecutive years of success for this program.
- After *Wizard of Oz*, we are on the off year for a major dramatic production. Instead the focus is on competitive Improvisation.
- All three of our teams advance from the North Island to the Islands.
- Our junior team finishes 1<sup>st</sup> on the Island, and our grade 8 team finishes a very respectable 4<sup>th</sup> among junior teams.
- Isfeld sends seven teams to the Regional Tournament in Destination Imagination. Five teams place 1<sup>st</sup> in their respective categories.
- Five Isfeld teams go to provincials, and we finish with two 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes, two 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes and one 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish.
- Isfeld will be sending two teams to Globals.
- Our teams have been putting on workshops for elementary schools throughout the district.
- Our music department performs a winter concert to a packed house, with a summer concert still upcoming.

- Both Isfeld bands score well at the Comox Valley Music Festival, and are two of only three that are invited to compete at the next level.
- Band trip to New York a monster undertaking but also a huge success. Grade 9 band trip still to come.

Mr. Taylor gave everyone a tour of the Ace it Carpentry program, where the students are working on the 3 model houses being built. The new Lifeskills training house was also toured. Planning is underway to complete the inside on the house. It was decided that an education committee would be held in the training house next school year.

- 4) SOGI Update – Assistant Superintendent Tom Demeo gave an update on activities and events that have occurred in the district which align with the districts SOGI policy. A summary has been included.

**Next Education Committee Meeting:**



**DATE:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015 (September Start-up)

**TIME:** 6:30 pm

**LOCATION:** School Board Office, Board Room