

Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Location: Airport Elementary School

Address: 1475 Salmonberry Drive, Lazo BC

6:30 pm

Members:

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

AGENDA

1. International Education Program

The 1-for-1 exchange program is going well. We have 6 students participating in exchanges in Spain, Italy and Japan next year; 9 students in 5 countries.

Donelle Campbell from Vanier presented about her 5 month exchange in Madrid. The school she attended is a multi-floored building housing 1300 students aged pre-school to Gr. 12. She played basketball on two teams and coached younger students aged 3 and 4.

Donelle travelled through Spain with her host family. She also went back this Spring Break to play basketball with her old team and to visit her host family.

2. Airport Elementary School Highlights:

- The virtues program which they work through monthly. Each class is responsible for an assembly, even Kindergarten. Students are rewarded for living and modeling the virtue of the month. Their mission statement has been revised to emphasize the project.
- The school often chooses a global project that helps others somewhere in the world. This year their global project is a “well” in India. Other projects have focused on YANA, the SPCA, the Tim Horton Shoreline clean up.
- They held an Aboriginal cultural day which included storytelling, cultural stations and students had made gifts; Highland and Vanier demonstrated lahal and l’attle, the spear throwing skill.
- PAC supports swimming and skating as well as cross country skiing for Gr. 6s and watersports and the Gr. 7s go to camp. There is a large garden program and a strong athletic/life-long sports is a focus.

- PLCs are focused on outdoor learning. This is benefiting all students. There are many classes doing the daily five. Technology in the classroom is also a focus.
- They hosted a read to parents event at night, Ready, Set, WTK had 21 students.
- One of the challenge students Will Monroe created garlands of cranes to leave a legacy at the school that he enjoyed. There are over a thousand of the cranes now hanging prominently in the library.

3. **IT Update**

Kara Dawson gave a presentation on her job helping teachers try new things with technology – the focus is on elementary schools.

Highlights:

- From 30 to 300 ipads or ipods in the school district;
- Learn 71 – learning portal is a new way to display and discuss new ways of teaching and learning with technology;
- Khan academy math;
- Videos made to support parents in helping their students;
- Students are creating their own blogs.

4. **Intergenerational Project at Berwick**

Deb Fullerton, Carol Wolters and Kevin Reimer

This program is supported by the Retired Teachers Association and Art Starts grant.

Highlights:

- 100 people were served tea for Mother's Day;
- Kindergarten classes and their parents;
- The teachers had organized a feedback form from parents...the positive feedback has been affirming...students are building their empathy skills...in addition to parents there has been resident feedback and some of their feedback has been incorporated already.
- There have been wonderful connections between the new competencies in the EDPlan -- they include emotional social and communication growth, self-regulation, virtues like respect and courage. There is so much learning going on. The one on one relationship is reinforced through the book time.
- Thanks to all the staff who make this amazing experience.

Next Education Committee Meeting:



DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 2014

TIME: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

LOCATION: Glacier View Learning Centre
241 Beecher Place, Courtenay, BC