

# Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, November 10, 2015

**Location:** Valley View Elementary School

**Address:** 2300 Valley View Drive, Courtenay, B.C.

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. Valley View Elementary School Presentation – Erica Black, Principal

- A lot has changed in the school over the past 20 years.
- Intergenerational project with the K – the seniors now know many of the students.
- Inquiry project with K-1 and 6-7 – are looking at what makes a funky playground. Students are exploring and examining playgrounds to see what would be suitable for the school.
- Digging into communicating student learning. This has been a great evolution for staff – from fear to curiosity. There has been a change in teachers perceptions, a mind shift...a new way of sharing learning.
- Teacher leaders are working at their own pace around e-portfolio, trying new ways of communicating learning. Erica is very proud of the staff.
- New MyEd BC attendance procedures initiated.
- Sensory Room – The room is set up not only students of Valley View but for all students in the district. \$15,738 grant accessed from the Rick Rypien Foundation.

## 2. Teacher Aboriginal Work Presentation - Lynn Swift / Colleen Devlin / Gail Martindale

- Aboriginal content has been woven into the new curriculum; resources are available for all teachers to use in their classrooms.
- *Project of Heart* - developed this past summer, it is a culmination of the truth and reconciliation process. This book is appropriate for upper elementary and high school level. The eBook is ever growing, it has live video clips throughout and is being added to on a regular basis: interviews, lesson plans, projects and the work leads you to action... "teacher's can take the resource and run with it"....
- Class sets of the resources have been made, as well as learning kits.
- Colleen Devlin is providing workshops and training for teachers throughout the province.

- All work under the Network of Innovation and Inquiry, usually apply for a grant under the Aboriginal banner – the hope is to get grant money again this year.
- Published readers for younger students. These readers are designed to help in exploring their heritage, focusing on Culture and the Land, and have proven to be very popular. Sets of these readers at the Learning Resource Centre.
- A group of teachers travelled to Alert Bay for the decommissioning of the residential school. It was a very moving and powerful experience. Teachers came back with a driving question “How can what we learn about residential schools help us to be compassionate in our daily lives?” They have created a series of 6 lessons to help students understand. This work is being shared at the BCSSA and FNEESC Provincial conferences.
- Networking with Aboriginal teachers in the North Island to create a network of sharing.

### 3. Curriculum Update – Allan Douglas

- This section will be included on every Education Committee Meeting agenda.
- Exciting changes are occurring - Allan shared a new brochure which helps explain some of the changes as well as the direction of the new curriculum.
- All curriculum information is now accessible on the Ministry website.
- With new curriculum comes new reporting.
- Allan shared a video of the new curriculum.

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



**DATE:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016

**TIME:** 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Royston Elementary School