

Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Location: Puntledge Park Elementary School

Address: 401 Wilemar Ave., Courtenay, BC

7 pm

Members:

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|---|---|
| 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

Kevin Reimer, Principal, Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary School gave a historical perspective to PLC at PPE. Currently the school is in the 4th year of the process. Kevin described how PLC's have transformed in the school over the past 4 years. Last year they had 4 PLC groups:

| Group | Topic |
|------------------------|--|
| English Primary | Self-Regulation in Primary Grades |
| Immersion Primary | Increasing reading levels through targeted Instruction |
| English Intermediate | Engagement through Assessment for Learning |
| Immersion Intermediate | Enrichment and celebration of French Culture |

This year the focus has been on the topics rather than groupings, teachers in French and English at all levels are combining based on topic interests. The topics of the PLC's this year are:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| E Portfolio | Aboriginal Community Building |
| Assessment for Learning | Curriculum of Caring |
| Self-Regulation | Primary Literacy |

All of the Educational Assistants are also active members of a PLC group.

Kevin also highlighted a new offering for Parents. Once a month during a PLC time, a Parent workshop on a relevant topic is offered for any interested parent of PPE, regardless of the age of the child or the language of instruction. It was also noted that during these Parent workshops, child minding was provided.

Tracey Croonen, Vice Principal, gave an overview of one of the schools focusses for the year which is “Connecting with our Community”. Tracey gave examples of activities and events in which the school participates to not only help the students, by making them good community citizens, but these activities and events actually help many folks in our community. She pointed out that the entire school community has embraced this concept and that being good citizens is an expectation of all the Puntledge Park community.

Martin Hartig, Intermediate French Immersion teacher, explained and highlighted his unique program. Students in Mr. Hartig’s class were greeted on the opening day with no chairs, benches, desks or tables. Instead the students found piles of lumber in the class and they were told that they would have to work together to build all of the furniture. The students then went into problem solving mode. Together with guidance from Mr. Hartig and Mr. Randy Grey, District Lead Career teacher, then students began to plan and build their furniture in the class all along learning and developing numeracy, literacy and problem solving skills. Students, Jake Dimery and Josh Jensen explained that they liked this approach to school as it was relevant and meaningful; they felt they were active in their learning. At present tables have been completed and are being painted, most benches have been finished and some supply boxes have been started.

Teacher Doug David finished the evening with a very moving presentation focusing on “Educating the Heart”. This is a continuation of the very successful “I can” movement last year. All of these concepts are linked to the *Design for Change* global movement which in essence is giving children the opportunity to express their own ideas for a better world, then putting those ideas into action.

Doug gave the group an overview and summary of the Global Design for Change Conference which he attended. This year’s conference was held in Ahmedabad India. He noted that the conference was co-hosted by students and teachers. Students were often leaders and presenters in this conference. He was very impressed with the topics, organization and discussions which occurred.

Mr. David then highlighted many of the fine “I can” projects which occurred and in many cases are reoccurring this year. Doug spoke passionately about his students work and their accomplishments and how proud both he and the school were of these students.

Next Education Committee Meeting:



DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2014

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: TBA