

# Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

Tuesday, November 20, 2012  
G.P. Vanier Secondary School (Library)  
4830 Headquarters Road  
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

## Members:

Committee Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay  
Board Chair, Tom Weber, Lazo North  
Trustee, Paula Selby, Puntledge, Black Creek  
Trustee, Shella 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

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## A G E N D A

### 1. Presentation by Dave Munro – **B.E.S.T.** (*Building Essential Skills for Today*) Program

Dave Munro, teacher at Vanier presented his program which is a project based integrated study program designed to reach/support some of our most at-risk students. Most of the students in the program have been referred to it via school based teams / admin referrals. This year the program has students from all three-district high school in attendance. These students may have significant behavioral, attendance, academic, social issues or a combination of these.

The program operates on an altered schedule and timetable. Some of the keys to the program are the development of a safe, trusting and supportive environment: This is done through open honest communication between the students as well as between the teacher and the students. Dave reported that because of the safe trusting environment many students have been able to deal with personal issues that have interfered with their learning.

Dave shared many of the successes of the program ranging from students re-entering the "regular school program" to students who have successfully dealt with personal issues.

As project based learning is a foundation of the program, Dave shared an example, of a project, one in which the students created a toy for the daycare using only one eight foot 2x4. The toys were amazing.

Dave's passion and pride in both his students and the program was clearly evident. It was a wonderful experience.

2. Superintendent Sherry Elwood introduced Bruce Carlos, District Principal of Aboriginal Education who shared the aboriginal student achievement results as they pertain to the achievement contract. Bruce presented many successes as well as challenges he and the department have experienced this past year.  
He also discussed initiatives and some future direction for the department.

Due to time restraints a report on Children in Care and Early Learning was postponed.

A huge thank you to Ms. Nancy Lawrence and her students: Carmen Ly, Jo Marie Jubas, Mina Hang, and Janina Fritz who prepared and served wonderful treats and coffee to all those in attendance.

Thank you to Charlie Schellinck, Brian McAskill and the rest of the Vanier Administration for their hospitality and the wonderful discussions.