

Pacific Coast School “Spectrum 21” Course

Principal Susan Kobza, teacher Doug Brown and students Jared Polyck and Barry McLeod gave a presentation to the Board of Education on the school’s “Spectrum 21” course. The course provides students with credit in Information Communication and Technology 11 and 12 while teaching students “real world” skills. The Ministry of Education describes “real world” skills as: self-reliance; critical thinking; inquiry; creativity; problem solving; and innovation.

The course encourages students to start from their current knowledge, and then learn from what others have done. Students have pursued their passions and studied topics as varied as pies and the influence of technology (both good and bad).

“Presentations from students are a highlight of every Board meeting,” said Board Chair Tina Last. “It is exciting to hear from students who are passionate about their learning. The process of sharing their learning with students at Port Edward Community School demonstrates the ability of these students to be mentors for younger students.”

Hockey Academy

At the meeting of the Board of Education on March 10, 2015 there was considerable discussion of a letter from the Prince Rupert & District Teachers’ Union about the proposed hockey academy at Prince Rupert Middle School. A hockey academy is a course approved by the Ministry of Education which offers additional coaching and ice time for hockey players. There is an additional cost for students enrolled in the course to pay for the ice time and coaching.

Trustees expressed concern about students who may not be able to afford the fee for this course. The Superintendent advised that, of all of the middle school students enrolled in hockey, there were only a few that might be unable to enroll in the course because of the cost. Hardship funds are available.

At the conclusion of the debate trustees directed the Superintendent to respond to the questions raised in the letter from the teachers’ union.

Celebrating Literacy, March 28, 2015

North Coast Literacy Now will be hosting the 6th Celebrating Literacy event at the Rupert Square Mall on Saturday, March 28, 2015. The event will run from 11 am to 2:30 pm. North Coast Literacy Now promotes literacy and learning for community members of all ages.

“The Board is pleased to be a partner with North Coast Literacy Now,” said Board Chair Tina Last. “We encourage everyone to come out with their family and friends to support reading and learning.”



Media Release

Highlights of March 10, 2015 Board Meeting

School Calendar

The Board of Education has adopted the school calendar for 2015/16. Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 (following Labour Day on September 7, 2015). The Christmas break will run from Saturday, December 19, 2015 to Sunday, January 3, 2016. Spring Break will commence on Saturday, March 19, 2016 and run through the Easter Weekend, with classes resuming on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. The last day of classes for the school year will be Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

“The Board appreciates the good working relationship with the Prince Rupert District Teachers’ Union,” said Board Chair Tina Last, “which allowed for a one-time adjustment to the collective agreement. As a result, the calendar includes a full 5 day Spring Break which will coincide with the Easter long weekend.”

PRMS Seismic Assessment

In prior years the seismic rating of Prince Rupert Middle School was changed from high to medium, with the result that the funding tentatively set aside for the school was no longer available. The Board of Education wrote the Ministry and asked for this decision to be reviewed.

In the intervening period, professional engineers have continued to review and update the building code as it relates to how buildings respond to earthquakes. The latest building code update is expected to come into place in the near future and, as a result, the Ministry of Education has asked the school district to have a Seismic Rapid Assessment Report completed for Prince Rupert Middle School. Once this report has been completed, the Ministry will determine if the seismic rating of the school should be changed.

District Funding

The Board of Education considered a number of letters from other districts and from the British Columbia School Trustees Association (“BCSTA”) concerned with education funding in the Provincial budget. Trustees acknowledged that, as a result of funding protection, School District No. 52 has ended most years with a small surplus. As a result, the Board tabled the letter from BCSTA and will reconsider this request after the 2015/16 funding announcement which is expected on Thursday, March 12, 2015. Trustees also directed the Chair to write a letter to BCSTA advising them of the Board’s decisions.

Aboriginal Education Partnership Agreement 2013/14 Annual Report

At the March 10, 2015 meeting of the Board of Education, District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Roberta Edzerza provided trustees with copies of the final Aboriginal Education Partnership Agreement Annual Report for 2013/14. The final report was received by the Board and will be submitted to the Ministry of Education.



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Policy Committee Work

1 draft policy was approved to be sent out to partner groups for comments:

Occupational Health & Safety Policy

This draft policy is proposed to replace the current policy, as well as the Bullying & Harassment Policy and the Protection of Employees from Violence in the Workplace Policy. The regulations from all three policies will remain.

The Board is grateful for the feedback it receives from its partner groups on draft policies in order to ensure that approved policies will meet the needs of the district's students and employees.

Annual Budget Consultation Meeting on Thursday, March 12

The final meeting for the Annual Budget Consultation will take place on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7pm in the multi-purpose room at Charles Hays Secondary School. Everyone is invited to come out and provide their input on the budget.

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