



**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE  
EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE via MS Teams Live  
October 5, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**

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Present: Allison Watson, Trustee (Committee Chair)  
Bob Phillips, Trustee (Committee Member)  
Dianna Seaton, Trustee (Committee Member)  
Christina Kempenaar, STA  
Betty-Lou Leslie, CUPE  
Sandra Arnold, SPEAC  
Georgette Walker, SPVPA  
Scott Stinson, Superintendent/CEO  
Stephanie Hedley-Smith, Associate Superintendent  
Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent  
Paul Block, Associate Superintendent

Guests: Wayne Kelly, Vanessa White

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**  
*We are honoured to be meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation and Sc'ianew Nation and Nuu-chah-nulth: Pacheedaht Nation. We also recognize some of our schools reside on the traditional territory of the Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation.*
2. **Opening Remarks from Chair, Allison Watson**
  - a. Return to School – Scott Stinson  
Superintendent Stinson reviewed recent changes and Ministry of Education announcements related to K-3 mask mandates and possible vaccine mandates for school district staff.
3. **COMMITTEE REPORT** of Sept. 7, 2021 Education Standing Committee meeting  
The committee report for the Sept. 7, 2021 Education-Policy Committee meeting was reviewed by the committee members.
4. **BAA COURSE PROPOSALS**  
There were no BAA course proposals for this meeting.
5. **REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS**  
There were no policies/regulations for review at this meeting.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Academies Update - Wayne Kelly, District Principal of Academies & Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent  
District Principal Wayne Kelly provided an overview of the District's academy programs. Mr. Kelly spoke about some of the challenges that were encountered due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

and the creative approaches taken by staff to deliver the programs to students. He noted the programs have returned to a more regular operating approach for the current school year. Student enrolment is at 1,217 for this year, compared to 770 last year. Mr. Kelly spoke about bursary programs that students/parents can access to assist with the payment of academy fees.

Committee members appreciated the presentation and the focus on equity and diversity and the support of a variety of students in academies. Trustee Seaton noted academies are important for the physical and mental health well-being for students and said she is grateful that they are accessible for students.

b. District Program Review – Paul Block, Associate Superintendent

Associate Superintendent Paul Block provided information on the District Program Review, summarizing the purpose, process, outputs and connection to the Strategic Plan and budget. He will return to the Education-Policy Committee to share the Review Process findings and seek feedback from the district’s partner groups.

c. Presentation – Mental Wellness Plan Overview – Vanessa White, District Principal – Safe & Healthy Schools & Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent

District Principal Vanessa White spoke about the work happening to develop a more comprehensive approach to supporting staff and student wellness, in particular as it relates to mental wellbeing. This work is in keeping with the goals and objectives of the new Strategic Plan. She said the district will be continuing with many of the existing approaches while layering in several new initiatives made possible by additional funding from the Ministry of Education. The district’s mental health plan, which builds on work previously done, includes a mix of capacity and skill development, direct instruction and plans to support its partners in their own learning aimed at helping individuals themselves as well as their ability to support others.

7. **FOR INFORMATION**

a. Updated Policy Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the updated Policy Work Plan. Trustee Watson said she would like to see all policies/regulations to be reviewed through an equity lens.

b. Research Project Approval – Juliane Bell/Dr. Sharon Pelech – “Agents in the Field: Exploring the Educational Value of Place Conscious Pedagogy” – Scott Stinson

8. **FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE:** Nov. 2, 2021