



**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE
EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE
School Board Office
September 10, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Cendra Beaton, Trustee (Committee Chair)
Allison Watson, Trustee (Committee member)
Trudy Spiller, Trustee (Committee member)
Russell Chips, Trustee
Amanda Culver, STA
Tim Hamblin, CUPE
Ruchi McArthur, SPVPA
Sandra Arnold, SPEAC
Paul Block, Superintendent/CEO
Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent

Guests: Fred Hibbs, Nora Reid, Heather Lait

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

We are honoured to be meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, and acknowledge the three nations SD62 works with directly in our schools: Sc’ianew Nation, and T’Sou-ke Nation; including the West Coast Pacheedaht Nation, Nuuchahnulth. (words gifted by the three nations SD62 works with)

2. Opening Remarks from Chair, Cendra Beaton

The Chair welcomed the committee and acknowledged the territory. The Chair gave thanks to all staff that worked so hard to prepare schools for the return of staff and students. The Chair recognized this date is World Suicide Prevention Day and reminded the group that September 30 is National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Chair Beaton invited committee members to introduce themselves and, if they wished, to share a celebration of something of note that may have happened to start the new school year. Introductions were made and stories of early school year highlights were shared.

3. COMMITTEE REPORT of June 4, 2024 Education-Policy Committee meeting

The committee report for the June 4, 2024 Education-Policy Committee meeting was received by the committee. No errors or omissions were noted.

4. BAA COURSE PROPOSALS

There were no BAA course proposals for this meeting.

5. **REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS** (attached)

a. Review of Mandate for the Committee – Cendra Beaton

The Chair reviewed the mandate of the committee, highlighting the purpose of the body and the roles and responsibilities of members of the committee. Chair Beaton opened the floor to questions or requests for clarification from the committee. No questions or requests for clarification were brought forward.

b. Draft Revised Policy E-110 “Job Descriptions for Excluded Employees” – Fred Hibbs & Nora Reid

Fred Hibbs, Executive Director – Human Resources and Nora Reid, Strategic Human Resources Manager, provided an overview of the draft revised policy. Committee members expressed gratitude for the work done on this draft policy. No questions came forward from committee members.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Revised Policy E-110 “Job Descriptions for Excluded Employees”.

c. Draft New Policy E-152 “Salaries and Benefits for Excluded Employees” – Fred Hibbs & Nora Reid

Fred Hibbs and Nora Reid provided an overview of the draft revised policy. The Superintendent and Committee members expressed gratitude for the work done on this draft policy. No questions came forward from committee members.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft New Policy E-152 “Salaries and Benefits for Excluded Employees”.

d. Draft Revised Policy E-123 “Probationary Period for Excluded Employees” – Fred Hibbs & Nora Reid

Fred Hibbs and Nora Reid provided an overview of the draft revised policy. Committee members expressed gratitude for the work done on this draft policy. Questions and discussion followed.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Revised Policy E-123 “Probationary Period for Excluded Employees”.

e. Draft Revised Policy and Regulations D-121 “Animals on District Property and in Classrooms” – Fred Hibbs

Fred Hibbs provided an overview of the draft revised policy. Highlighted were regulatory changes that required a policy update, in particular policy related to guide and service animals in the workplace. Also highlighted were the growing number of requests by staff and students to bring support animals into district spaces which required policy and regulation updates to address these requests in keeping with the BC Human Rights Code and *BC Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*. Questions and discussion followed. Fred Hibbs took notes based on feedback from the committee. These will be reviewed along with feedback that may come during the Notice of Motion period. Superintendent Block reinforced with the Committee that feedback via letter to the Superintendent during the Notice of Motion period is the process for ongoing revisions and consultation.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Revised Policy and Regulations D-121 “Animals on District Property and in Classrooms”.

6. **NEW BUSINESS** (attached)

a. Full Credit Summer Learning Update – Principal Heather Lait

Principal Heather Lait was introduced by Associate Superintendent Deacon to present on the summer learning programs that were offered by the Sooke School District during the summer months. Heather Lait provided a comprehensive overview of this year’s offerings. This included information on program location, program benefits course offerings, program materials, number of students completing courses (329 students, approximately 95% success rate) and the Welcome to Summer Learning assembly. The presentation was well received, and the committee followed with questions and discussion.

7. **FOR INFORMATION**

8. **FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE:** October 1, 2024