

PHSS PAC Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10th, 2025

5:30pm - PHSS Library

Attendance: Mary Mackay, Anne Pino, Tanis Zayshley, Carole Logtenberg, Jodee Young, Debbie Marten, Rachael Eastman, Shelby Leech, Kyle Leech, Cheyenne Howitt, Stephanie Van Dyk

Trustee: Tracey McClelland

Principal: Rae-Dene Pednaud

1. Welcome and call to order: 5:35pm

2. Additions to and approval of agenda

- **Motion to approve March 10th, 2025 agenda by Tanis.**

3. Approval of last meeting's minutes

- **Motion to approve February 10th, 2025 minutes by Carole, 2nd by Mary. Motion carried.**

4. Treasurer's Report - Jodee

- Treasurer's report presented and discussed. Report included below.
- We received a generous \$1000 donation from the Legion. They would like \$500 to go to our Hot Lunch Program and \$500 to go to the Hot Breakfast Program provided by the Community School. Thank you to the Legion for supporting our food programs!
- **Motion to donate \$500 from the Legion donation to the Community School for their Hot Breakfast Program by Jodee, 2nd by Rachael. Motion Carried.**
- Balance on the bank account on March 10th was \$4586.36. During the meeting it was discovered there were accounts payable of approximately \$1000, leaving \$3500 in the PAC checking account.
- **Motion to approve treasurer's report by Mary, 2nd by Rachael. Motion Carried.**

5. Community School Report - Cheyenne

- Community School update presented and discussed. Report included below.
- There aren't always referees for the basketball games and other sports. Discussed the possibility of have students, parents or eager pickleballers to take a referee training course.
- Discussed hosting a sports drop-in after school in the future. Depending on interest we could have different age ranges on different days.
- Discussed Central Kitchen and food funding.

6. DPAC Report - Rachael

- Report included below.
- Discussed the need for a PAC App to distribute important information to parents.

7. School Trustee Report - Tracey

- Update included below.
- Cyber security of our school districts is not funded by the government. This is a Canada wide problem. There is a motion coming to BCSTA this April that is supported by multiple districts in the province including SD46 to petition the provincial government to fund cyber security of all districts in the province.
- Trustees have worked on the amended budget. Tracey encourages all to look at the documents online.

8. Business updates

Light up the Town

The executive members of the PHSS PAC recognized the importance of meeting to thoroughly discuss the concerns raised by Cheyenne from the Community School and Shelby at our last PAC meeting. As liaisons between the PAC and other community members, they voiced concerns about the profit from the Light Up the Town (LUT) fundraiser being allocated solely to the 2026 grads, rather than to the PAC for the hot lunch program and other PAC programs.

At the October 2025 PAC meeting, Jodee proposed mentoring the 2026 grads in the application and execution of the LUT fundraiser during the 2025 Christmas season. The PAC was in favour

of Jodee moving forward with the application to Serendipity. Serendipity responded positively, confirming their support for a two-year fundraiser and expressing enthusiasm about the grads' involvement. With this two-year commitment in place, the PAC has the opportunity to manage the fundraiser during the 2026 Christmas season. If necessary, we can pass the responsibility to the 2027 grads or another school group, should we not have enough volunteers.

With Serendipity's approval, the 2026 grads have already made significant contributions to the LUT project. They delivered tree decorations to last year's tree sponsors who were late in decorating, dismantled and disposed of 55 trees from the past year. They also stored the lights and decorations for this year. The 2026 grads are fully committed and enthusiastic about this fundraising opportunity.

The PAC executive met, discussed the matter thoroughly, and concluded that the procedures were handled correctly, fairly, and transparently. Our decision, which was unanimous at the October meeting, will stand. We fully support the Graduating Class of 2026 in managing the fundraiser for the 2025 Christmas season and retaining all profits for their graduation dinner and ceremony.

The PAC will continue, as it always has, to request donations, fundraise, and seek parent volunteers for the hot lunch program. Providing hot lunches to our student population remains a priority for the PAC, and we will continue to offer this program to the best of our ability.

Hot Lunch

- Thank you to Kyle for doing the entire hot lunch this past week!
- This Wednesday we will have pizza hot lunch.
- Debbie has finalized a poster for hot lunch volunteers and a poster for donation requests.

9. New business

Fundraising - Debbie

- Debbie presented us with a handful of fundraising options: tea towels, first aid kits, popcorn, baking, hot sauce and coffee. We will test engagement in a Facebook survey.

10. Principal's Report - Rae-dene Pednaud

- Report included below.
- 2025-2026 PHSS School Budget presentation. Questions and comments welcome.

11. Next meeting scheduled: April 14th at 5:30pm

12. Meeting Adjourned by Anne at 7:09pm

PAC Principal's Report **Monday, March 10th**

Budget Powerpoint

PHS Growth Plan

Our new PHS Growth Plan is on the website. This document was created in collaboration with teaching staff and sets out our goals over the next year. It is a living document and will be changed and added to as we go forward.

You can find it on our website.

Staff Planning, Student Voice and School Structures

Last week, teaching staff were released for the afternoon to work on our Growth Plan Goals. We worked as a team and integrated student feedback into consideration of our school structures for next year. Specifically, we looked at planners, TA, X-block, Seminar and Reading Block. We also spent time working on how to create and implement plans for our school goal of Authentic Real-World Learning.

Looking back:

- basketball wrapping up this week and ultimate is starting
- Ski trip wrapped up and the feedback was positive
- Grade 12's completed Toastmasters today
- Post secondary visits for Indigenous students (all were welcome)

What's coming up:

- Family Conferences tomorrow
- Informal learning reports today
- Spirit Week
- DSLIT
- Spring Break
- Scholarship Opportunities released for our Grade 12's

PHSS PAC
TREASURER'S REPORT
as at March 10, 2025

REGULAR ACCOUNT:

Balance:

43923 Opening Balance at February 10, 2025

\$5,044.70

Add Deposits:

Feb	PH Rotary Donation	\$	285.00
	Donation(s)for Hot Lunch	\$	600.00
	Teachers Donation to Hot Lunch	\$	30.35
	D Silvey	\$	130.00
		\$	1,045.35

\$ 1,045.35

Less Cheques:

etransfer	D Martens	Pizza Hut	\$	336.98
	Subway		\$	378.71
	etransfer fees		\$	3.00
	Ph Community School		\$	285.00
	2024 Grad Bursary		\$	500.00
			\$	1,503.69

\$ 1,503.69

Book Balance as at March 10, 2025

\$4,586.36

Reconciliation:

outstanding

Bank Balance March 10 2025

\$4,586.36

\$ -

funds available \$4,586.36

Opening Balance at February 10, 2025

\$3,207.07

GAMING ACCOUNT:

47387

\$

-

Gaming Fund usage:

as at March 10, 2025

\$3,207.07

Bank Balance March 10, 2025

\$3,207.07

Reconciliation:

\$0.00

funds available \$3,207.07

TOTAL REGULAR AND GAMING ACCOUNTS

Funds available

as at March 10, 2025

\$7,793.43



PHSS PAC Meeting, March 10, 2025

Recreation Programmer job posting

- Job description on website and in Harbour Spiel
- 10-15 hours a week. More hours possible if desired and if programming allows.

Referee interest - students / community members

Basketball day at Elphi tomorrow for grade 6/7s.

Community School staff attended a Foundry parent information session last week. Spoke about advisory councils for youth and parent/caregiver and framework of what the Foundry does.

Community Volunteer Tax program happening now - Harry Drost at Community School Wednesdays. By appointment or drop in. Tax packages are available for pick up at the community school.

Good turn out at youth drop in on the 28th - for both youth and parent help. No youth drop in in March. Next youth drop in will be April 25th.

Gauging interest for drop in youth sports. Age range, time / day.

Central Kitchen

- Transportation
- Staffing (school staff)
- Cost is higher which means students will get less food support
- Stigma

Thorough discussions with school district, principals, and community school coordinators to understand how to meet the need.

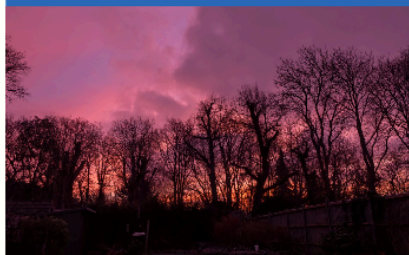


SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

TRUSTEE MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025

SUBMITTED BY VICE-CHAIR STACIA LEECH



CYBERSECURITY IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Sunshine Coast School District is part of a larger network of School Boards in the province as members of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and the South Coast Branch of School Districts. Every year, the BCSTA holds an AGM, where school districts have the opportunity to make motions requesting the BCSTA Board of Directors advocate for programs, services, and funding from the Ministry of Education and Childcare (MECC).

This year, our South Coast Branch of the BCSTA has submitted a motion that the BCSTA Board request the MECC allocate additional funding to enhance school district cybersecurity. There is an urgent need for increased funding to strengthen cybersecurity measures across school districts in BC. Funding has not been provided to address the risks associated with technology in the modern world. School District 46 trustees will be speaking to the motion at the AGM.

As there is no District Parent Advisory Committee meeting during the March spring break, this report covers the months of February and March.

LEADERSHIP DURING A PANDEMIC

The five-year anniversary of the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic impact on education is February 22, 2020, when BC had its first school exposure to the coronavirus. Our fledgling school board was only one year into a four-year term when we faced the collective crises of the global pandemic. This became a time of uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, requiring high-impact decisions to be made quickly. The resiliency of our leadership was tested. It was not until September 10 that students fully returned to the classroom, with staggered start times and wearing masks in areas where physical distancing could not be maintained. It was a transformative time that we are still learning from and an experience that reinforced our commitment to leadership training for trustees, students, and staff.

The Sunshine Coast Board of Education is passionate about nurturing resilient future community leaders.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Elementary students began their leadership journey at the first-ever DELI (District Elementary Leadership Initiative) Youth Conference. Trustee McClelland attended on behalf of the Board. Chatelech Secondary Grade 10 students and senior leadership students, with considerable support from their teachers, planned the event. Students led the group learning sessions on a variety of themes. It was an incredible day of connection and learning.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

This Ad Hoc committee was convened in the fall of 2024. Trustee Girard is the chair, with two appointed Trustees. The committee is following up on the process begun in 2023. The mandate/purpose of the committee is to explore and recommend strategies to enhance parent engagement and strengthen relationships in alignment with the strategic plan.

The committee met in January to develop the Terms of Reference. Work on identifying current practices and challenges was the focus of the February meeting. Notes from the meetings and the Terms of Reference are available on the SD46 website.

TRUSTEE MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025



PRO COOK TRAIN IN TRADES PROGRAM

On January 22, Trustees, senior management and students' families were in attendance to celebrate the graduates of the program and cheer them on as they received their certificates of completion, earning 16 credits toward their graduation. This is a favourite event in the Trustees' calendar, not least because it involves a delicious gourmet lunch. This time we enjoyed steak and roasted vegetables, or gnocchi - a type of pasta dumpling - in a flavourful sauce ("nocca" means knuckle in Italian). There were also delicious sweets.

Congratulations students, support staff, and chefs!

SD46 STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Check out Student Trustee Alexis Proust's February Regular Board Meeting report to stay up to date with Sunshine Coast Secondary activities.

[Student Trustee Report - February 2025](#)



SCHOOL TOURS

In February, Trustees commenced annual school tours and had a hands-on opportunity to review school growth plans. Tours will take place from February to June. Trustees will review the growth plans and explore how the strategic plan is being applied and supported in each school. Thanks to the principals, teachers, staff, and students who put thought, care, and attention into hosting us. These visits provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate successes, acknowledge challenges, and offer support where needed.



POLICY WORK AND TRUSTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At the February 12 Regular Board Meeting, the Board approved changes to Bylaw 58 - Motions. We are continuing our review of the District Bylaws and Policies as part of the Board's commitment to professional growth.



THE THRONE SPEECH

On February 18, the Minister of Education and Child Care, Lisa Beare, attended the opening of the First Session of the BC Legislature 43rd Parliament. March 15 is the deadline for the minister to establish and announce the amount of provincial funding to be allocated to boards in the next fiscal year for the delivery and support of educational programs. We look forward to the announcement.

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH - LOCAL GOVERNANCE LIAISON MEETING

Vice-Chair Leech and Director of Instruction Rive attended the February 21 meeting, which provided a rare opportunity to hear from community health professionals and for SD46 to share the incredible health initiatives happening in our schools. We learned that a high percentage of children on the coast are immunized against diseases that could be life-altering if left unchecked. The discussion also explored the importance of early, proactive public health initiatives—such as preventive care, education, and wellness programs—that help reduce the need for later medical interventions and treatments when health issues have already developed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETINGS

Parents are invited to attend the Board of Education meetings. Meetings are held in person at the School Board Office, 494 South Fletcher Road, Gibsons and whenever possible, live-streamed to YouTube.

The next Regular Board Meeting is March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Board meeting schedule: [Schedule of Meetings](#)

Meeting agendas and minutes from previous meetings: [Agendas and Minutes](#)

SD46 YouTube Channel meeting live-stream: [SD46 YouTube](#)

Board Committee meetings are scheduled April 22:

Education Committee	9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Committee of the Whole	11:15 AM to 1:30 PM
Operations Committee	1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

IF YOU ARE CURIOUS
ABOUT ANY OF THE
ARTICLES IN THIS REPORT
OR TO ASK QUESTIONS
YOU CAN EMAIL
QUESTIONS@SD46.BC.CA





DPAC

District Parent Advisory Council
School District 46 - Sunshine Coast

February Meeting Minutes

Date: February 27th, 2025 | **Time:** 7pm

Location: Elphinstone Secondary, Library 840 Gibsons Way, Gibsons
+ Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#) [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 281 918 103 40

Passcode: ge93dm (technical issues, online feature was not available)

In Attendance: Rachael Eastman (Chair, PHSS), Miyuki Shinkai (Secretary/BCCPAC rep, ESS), Sandy Buck (ESS), Marissa Fisher (Director, CGE), Scott Davis (Director/ Past Chair), Tamara Hedden (Vice Chair, CGE), Kate Kowalczyk (RCCE), Karla Shield (LES), Kristen Deasey (District Principal of Learning, Innovation and Childcare), Andrea Potter (Food Program /KES), Alison Liddicot (SCTA), Sharon MacKenzie (CUPE 801), Stacia Leech (Trustee Rep), Kate Kerr (Superintendent).

Regrets: Rep (SCAS), Emily Dolye (GES), Jessica Wollen (CSS), Jana Curll (CSS), Ayren Drebbett (KES), Jennifer Sumner (Treasurer, MPE), Ewa Kusmieriek (WSE), Michelle (HMB), Brair Teal (DBE).

7:00 PM Greetings, Introductions + Land Acknowledgement

7:03 PM Approvals:

- January 23rd, 2025: Meeting minutes available on SD46 website moved by Miyuki, seconded by Tamara. All in Favour m/s/c/
- February 27, 2025, Agenda m/s/c

7:05 PM PAC Updates and Sharing

- Questions from the DBE PAC about the district's response on portable sinks and water access. Superintendent Kerr confirmed that the principal of DBE has received the response from the district; PAC should contact the principal for further information.
- Kate Kowalczyk of RCCE PAC shared the link to her interview with Gloria Macarenko on CBC Radio, which she provided the afternoon of the earthquake. After the Minister of Safety, she spoke with Gloria about how Robert's Creek Elementary School utilized their PAC app, PACanimal, to convey our principal's message regarding the kids' safety and pickup information just minutes after the event, which was updated for the parents through the app. For more information about the PAC app, please contact vantwerperth@gmail.com
<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-46-on-the-coast>

7:15 PM Guest Presenter – Feeding Futures- Kirsten Deasey - *Principal of Learning, Innovation and Childcare* and Andrea Potter – *Feeding Futures Manager* (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

- Negative impact when kids are hungry, Food insecurity, Feeding Futures pilot program locations and Community Schools involvement – central kitchens sending lunch and nourishing food to KES, HMB, DBE, SCAS, RCE, CGE, LES, and CSS. VCH Food safe standard added, dishwashers implemented, ongoing learning, teaching cooking, staffing, new vans purchased. More provincial/ federal funding is needed.

www.secheltkitchen.ca for ordering lunch and snacks for kids.

7:35 PM

Q&A time on presentation from PACs.

All school sites have a unique operation. PHSS PAC has been asked to continue raising funds to provide free lunches to students. Provincial Affordability Fund stopped coming; Federal government fund was supposed to come, but no distribution. Recently, DPAC received the template letter from the Vancouver DPAC to support their advocacy to have the BC government sign on the National Schools Food Program with the Federal government. The sample letter will be shared via email.

Action & Motion: Miyuki moved that the SD46 DPAC send a Letter of Request to Premier Eby regarding the National School Food Program. Seconded by Tamara. All in favour. m/s/c

More information on fund function, community schools' roles, and how PACs can help would be great. Contact your principal or Kristen for more information and any questions. kdeasey@sd46.bc.ca

7:50 PM

Regular reports:

- *Chair* report: Rachael Eastman
Highlight and Discussion – Inviting the Family Support Navigators to the April meeting as speakers. Miyuki requested Kate to address the topic of attendance rates and related topics. In May, the DPAC would like to have a discussion opportunity with Kerry Mahlman about upcoming Indigenous Education in the schools. DPAC would like to prepare questions and areas of interest in advance. Special needs categories, funding allocations, and an enrollment presentation will be planned for the fall.
Rachael shared the Parent Support Group for Families of Children with Extra Needs monthly meeting information, contact to Karys Foley kfoley@sd46.bc.ca Join their Facebook group 'Sunshine Coast Parents of Neurodiverse Kids'
- Treasurer report: Prepared by Jennifer Sumner
As of Feb 27, 2025, Gaming Account \$1,200.94
Operating Account \$225.20 m/s/c
- THE BCCPAC AGM & Conference is going to be held in Prince George and via a hybrid format, which will cost less for the SD46 DPAC to register, which will leave some funds for other ideas like the Food Safe Certification for PAC members and possibly presenters like

Susan Wilson, the provincial Parents Advocacy Trainer. Spending motion is tabled for the April meeting.

- 8:00 PM DPAC Constitution and Bylaw –
The chair moved to table till April due to time constraints. m/s/c
- 8:05 PM Board reports
- Trustee report: Trustee Vice-Chair Stacia Leech (Newsletter attached) Highlights are COVID-19, 5th anniversary: The district's resilient leadership, school growth plan, student leadership, pro-cook program, parents' engagement committee, policy work, VCH governance meeting, high % of kids are vaccinated on the coast. March 12th board meeting. Everyone is welcome at the board office in person or via streaming.
 - Superintendent's Report – *Superintendent* Kate Kerr (attached)

DPAC
SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

Superintendent's Report
Submitted by Superintendent Kate Kerr
February 27th, 2024

This report highlights key updates and events from the past month, all grounded in our core values of **learning, belonging, integrity, and equity**.

Black History Month

Each year, Black History Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Black communities in Canada, listen to their stories, and deepen our understanding of Black history and contributions to Canadian society.

The Honourable Kamal Khera, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, announced this year's Black History Month theme: "**Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations.**" The theme was unveiled on **Lincoln Alexander Day (January 21)**, which honours Canada's first Black Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister, Lincoln Alexander.

February is a time to recognize the diversity and accomplishments of Black Canadians. It is also a moment for reflection—acknowledging Canada's painful history and the systemic barriers, racism, and discrimination that Black communities continue to face.

Staff and student leadership groups are engaging in meaningful Black History Month activities in classrooms and school-wide. For more, visit **Government of Canada – Black History Month:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration opened on February 10. This year, current kindergarten students helped showcase the excitement of kindergarten by sharing their experiences in a special video. Watch it [HERE](#)!

Elphinstone Student's Psychology Research Published in Academic Journal

Elphinstone Secondary student **Levi Cotrell** has achieved an exceptional academic milestone with the publication of his **Psychology 11 study** titled "[The Impact of Facial Characteristics on the Face-Naming Effect Through Human and AI-Generated Faces](#)" in the online journal *Neuronotebook*.

This accomplishment is a remarkable example of student achievement and may be among the first instances of a high school student publishing in this field. As **our District Student Leadership Team (DSLTT) representative** for Grade 11, Levi exemplifies the spirit of curiosity and dedication we celebrate in SD46. Join us in congratulating him on this outstanding success!

2024 TD Grade One Book Giveaway

- The 2024 TD Grade One Book Giveaway featured *Violet Shrink*, which was distributed to all Grade 1 students, as well as Kindergarten and Grade 2 students in split classes in early January.
- This marks the final year of the giveaway. Thanks to TD Bank Group's 25 years of support!

DELI (District Elementary Leadership Initiative) Youth Conference

Leadership students from all district elementary schools joined the first-ever DELI Youth Conference on Friday, January 24, at Chatelech Secondary for a fun-filled, inspiring day of learning on inclusion, diversity, and equity in our schools. Chatelech Secondary Teacher Mr. Kudaba played a significant role in planning this event with his Grade 10 and senior leadership students. Secondary leadership students led breakout group learning sessions on themes including bullying and teasing, inclusion, SOGI, positive relationships, slur language, leadership, and compassionate systems. It was an incredible day of connection and learning.

Family Literacy Week (January 27-31)

Children and families across the Sunshine Coast celebrated Family Literacy Week from January 27th to 31st! Here are some of the highlights:

- **The Myrtle Sisters Performance:** Thanks to the Sunshine Coast Literacy Coalition, hundreds of students enjoyed a lively performance by the Myrtle Sisters at the Roberts Creek Hall.
- **Author/Illustrator Visits:** Elementary schools welcomed visits from talented authors and illustrators Kallie George, Sara Gillingham, and Grant Lawrence.

These visits were made possible through the support of Celebration of Authors, Books, and Community (CABC) and the Festival of the Written Arts.

- **Intermediate Lunch & Learns:** These sessions focused on mini-lessons and personal narratives, reaching every elementary school. Each school received a curated stack of books designed to help teachers demonstrate writing techniques used by authors when crafting personal narratives.
- **Imagination Library Support:** The Sunshine Coast Lions Club generously donated additional funding to support the Imagination Library. SD46 holds the distinction of being the longest-standing affiliate of the program in all of Canada! To date, over 61,000 books have been mailed to Sunshine Coast children.

Thank you to everyone who made Family Literacy Week such a success!

Chatelech Secondary Capstone Showcase

Students recently presented their Capstone projects at Chatelech Secondary's Showcase, highlighting their creativity, innovation, and interests. The event featured a diverse range of projects and sparked engaging conversations, celebrating the remarkable efforts of the next generation of thinkers, doers, and innovators.

Elphinstone Secondary Students Participate in North America's Largest Model UN Conference

In late January, Elphinstone Secondary's Model UN Club, led by Mr. Cavasin and Ms. Sanders, traveled to Vancouver to take part in the largest Model United Nations conference in North America. Over the past five months, students dedicated significant time and effort to preparing for this prestigious event. Their participation provided an invaluable opportunity to develop diplomatic skills, collaborate with peers, and deepen their understanding of global issues. It was an enriching and memorable experience for all involved.

Sunshine Coast Teachers' Association's (SCTA) New Website

The SCTA has launched a wonderful new website that celebrates the incredible work of teachers. Visit: <https://www.scta46.org/>

Sunshine Coast Educators' Day

Friday, February 7th, Elphinstone Secondary was abuzz with energy as staff gathered for the Sunshine Coast Teachers' Associations 'Sunshine Coast Educators' Day', a powerful professional development opportunity centred on The Responsive Educator. From thought-provoking keynotes to interactive workshops, staff engaged in meaningful learning on topics ranging from AI in the classroom to Indigenous perspectives, student well-being, and climate education. This day showcased the dedication of our staff to continuous growth and excellence in their professions. A heartfelt thank you to all presenters, organizers, and participants for making this a truly inspiring event!

Dr. Dustin Louie Visit

Dr. Dustin Louie, a renowned Indigenous educator and Director of NITEP (Indigenous Teacher Education Program) at UBC, led several days of deep learning focused on transformative Reconciliation.

- **January 15:** Morning session with principals and learning guides; afternoon session with the Indigenous Learning Team.
- **January 16:** Session with Indigenous students.
- **May 16th Pro-D Day:** Session is open to all staff, with limited seating available. Registration will open soon!

Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a vital questionnaire designed for children in Grades 4 through 8, focusing on their thoughts, feelings, and experiences both inside and outside of school. This instrument is not intended for individual assessment but serves to gather data on the collective well-being of students, encompassing areas related to social and emotional health, academic achievement, and overall development.

For the current school year, our district is actively engaging Grades 5, 6, and 8 in the MDI survey, with collection efforts already underway and expected to conclude before spring break. The insights gained from this survey are instrumental for our school communities in understanding the health and well-being of children during the pivotal middle childhood years, ages 9 to 13.

This developmental phase is crucial as children navigate significant changes in cognition, physical growth, and social connections. Research indicates that experiences during these years profoundly impact a child's ability to focus, cultivate positive relationships, and make responsible decisions as they transition into adolescence and adulthood. By utilizing the MDI, we aim to better support our students in this important period of their growth.

Enhancing Support for Neurodiverse Families: A Collaborative Approach

We would like to highlight the impactful work being undertaken by Karys Foley, one of our dedicated Family Support Navigators, as part of the District Inclusion Support Team. Karys has been facilitating monthly Support Groups for Parents and Guardians of neurodiverse children and youth, including those with FASD, ASD, ADHD, Down Syndrome, and other neurodivergent learners.

These sessions are proving to be an invaluable networking opportunity, allowing families to connect, share experiences, and access vital resources. The school district has committed to providing the necessary time, space, and facilitation for these gatherings, while community agencies such as Sunshine Coast Community Services and Child and Youth Mental Health are disseminating referrals. This fosters a robust

cross-referral system between agencies, enhancing collaboration and support for families.

The program is also bolstered by the support of CYSN Support Worker, Katja Strauss. Originally designed for families with complex neurodevelopmental needs, the new format of these support groups has broadened our outreach, enabling more families to benefit from the resources and supports available in our community.

Student Engagement Project Resource Hub

The District Inclusion Support Team is proud to share the continued enhancement of our Student Engagement Project through the development of a comprehensive online resource hub for students, families, and staff. This hub serves as a vital tool in supporting student attendance and engagement, hosting a wide array of resources designed to address the multifaceted challenges our youth face today.

<https://sd46.bc.ca/families-and-students/every-day-counts-hub/>

Key resources available on the hub include:

- **Importance of School Attendance:** Informational materials for parents that highlight the significance of consistent attendance.
- **Tips and Tools for Improving Attendance:** Practical strategies to encourage regular school participation.
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** Answers to common queries regarding attendance policies and procedures.
- **School Anxiety & Attendance Challenges:** A webinar series aimed at helping parents and caregivers navigate school-related anxieties.

This resource hub is an integral part of the School Engagement Project, which seeks to understand and address multiple factors affecting attendance including School-Related Factors, Family-Related, Individual Student Factors and External factors. By enhancing our resources and understanding the wide range of factors influencing attendance, we aim to provide better support for our school community.

Career Programs Update

As we welcome a new year, it was a month of both endings and new beginnings in the Career Education Department.

- **The Pro Cook Train in Trades** program came to a successful conclusion on January 22nd with a program celebration. Students, their families, School Trustees Amanda Amaral, Stacia Leech, Ann Skelcher, Pammila Ruth and Sue Girard, as well as Superintendent Kate Kerr and Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Roberts were all in attendance to celebrate. Each of the ten students in the program earned 16 credits toward their graduation and undoubtedly left with skills and knowledge that will serve them throughout their lifetime. A massive

amount of thanks and gratitude to Chef Ken Hookham and Chef Krissy Seymour who were instrumental in delivering and supporting an engaging and inclusive curriculum. Congratulations to our 2024/25 Pro Cook students!

- **The Automotive Service Tech** program also successfully wrapped up on January 21st. Instructor Brenda Masich took the students out for lunch and presented each one with individualized gifts, highlighting a funny event or unique trait that each student demonstrated in the class. These students gained 16 credits toward their graduation. Two of the students have been hired by their Work Experience sponsors and will be starting their apprenticeship next semester with their respective company. Much appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Masich, the fearless leader of the program, who encouraged and supported each student on their journey throughout this course. Lastly, to Ryan Lee, the VCC instructor, who regularly made the trek to the Coast to evaluate and assist the students with their theory work. Congratulations to our 2024/25 Automotive Service Technician students!
- **The Carpentry Program** began at Chatelech Secondary on January 27th, under the leadership of instructor Jonathan Powell. Jonathan has already lined up guest speakers from industry, including employees of PCL construction, and those from our local construction companies, such as Jenkins Construction. The students will also be going to the St. Paul's Hospital jobsite in Vancouver on February 11th to see carpentry and construction skills in action. The students will receive a safety orientation and tour of the site by PCL employees. An exciting start to this very popular Train in Trades program!
- The **2025/26 Train in Trades applications** are now available on SD46 Career Programs website and hard copies will be available at each secondary school's office. There has been much promotion of these programs through parent nights, class visits, hallway presentations at lunch and staff recommendations. The number of students across the district indicating an interest in one of these programs is high, which will hopefully be reflected in the number of completed applications that are returned. Due date for completed applications is March 7th, 2025.
- After careful and detailed scrutiny, **the Fire Academy** final selection has been made. It was a very difficult decision as each of these candidates ranked high throughout each category. As a result, Deputy Chief Steve Achterberg has decided to increase the number of students accepted from 12 to 14. All of these students demonstrated amazing perseverance and responsibility in completing each section of the application process. Deputy Chief Achterberg personally reached out to each applicant to either congratulate them or to provide feedback and suggestions for those who did not make it this time - encouraging them to apply for next year's Academy. A huge thank you to Deputy Chief Achterberg for his dedication and commitment to this program!! The next step is the parent/student night on Feb. 20 at the Sechelt Fire Hall. Congratulations to all of the Fire Academy candidates!!

8:20 PM Committee reports:

- Healthy Schools - none
- Family Engagement – tabled
- Active School Travel – The Next VCH meeting is in early April. There is some progress in the priority hazardous spot like Chaster & Pratt, with the new signages. Port Mellon Hwy & YMCA Rd also had a traffic count done; the data proving an improvement needs to be made. Waiting for the MOTT's response.
- Education, Operations, Committee of the Whole - 4th Tues of month
DPAC needs someone from the DPAC/PACs to represent parents' voice at the table. Please contact Rachael/Miyuki for more info.

8:38 PM Meeting to Adjourn

Next meeting: 7 pm April 24th, 2025 – Chatelech Secondary Library/Teams