

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: General Affairs DATE: March 1, 2006

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Moyra Baxter STAFF CONTACT: R. Rubadeau, Superintendent

Attendees:

Trustee M. Baxter, Committee Chairperson and Board Chairperson
Trustee W. Horning, Committee Member and Chairperson of the Planning and Facilities Committee
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley, Committee Member and Chairperson of the Finance and Legal Committee
Trustee G. Scanlan, Committee Member and Chairperson of the Personnel and Staff Services Committee
Trustee C. Wiebe, Committee Member and Chairperson of the Education and Student Services Committee

Staff: R. Rubadeau, Superintendent of Schools
M. Roberts, Director of Instruction – Human Resources
H. Gloster, Director of Instruction
M. Stolze, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	M. Magas
COTA	B. Shanks
COPVPA	D. Sjoquist

Absent: Regrets received from B. Zeman, CUPE 3523
District Student Council

Minutes

Note: Detailed Minutes of Committee meetings are available on request. To obtain copies of Minutes of the General Affairs Committee Meetings, please phone the Office of the Superintendent 470-3256.

January 4, 2006 Meeting

The Committee adopted the Minutes of the January 4, 2006 meeting.

Queries

1. Trustee Hunt-Binkley requested and received information on the status of items scheduled for future Committee and Board agenda.
2. Trustee Horning asked if the scope of the Planning and Facilities Committee should include review of the Annual Facilities Grant. The Committee agreed. The Chairperson indicated the correct procedure is for Trustee Horning to address the matter with his Committee. The Committee can amend the new draft policy to include this item before presenting the draft policy to the Board for consideration.

Action

The March 1, 2006 meeting of the Public General Affairs Committee featured five Action Items. The first two items were procedural and relative to the new Committee Structure.

1. **Committee Meeting Minutes/Report Process (Tracking, Referral and Assignments)**
2. **Committee Correspondence Procedure (Receive and Send) for Committees**

The Chairperson explained the need to have standardized procedures for all Committees. Staff provided suggestions which parallel the procedures currently followed by the Board. The Committee discussed the matter and, with one addition, the Committee agreed to the suggestions.

Outcome: The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the procedures.

New Committee Structure

The Committee discussed the Board's new committee structure, and agreed to recommend that the Board revisit the matter at the beginning of next school year.

3. Field Trips and Parent Approved Helmets

In attendance: Hugh Gloster, Director of Instruction

Concern had been raised that a minimum of Canadian Standards Association certification should be specified in policy. Consequently, the Board requested the General Affairs Committee to provide a recommendation.

Following research on the matter, Hugh Gloster provided a written recommendation that was accepted by the Committee.

Outcome: The Committee will recommend to the Board that changes to policy are not required.

4. Policy 423: Health-Promoting Schools – District Committee Composition

The Committee considered and approved a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Healthy Food Choices Committee to rename the Committee the *District Health- Promoting School Committee*. The Committee also considered and approved a recommendation regarding the composition of the new Committee as follows:

- 3 principals/vice principal representatives
- 4 COTA representatives
- 3 COPAC representatives
- 2 CUPE 3523 representatives
- 2 trustee representatives
- 2 health-related representatives
- 2 DSC representatives
- 1 Senior Administration representative.

In response to a question, the Superintendent confirmed that staff are appointed by him to chair district committees. The Committee discussed the protocol.

Outcome:

The General Affairs Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Healthy Food Choices Committee in regard to renaming that Committee, and in regard to the Committee's composition. The recommendations will be considered by the Board on March 8th.

5. Operational Definitions of Cultural Values

Earlier in the year, at the direction of the Board, a meeting of all the district's partner groups had been convened to develop the definitions. At the February 22nd public meeting of the Board, Trustees considered the draft definitions. Trustees indicated that they wished to change the wording and, consequently, the Board tabled the item to the March 8th public meeting.

In the interim, trustees were to provide their comments to the Superintendent.

The feedback from Trustees is contradictory and, as a result, at this Committee meeting, the Chairperson indicated that trustees needed more time to discuss the proposed wording of the definitions.

Outcome:

The Committee will recommend that the Board defer discussion on the tabled item to the March 29th public Board meeting.

When the Board has agreed on the draft wording, the partner groups will be asked to revisit the definitions.

Information Items

There were two information items:

1. Need for Policy re: Student Choice Dissection

Concern had been raised that there could be a need for a policy that addressed the issue of student choice relative to dissection. The Board had requested an opinion from the General Affairs Committee. Having researched the matter, Ron Rubadeau, Superintendent, informed the Committee that there is no need for a policy. The matter is being dealt with at the school level.

Hugh Gloster, Director of Instruction, advised that he had had an opportunity to meet with biology teachers to clarify the choice issue and protocol.

Mike Roberts, incoming Superintendent, advised that, typically, dissection is mentioned on course outlines that are provided in writing for students to take home.

Marliss Magas, COPAC representative, indicated that, in her opinion, a parent with concerns would phone the school.

On March 8th, the Chairperson will inform the Board, by way of her General Affairs Committee Report, that a policy is not necessary.

2. Board Policy Requirements Resulting from the New Committee Structure – Additions/Deletions/Amendments

The Superintendent advised that Board Committees are in the process of completing their policy considerations. Following a review by the Superintendent, policies requirements will be presented to the Board, likely in May.

Items for Future Agenda:

Mandate of the Development Committee (requested by Trustee Hunt-Binkley)

Next Committee Meeting May 3, 2006 Location: School Board Office Board Room
Date and Time 4:30 PM

Questions: Please Contact: Superintendent Ron Rubadeau Phone: 250 470-4356