

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: General Affairs DATE: May 3, 2006

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Moyra Baxter STAFF CONTACT: Mike Roberts, 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 Human Resources and Staff Services Committee
Trustee C. Wiebe, Committee Member and Chairperson of the Education and Student Services Committee

Staff: M. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools
M. Stolze, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	M. Magas
COTA	B. Shanks, K. Bernath
COPVPA	S. McLean, D. Sjoquist, J. Birkeland
CUPE	B. Zeman, L. Willard
DSC	Absent due to exams

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.

March 1, 2006 Meeting

The Committee adopted the Minutes of the March 1, 2006 meeting.

Query

Trustee Horning asked for clarification on the process for requesting amendments to existing policy. *Requests for changes should be provided to the Superintendent for review and subsequent referral to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee will decide on scheduling and placement for the item either at the Board level, or at a Committee level.*

Action

The meeting featured two Action Items.

1. Operational Definitions (draft) for the District's Cultural

The Board has established five Cultural Values for our District: Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, Empathy and Fairness. Earlier in the year, at the direction of the Board, the district's partner groups developed definitions for the Board's consideration. On February 22nd, the Board considered the draft definitions and, in the interest of brevity and clarity, decided to make some suggestions to the partner groups. Partner group representatives were invited to this Committee meeting to discuss the suggestions.

The Committee agreed that those in attendance should break into 5 groups, with each group being asked to review the draft definition for one of the five Cultural Values. At the conclusion of this exercise, the Committee reconvened. Each group presented their opinion. Discussion followed, resulting in agreement to the following wording:

Honesty is the building block for relationships and the basis for trust. It is the absence of falsehood and the action of full disclosure. It is the ultimate test of moral strength. When honesty is present, integrity will also be apparent.

Responsibility is being accountable for our actions and their consequences. When we demonstrate responsibility, we are doing our best to meet the expectations of ourselves and others.

Respect is “to consider worthy of high regard”. Being respectful is an attitude of honouring people and caring about their rights.

Empathy is a feeling of concern, compassion and understanding of another’s situation or feelings.

While recognizing individual situations and differences, **fairness** is ensuring impartiality where everyone plays by the same rules.

Outcome:

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the above listed Operational Definitions for the District’s Cultural Values.

2. Safe Driving Message to Students during the Graduation Season

The sum of \$3,500 is allocated annually to the General Affairs Committee to spend as the Committee sees fit. Staff suggested that the Committee consider repeating a campaign to promote a safe driving message to students. The Committee discussed the matter. On behalf of CUPE 3523, Association President Bill Zeman committed financial support to the campaign. Other representatives indicated that they will advise the Superintendent if their partner group decides to participate. The Committee reviewed a suggested script, and it was agreed that the Superintendent should approve the message prior to it being broadcast.

Outcome:

The Superintendent was authorized to proceed with the campaign.

Information Items

1. Status of Agenda Item

Previously listed as a future agenda item was “The Mandate of the Development Committee”. This item has been referred to upcoming strategic planning sessions with the Board and senior staff.

Next Committee Meeting Date and Time	November 8, 2006 4:30 PM	Location:	School Board Office Board Room
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Questions: Please Contact: Mike Roberts, Superintendent Phone: 250 470-4356