

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Zoom - 4:30 pm

- Minutes -

Melanie Demoe	PHSS	Sarah Soltau	FRES
Shawn Gough	VINTA	Steph Boal	NISS
Courtney Wall	PHSS	Frank MacLean	PHSS
Evania Nolan	SVES	Tammy Bono	SES

1. Call to Order. Sarah Soltau 4:40 pm.
2. Review/adoption of agenda dated December 3, 2025.  
add Parent Attendance, JEIS -CUPE, T-Shirts, November 2026 Collaboration Day and Calendar

**Moved – Demoe/MacLean**

That the agenda dated be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

3. Review/adoption of minutes dated November 5, 2025.  
**Moved – Demoe/MacLean**  
That the minutes dated November 5, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

4. Business:

a) November PD debrief

Sound in the gym was okay once it was tuned in – really need to work on the sound in the gym – always a problem – the riser helped to see the person speaking. 37 results from a survey, obligatory not enough food more dairy free options, more salad, 1.5 isn't very deep learning, would like them to be longer, didn't want to be talked at for 6 hours, more active workshops, positive comments about students do the food, limited amount of workshops made the workshops very large, remember to have more workshops to spread them out, library and multipurpose room worked out well. Irene did not receive the booklet and some of her staff did not know to join. We had registration open up to the day before and it was used up to then. Canva does have a spell check. BCTF was a lot of money for them to come do 1 2-hr work shop would like to have them for a morning and afternoon. Frank had a positive experience, and others around him had a positive experience, was an easier one to handle. Props to Kayley for helping out and giving directions. Labeling people to help find where to go. First nations event staff button, Rena and Christina are separate. No TTOC list anymore, they didn't get it, people don't check. Let's spread out the sending out the package to make sure that everyone gets it. Very same message just in a different form.

b) May PD

Spoke to Williams a chef from the Comox valley he is indigenous and is on Instagram,

language stuff, quite engaging going to be the keynote around reading children to learn instead of reading children for school. Traditional world learning. History and traditional agriculture in the morning, speaking about Cowichan valley. Afternoon, healthy school curriculum, sharing of that. Brain storming planning type thing. Lesley Dyck and Brianna Dietitian from VIHA, got a grant for a garden, brainstorming idea around garden tours. Nutrition in the school, and fundraisers. Food sustainability, cycle and food. Myra Connaty could do something. Presentation that Meagan does about teaching nutrition in the school. Indigenous health nutritionist that Sarah will meet with. Various locations Cluxewe, send someone out to the oyster farm, Alert Bay about indoor growing, Maybe Joel can do something. Send people off to land based activities, would love everyone to come back together but don't know how to make that work. Schedule lunch from 1-2. Social type thing at the curling club, would be more like 3. Some kind of meal or social at the end, not sure who would want to do that. What about a bag lunch something to take with you. A day about food, very complicated these days. Easier to serve a meal, was great that the foods program at NISS. 150 ppl register for November, because you included CPI. That was always separate. PD is funded for PD for teachers. CUPE does not contribute to that day financially, want to include them but it is expensive. CUPE has been given a huge chunk of money so maybe they'd be interested in wanting to help plan the PD and be more a part of it. The fact that Tereasa is involved will help. Send ideas to Sarah, communication has to be clear and it needs to go to either Sarah and Marnee to ensure they are included properly.

c) Afterschool Workshops in February

Talked about learning progressions for primary for math and language arts one of the people did the literacy one, people don't really know about progressions, at least the literacy one in February Catherine learning assistant director. Worked really well those after school sessions. We have the money to do things like that. If you have ideas let Sarah know as she only knows primary areas. Will send out information closer to the dates. There is not cap on members they are usually done on Zoom.

d) Mentoring Pilot

The district is involved in a mentoring pilot from the UBC. Irene is one of the organizers, French immersion and one is aboriginal Alison Burk. Release days for those that may want to be involved, traditional mentor mentee. Jill Cook is local lead. Should be a VINTA position not an admin position.

e) Parent Attendance

Got an email from Statia from EVES that parents want workshops for the parents. VPAC can attend any Pd that is offered from the district. It is written into some policy. Parents can attend any PD offered from the district. Informed policy, parents should be allowed to attend anything put on by the district, let them come if they can pay \$25. They can register after the teachers, if they want to learn. Not planned for parents. Not intended for parents but they would have the opportunity to attend. Selective options for parents. Some sessions are not parent oriented. Should be some formal request – why and if there is space. What their intent is. Maybe DPAC could organize something for parents and attend on that day and provide some financial assistance. Want to attend school PD days, if relevant to parents. Those days are for staff pro-d. School based brought in a speaker that would be use to the school community then they could invite the community and would take a specific invite for that situation. Extend the speaker outside the PD day and charge them ticket prices. Ricki Clark is the DPAC chair and could contact parents. How many people

can we accommodate. Kelly Anderson was asking about it and they were told they could attend. There are some situations where parents would not work in the workshop.

f) JEIS - CUPE

Tereasa is the new 2<sup>nd</sup> president of north island. There are some work shops. JEIS is a supportive program provided by the Public Education Benefits Trust (PEBT) that helps unionized school support staff in BC's public schools who are off work due to illness or injury. JEIS offers early assistance, helps coordinate treatment, and works with members to plan a healthy and safe return to work. PEBT has partnered with Desjardins to provide these services. They offer 1 hour work shops and could be offered on Pro-D on zoom.

g) T-Shirts

We bought 40 of the red kids matter shirts 20 from pd and some from VINTA, Shawn has been just handing them out, would PD want to be paid back, would rather have them used then sit around, tomorrow Red shirts will be worn. First nation staff would like to have some shirts as well do they have to buy them, we have like 6 shirts, they are \$20, VINTA members get them free. Don't we have a strike contingency funds, could look at purchasing more, earliest opportunity to get more is at the end of January. Talk about it at the EC meeting.

h) Calendar

Looking at calendar looking at a 3-year bases now, board is open to that, 28/29 the next 2 school years look really good, would really like to have a day in the spring time instead of January but that is already set in this calendar, Christina could add another non-instructional day. Would do that day sometime later in April, more than a 5 day break between holidays a little bit extra release when it is needed. Possibility of rotating when the day takes place.

27/28 Easter is not in spring break are they going to extend the day? They are just accepting that they days are less. At some point in time will have to have the discussion. Don't want to plan another district day in January. Collab time and School based.

i) November 2026 Collaboration Day  
Mental Health, Early Years

5. Correspondence: None

6. Reports:

a) Financial:

i) Current Financial Report vs Budget.....**5-7**

Big uptake on the district day funds. We have money. No TTOC's have been paid. November is going to be an expensive day.

**Moved – Demoe/Bono**

That the current financial report be accepted as presented.

**Carried**

7. Other Business: January sub committee to discuss the May Day

Adjournment 5:37pm

# Action List

Steph meet with Sarah in January to discuss May Day ideas.