

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Education and Student Services DATE: April 6, 2011

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Jeff Watson STAFF CONTACT: Terry-Lee Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent

### Board Attendees:

Trustee J. Watson - Chairperson  
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley - Committee Member  
Trustee G. Scanlan - Committee Member  
Trustee M. Baxter

### Staff:

T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
N. Bradley, Director of Instruction K - 12  
B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (*recorder*)

### Partner Group Representation:

COPAC Sharlene Drohomereski, President  
COPVPA Linda Ross, Vice-Principal - Constable Neil Bruce Middle School  
C.O.T.A. Alice Rees, President  
CUPE Kim Sarada, Shop Steward  
District Student Council Carson Reveen (Gr. 10 - RSS)

### Reports/Matters Arising

February 2, 2011 Committee Report - *Amend to include C.O.T.A. comments regarding gender specific classes.*

### Action Items

#### 1. *Three-year Rule Program Review*

Norm Bradley, Director of Instruction K - 12, and Barb Leclair, District Graduation Coordinator, provided a brief presentation on the data gathering process involved in developing the Program Review, which included discussions with middle/secondary principals and counselors, attendance at secondary PAC meetings and School Based Team meetings, and interviews with students (grads and non grads). Responses were very positive for the continuation of the *Three-year Rule* Program and students interviewed felt that it was a “non issue”. School supports are in place to identify, track and intervene with those students who are academically off-track. Students are also able to apply for an exemption to the three-year rule should they have extenuating circumstances that have prevented them from graduating within the three years. Each application for exemption is reviewed individually by the School Based Team in order to provide the best educational support for the student. Each application is forwarded to Director Bradley for final adjudication.

The Director of Instruction K - 12 advised that school administrators and School Based Teams have noted that students who have been granted an exemption to return to school are not impacting the behaviour and attitude of other students in a negative way. The President of the C.O.T.A. commented that, while initially the union was not in favour of the program, the increase in the number of students graduating should be celebrated as a success, particularly given the funding cutbacks that have occurred in the last few years.

Committee members requested clarification of the extenuating circumstances appeal process and discussed possible amendments to Policy 480 “Raising the Bar: The Three-Year Rule”, including adding an exemption for English as a Second Language (ESL) and new Canadian citizens, as well as adding the “Application for Exemption Form” to the policy as an appendix/regulation. It was also requested that information on the complete appeal process (as listed on the policy) be added to the “Application for Exemption Form”. Committee members requested the removal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet at the bottom of page 2 of the Program Review “*The Appeal of the Three-year Rule policy was eliminated*” as there is an appeal process in place.

### Outcome

**The Committee recommended that the *Three-year Rule Program Review* be amended as discussed and, together with a draft amended Policy 480 “Raising the Bar: The Three-Year Rule”, be brought back to the May 4, 2011 public meeting of the Education and Student Services Committee for review.**

#### 2. **S.D. No. 23 Student Readiness Annual Report**

The Director of Instruction K - 12 and the District Graduation Coordinator reviewed the information contained within the Student Readiness Annual Report which highlights and celebrates the tremendous improvement in student readiness through the combined efforts of teachers, parents, support staff and school administrators. The six-year completion rate has improved significantly since 2001/2002 (74%) to 2009/2010 (84.7%). There is consistent positive growth with completion rate data showing that SD No. 23 is leading surrounding districts and is above the provincial average. Student readiness is improving through the efforts of Career/Life Programs Coordinators, Aboriginal Advocates/Teacher Tutors, Readiness Department Heads, Counsellors, Leadership/Extra-curricular Teachers, Student Support Services and classroom teachers who are delivering quality instruction and assessment. Information gathered from the data warehouse is clean, accurate and up-to-date and provides schools with academic background on every student coming into their school, allowing schools to provide additional support for vulnerable students. There is a focus on the district’s 14-Point Action Plan and middle schools are implementing a Resiliency Action Plan (RAP) to help their students transition from middle to secondary school.

Linda Ross, COPVPA Representative and Vice-Principal, Constable Neil Bruce Middle School, noted that, with the help of the school's Readiness Coordinator, there has been a tremendous improvement in student success rates. The Director of Instruction K - 12 advised that non-completer student files are being reviewed to determine common factors with the hope that this information will assist the district in impacting change for students in their younger grades.

### Outcome

**The Committee recommended that the S.D. No. 23 Student Readiness Annual Report be sent to the Coordinating Committee for placement on a future public Board Meeting agenda as an Information Item.**

## Discussion/Information Items

### **1. Update on Proposal for Substantive Change (Early College High School)**

The Director of Instruction K - 12 provided a brief update on the progress of the Early College High School proposal. Okanagan College (OC) is in agreement with the preliminary plan and the committee is now developing the logistics required to have the plan in place for September 2012, pending Board of Education approval. Concerns were expressed regarding secondary school students attending an adult campus at Okanagan College and the lack of communication from the college to parents. The Director of Instruction K - 12 advised that the district has a Dual Credit Program Coordinator who liaises between OC and parents to ensure that programs are running smoothly and parents are kept informed.

### Outcome

**The Committee requested that information regarding the initial Proposal for Substantive Change (Early College High School) be sent to the Coordinating Committee for placement on a future public Board Meeting agenda as an Information Item attachment.**

### **2. Draft Program Review Cycle - 2009/2010 to 2014/2015**

The Assistant Superintendent reviewed the proposed changes to the Program Review Cycle which would now provide a full three-year cycle between reviews. The proposal has been discussed and approved by the Superintendent and Directors as it allows for the gathering of a full 3 years worth of data with a presentation made in the fourth year. The Assistant Superintendent also advised that some annual reports, e.g. the Student Readiness Report, could be incorporated into the new three year cycle, while it may be necessary to review other programs, e.g. International Education, on an annual basis, as this program generates revenue for the district. Committee members discussed the proposed Program Review Cycle and requested that further changes be made. The review cycle could be program specific with certain reviews being completed on an annual basis and others every two or three years.

### Outcome

**Committee members were asked to provide feedback to the Assistant Superintendent on proposed amendments to the Program Review Cycle. The amended document will be reviewed by the Superintendent and Directors and will be brought back to the May 4, 2011 public meeting of the Education and Student Services Committee for review.**

## Recommendations/Referrals to the Board/Coordinating Committee/Other Committees

### *Future Public Board Meeting Information Items:*

- S.D. No. 23 Student Readiness Annual Report
- Information on Proposal for Substantive Change (Early College High School)

## Items for Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Three Year Rule Program Review - Update (<i>May 2011</i>)</li><li>- Draft Amended Policy 480 and New 480A (Appendix "Raising the Bar: The Three-Year Rule" (<i>May 2011</i>))</li><li>- Preliminary Achievement Contract Information (<i>May 2011</i>)</li><li>- Aboriginal Education Program Review (<i>May 2011</i>)</li><li>- Quality Assessment Program Review (<i>May 2011</i>)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Draft Program Review Cycle - 2009/2010 to 2014/2015 (<i>May 2011</i>)</li><li>- Draft Achievement Contract (<i>June 2011</i>)</li><li>- Central Okanagan Community &amp; SD23 Literacy Plan (Annual Report) (<i>June 2011</i>)</li><li>- Achieving a Necessary Future Program Review (<i>Fall 2011</i>)</li></ul> |
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## Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings

May 4, 2011

June 1, 2011

All meetings are scheduled for 6:30 pm in the School Board Office Board Room.

### Questions – Please Contact:

Trustee Jeff Watson, Chairperson

Terry-Lee Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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