

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Education and Student Services DATE: January 7, 2009

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Jeff Watson STAFF CONTACT: Hugh Gloster, Assistant Superintendent

Board Attendees:

Trustee J. Watson – Chairperson
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley – Committee Member
Trustee M. Baxter (Acting Committee Member for Trustee G. Scanlan)
Trustee R. Cacchioni
Trustee G. Given

Staff:

M. Roberts, Superintendent
H. Gloster, Assistant Superintendent
C. Sulz, Director of Instruction K – 12
J. Rever, Director of Technology and Education Services
B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC Sharlene Drohomereski, President
COTA Karen Bernath, Professional Development Committee Chair
CUPE 3523 Margaret Varga, CUPE Member
District Student Council K.J. Hanson (Kelowna Secondary School)

Absent: Trustee G. Scanlan, Committee Member
Representation from COPVPA

1. Public Question/Comment Period

A member of the gallery commented that her son had been a part of the “Achieving a Necessary Future” Program and she advised that it was a huge benefit to him both academically and socially. She requested information from the Superintendent on the social responsibility aspect of the program.

2. Committee Members Queries/Comments

Chairperson Watson requested a committee discussion regarding the 6:30 pm start time for the Education and Student Services Committee meetings (agenda item 12.2).

3. “Achieving a Necessary Future” Program Review

The Assistant Superintendent provided background information on the initial development of the framework for program reviews contained within the Strategic Plan. The “Achieving a Necessary Future” Program review was originally presented to the Education and Student Services Committee in October 2008. At that time, committee members requested additional information be included in the report which would capture the beginning of the program, changes that have been made over time, and recommendations for the future.

The Director of Instruction provided information on the program which began in 2001. Determining factors for choosing the most vulnerable schools included socio economic data, EDI (Early Development Instrument) mapping, census data on single parent families and schools that offered the School Meal Program. A follow-up report was completed on the program in 2005. The Guiding Principles and Recommendation contained in the January 2009 report evolved from the evaluation of the program since its inception.

The Assistant Superintendent advised that, through the spring staffing process, all schools in the District are examined individually with regard to their vulnerable students and the need for learning assistance, Certified Education Assistants and other support services. The District strives to ensure that the allocation of resources is differentiated according to the needs of the specific school. The committee discussed the recommended Guiding Principles included in the report.

Outcome

The Education and Student Services Committee recommended that the “Achieving a Necessary Future” Program Review, including guiding principles, be forwarded to the Board of Education for approval, as presented at the January 7, 2009 meeting.

AND: The Committee recommended that the “Achieving a Necessary Future” Program continue with the suggested improvements outlined in the report.

4. The Learning Centre – Program Review

The Director of Technology and Education Services provided a Power Point presentation outlining the history of the Learning Centre as a support structure and service to the District. The District Review Team in 2004 recommended that SD23 focus on collaboration in a more structured way to bring people together to learn and share ideas with each other. The Vision, Values and Core Purpose were created through agreement and collaboration by The Learning Centre Development Team which included partner group and SD23 representatives. Data shows that the concept has been accepted into the District culture and is growing at a significant rate. There are processes and structures in place to ensure that services are offered efficiently and with an ease of access by all staff. Data also shows that in-service provided during the work day and professional development provided outside the work day are fairly balanced in terms of numbers attending. Courses are also offered in the evening and the public is invited to attend at a very minimal cost (this generates a small amount of revenue for the program). The goals for 2008/2009 that are included in the report were discussed.

The Assistant Superintendent advised that the initial District Review recommendation focused on meeting the needs of SD23 staff. The Learning Centre staff has offered limited courses of interest to parents, and have suggested connecting with the COPAC executive to discuss what their needs might be. CUPE staff have the ability to enroll in courses that either enhance their existing position or qualify them for other positions. SD23 is one of the few districts that has a CUPE professional development fund for support staff to access. The District also works closely with the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association in pooling resources to bring in speakers, provide professional development, etc. The Superintendent noted that a financial review of The Learning Centre is done on an annual basis.

Outcome

The Education and Student Services Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the continued operation of The Learning Centre as a support structure within School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan).

Information Items

1. Role of Education Committee Chair with Regard to BCSTA Okanagan Branch

It was noted that the production of a branch report is no longer a requirement of the Education and Student Services Committee Chairperson.

2. Items for Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings

- Proposal for Substantive Change Applications (*February 2009*)
- SD 23 Goals and Objectives (*February 2009*)
- Early Learning Initiatives (*March 2009*)
- Draft Achievement Contract Review (*May 2009*)
- Student Support Services Program Review (*May 2009*)

3. Education and Student Services Committee - Possible Change to Meeting Start Time

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the meeting start time would remain at 6:30 pm.

4. Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings

February 4, 2009 March 4, 2009 April 1, 2009 May 6, 2009 June 3, 2009

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

Questions – Please Contact:

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