

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

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

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
Trustee R. Cacchioni
Trustee G. Given

Staff:

H. Gloster, Superintendent of Schools
T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
P. Molloy, Director of Instruction - Student Support
B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (*recorder*)

Partner Group Representation:

COPVPA Rob Tucker, Principal – Glenrosa Elementary School
COTA Alice Rees, President
CUPE Margaret Varga, CUPE Member

Absent: Representation from COPAC
Representation from District Student Council

June 3, 2009 Committee Report - Received

Recognition/Presentations/Delegations

1. Dual Credit, BAA and Locally Developed Courses - Participation Fees

This item resulted from a Trustee query at the May 2009 Education and Student Services Committee meeting. The Superintendent provided a brief history of the development of BAA and locally developed courses as well as background information on the partnerships involved in the district's dual credit programs. Pertinent points were:

- Many programs offered allow students to gain apprenticeship credits;
- A number of programs qualify for ACE IT funding through the Industry Training Authority (ITA);
- The district still receives per pupil funding from the Ministry of Education for students involved in these programs;
- SD No. 23 is exploring options for bringing more health programs into the district in partnership with Okanagan College and the Interior Health Authority; and,
- The district often shares the cost of the training program with the secondary institute involved.

The committee discussed the information provided in Appendix A of the agenda attachment. Career/Life Programs staff promote these programs at each school and students have the opportunity to transfer to schools which offer the program they want, or cross-enroll. Steering committees for each program meet on a regular basis with partners to review cost structures and program content. Students involved graduate with a full dogwood as well as their Level I trades training in a particular area of study or a completion certificate for their first year in a post-secondary program.

Outcome

The Committee thanked the Superintendent for the information provided.

2. Sixth Annual Aboriginal Report

The Assistant Superintendent provided background information on the report and introduced Jason Seright, the district's first Principal of the Aboriginal Education Program. The Aboriginal Education Program Principal provided a PowerPoint cultural presentation outlining the five guiding principles for the program as well as a cultural program plan for 2009 - 2012. Program highlights for 2008 - 2009 included 229 cultural presentations, Kelowna Museum trips, 11 whole school cultural presentations, a grade 12 retreat, three transition gatherings and over 15 gatherings/field trips for Aboriginal students. SD No. 23 has a 60% six year completion rate for grade 12 Aboriginal students and is among the top ten in the province for completion rates. The top ten districts' six-year completion rates for 2007/2008 are as follows:

SD No. 19 (Revelstoke)	66.1%	SD No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)	61.1%	SD No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia)	60.0%
SD No. 38 (Richmond)	65.2%	SD No. 45 (W. Vancouver)	60.5%	SD No. 23 (Central Okanagan)	59.8%
SD No. 43 (Coquitlam)	63.7%	SD No. 37 (Delta)	60.1%	SD No. 69 (Qualicum)	59.7%
SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge)	62.5%				

The program's goal for 2011 is to reach a 75% completion rate. It was noted that parents and communities have been very helpful and supportive of the Aboriginal Education Program. The Aboriginal Education Principal praised the work of student advocates, CEAs and tutors in helping with day-to-day connections with students both in academics and

attendance. The program will continue to focus on improving the completion rate for students in their grade 12 year as research has shown that students in grade 12 feel increasing pressure and expectations, while not necessarily having/receiving the support and encouragement they need to complete their grade 12 year.

Outcome

The Committee thanked the Assistant Superintendent and the Aboriginal Education Program Principal for their presentation and commended their hard work on behalf of Aboriginal students and families in the district.

Action Items

1. Children's Low Vision Project of British Columbia

Lynn Langille, SD No. 23 Vision Teacher, clarified that the project is called the "Children's Low Vision Project of British Columbia" rather than the "Community Low Vision Program". This project began five years ago as a pilot and is now a fully functioning program in partnership with the Ministry for Children and Family Development, the Ministry of Education, School District No. 23, the Provincial Resource Center for the Visually Impaired, and Set-BC (Special Education Technology). Objectives of the project include: providing low vision evaluation, device prescription and classroom adaptation recommendations; orientation and mobility evaluation and recommendations; a lending library of low vision devices; recommendations for assistive technology; and, training suggestions/resources to vision resource teachers, special education/regular teachers and parents. The project serves as a travelling clinic to provide functional and clinical assessment, optical aids to help promote independence and employability, and recommendations that can be used in the student's IEP planning. The clinic is available to children ages 4 - 19 that meet the eligibility requirements for Ministry of Education Vision Services. Operation of the clinic is on a "break-even" basis with any funding remaining being invested in equipment for the students.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the overview of the "Children's Low Vision Project of British Columbia", as presented at the October 7, 2009 meeting of the Education and Student Services Committee, be sent to the Board for placement as an Information Item on a future Board meeting agenda.

Information Items

1. Items for Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings

- Board Authority/Authorized and Locally Developed Courses (*November 2009*)
- ESL Program Review (*January 2010*)
- French Immersion Program Review (*January 2010*)
- Proposals for Substantive Change (*February 2010*)
- Goals and Objectives (*February 2010*)
- S.D. No. 23 Student Readiness Report (*April 2010*)
- Health Promoting Schools (*April 2010*)
- International Education Program Review (*May 2010*)
- Draft Achievement Contract (*June 2010*)
- Central Okanagan Community and School District No. 23 Literacy Plan (*June 2010*)

The committee discussed future agenda items and meeting days. The Superintendent advised that, in addition to those items listed above, additional programs will be reviewed by this committee depending on changes to Ministry of Education reporting requirements. The Assistant Superintendent advised that the Aboriginal Program Review (slated for 2009/2010) has been deferred for one year in order to prepare for the signing of the next Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement in 2011.

2. Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings

November 4, 2009 December 2, 2009
(2010 meeting dates to be determined)

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

Questions – Please Contact:

Jeff Watson, Chairperson
Terry-Lee Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 250 769-7010 e-mail: jwatson@sd23.bc.ca
Phone: 250 470-3225 e-mail: tbeaudry@sd23.bc.ca