

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Education and Student Services DATE: January 9, 2008

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Cheryl Wiebe STAFF CONTACT: Hugh Gloster, Assistant Superintendent

### Attendees:

Trustee C. Wiebe - Chairperson  
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley – Committee Member  
Trustee S. Nicholl (for Trustee G. Scanlan)

### Staff:

H. Gloster, Assistant Superintendent  
T. Beaudry, Director of Instruction K - 12  
B. Bertram, Executive Asst., (recorder)

### Partner Group Representation:

COPVPA Rob Tucker, Principal – Glenrosa Elementary School  
COTA Michelle Davies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
CUPE 3523 Margaret Varga, CUPE Trustee

Absent: Trustee G. Scanlan, Committee Member  
Representation from COPAC  
Representation from District Student Council

### 1. Harmony Day – February 11, 2008

Terry Beaudry, Director of Instruction K – 12, Michelle Hewitt, Vice-Principal, KSS, and Pam Samaddar, Teacher – Dorothea Walker Elementary School, presented information on the District’s first “Harmony Day”. A brief background on “Harmony Day” was provided. The concept originated in Australia and is recognized and celebrated nation-wide on March 21<sup>st</sup> each year. The District Racism Free Committee chose to explore ways to develop a School District No. 23 Harmony Day as a commitment to foster mutual respect amongst students, staff and the community and to celebrate our cultural diversity. February 11<sup>th</sup> was chosen as it aligns with several other initiatives, i.e. Global Citizenship Month, Education Week and the “SCOPE” (Students Creating Opportunities for Promotion of Equality) conference for middle school students. All schools will be encouraged to discuss and sign the District’s Racism Free Declaration on that day. The Harmony Day site link is available as of Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> for all staff to access and contains ideas, resources, web links and information for schools to help celebrate Harmony Day.

### 2. Nexus Consortium Survey Data “2007 Graduate Outcomes Survey”

Brenda Graziano, Career Programs Consultant/Facilitator, provided information on how the Nexus Consortium Survey is conducted. The survey began in 1995 and its initial purpose was to provide feedback on services and resources developed around Career Programs and the grad transition program. Students conducting the survey were from grades 11 and 12 and were required to submit a resume and apply for the position. Once the survey was completed, these students received work experience hours, an honorarium and a reference letter. The survey questionnaire has evolved through the years however some questions have remained the same in order to study trend lines. Data is considered accurate within 95% and represents all secondary schools across the District. Grads from 2005 and 2007 were surveyed with the focus on five topics: 1) the grad’s high school experience; 2) current situation; 3) satisfaction with preparation for post-secondary education; 4) satisfaction with preparation for work/life; and 5) their transition.

Survey outcomes included:

- Grads rated the quality of teaching as their #1 high school experience
- Parents were considered the greatest influence on post-secondary program choices
- 53% of grads are working; 43% are attending a post-secondary institution
- 94% of those attending post-secondary are attending a B.C. institution
- 82% were satisfied with their high school preparation for post-secondary education; the BC average is 66%
- 84% of grads were satisfied with their course selections helping them with career goals; the BC average is 46%
- 77% of grads felt that what they learned in high school was a good preparation for work; the BC average is 51%
- 71% of graduates felt that they had made a successful transition

A consistently high number of grads felt that they had been inadequately prepared to financially manage their post-secondary lives and, as a result, the curriculum for the Planning 10 Program now includes a financial management component. The BC Securities Commission has developed resources to support teachers in the delivery of that curriculum and has also helped to finance the Graduate Outcomes Survey. As well, a new grad transition requirement is the completion of a financial plan.

### Outcome

1. The Committee agreed to accept the Nexus Consortium Survey Data as presented.

## Information Items

### **1. Future Meetings – Possibly Focused Around Specific Themes**

The Committee discussed the suggestion of focusing certain monthly meetings around a specific topic. Committee members agreed that Student Support Services/Special Needs Students should become a regularly scheduled annual agenda item. Specific areas to cover were discussed including the success rate for “Kids in Care” – foster children who are moved from school to school.

#### Outcome

1. The Committee Chair and the Assistant Superintendent will discuss possible Student Support Services agenda topics for the March Education and Student Services Committee meeting.

### **2. Education Week 2008**

The Assistant Superintendent provided information on Education Week, March 10 – 14, 2008. There will be several anchor events that week, created in partnership with various community members. The Kelowna Art Gallery will be featuring the opening event of “Art in Action” on Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm. Tuesday morning is the Education Week Breakfast which will have a new format this year. This will include round table discussions featuring students at each table discussing a unique program that they are involved in. Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> will include the expansion celebration at Mt. Boucherie Secondary School in the morning and the public Board Meeting in the afternoon. In the evening of Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, celebrated author Karen Levine will be presenting to the community at 7:00 pm at the Kelowna Community Theatre. On Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Rotary Centre for the Arts Student Film Festival begins. Various student-centered events will be taking place at the Rotary Centre as well throughout the week.

### **3. Items for Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings**

- BCSTA Okanagan Branch - Education Committee – Items for Discussion (*for February, June and October Meetings*)
- Proposal(s) for Substantive Change (*February/08*)
- Student Support Services/Special Needs Students (*March/08*)
- Literacy Plan Timeline (*April/08*)

### **4. Meeting Schedule**

February 6, 2008	April 2, 2008	June 4, 2008
March 5, 2008	May 7, 2008	

*(to be held in the School Board Office Board Room)*

### Questions – Please Contact:

**Cheryl Wiebe, Chairperson**

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