

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Education and Student Services DATE: March 7, 2007

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

Attendees:

Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley – Acting Chairperson
Trustee G. Scanlan - Committee Member
Trustee M. Baxter (for Trustee C. Wiebe)

Staff:

M. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools
H. Gloster, Assistant Superintendent
N. Bradley, Director of Instruction K – 12
Leanne Bettsworth, International Ed. Director
B. Bertram, Executive Asst., (recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC Marliss Magas, Executive Member
COPVPA Rob Tucker, Principal – Glenrosa Elementary School
COTA Michelle Davies, 2nd Vice-President
CUPE 3523 Margaret Varga, CUPE Trustee

Absent: Trustee C. Wiebe, Chairperson
Representation from the District Student Council

1. International Education

The Assistant Superintendent provided a brief background on International Education within the District. Leanne Bettsworth, the International Education Director, provided information on what has been accomplished as the first year of the program draws to a close. Forty-six international students attended the District in 06/07 and there are 25 confirmed students to date registered for the 07/08 school year. The initial deadline for returning international students to confirm attendance for 07/08 was March 1st due to staffing timelines. It was noted that fee-paying international students are placed at the bottom of the registration priority list when placement requests are considered. Recruitment for international students includes attending education fairs, meeting with families and agents, and touring schools in the home country. Recruitment is only done for district schools which have room, i.e. currently for RSS and George Elliot Secondary School. Monthly newsletters are posted on the website and circulated by the International Education Department to students, homestay families, parents and agents involved. As the Central Okanagan's International Education Program is new, the intent is to present a quality program that will attract students.

Seventy-three new immigrant students registered in the District since September 2006. These students are funded by the Ministry once all of the approved paperwork has been provided. Approximately one half of the immigrant students coming to the district require ESL services.

Interest in a summer program has been expressed from families in Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Benefits to a summer program would include two or three weeks of additional employment for staff, leadership positions for high school students, use of buildings and buses that would not normally be used in the summer and having students involved in programs/activities for a portion of the summer break. The International Education Director and the Secretary-Treasurer will be leaving on March 11th for a three-week recruitment tour involving Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea.

Outcome

1. **The Director of International Education will ensure that Trustees receive a copy of the monthly newsletters.**

2. Changes to the Graduation Portfolio Program

The Director of Instruction K – 12 provided an update on the Graduation Portfolio Program. In the fall of 2006 the Ministry held review sessions across the province which solicited information from parents, students and educators. The information provided from these sessions resulted in the

Ministry announcement on February 1/07 which included the new mandatory graduation standards effective September 2007:

- a) 30 hours of work experience and/or community service;
- b) 30 hours of physical activity;
- c) Graduation Transition Plan (the Ministry will be providing a program guide for transition standards).

A committee has been formed to create a district plan once the Ministry document is received on March 30th. The district plan will be brought before the Board for approval.

Outcome

1. **Once the district plan is approved, it will be provided to staff and parents through secondary school parent meetings and Career Programs presentations to teachers, students and parents.**

3. District Goals and Focus for Accountability Contract

The Superintendent provided a report for the group to review. Consolidated Ministry student achievement data has not been included in the report as it has not yet been released by the Ministry. The Superintendent explained the revised goals and objectives listed in the report. The Committee discussed various potential implications of the targeted 85% graduation rate. It was noted that set provincial exams for grades 10, 11 and 12 students have taken a portion of student grading away from the district level. After Committee discussion minor changes to the document were recommended.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the following amended draft goals and focuses be forwarded to the Board for approval at the March 28th Board Meeting:

The Board establish that its goals and objectives for the 2007/2008 school year shall be:

- 1) **Student Graduation Rate - That for 2007/2008, the School District continues with its goal of increasing the Ministry six year student graduation rate with the specific target objectives:**
 - **85% of our students will graduate or earn their school completion certificate within six years of starting grade 8 (up from the current 76% level).**
 - **95% of our students who begin grade 10 in our schools and then remain in our District for the next three years will successfully graduate or earn their school completion certificate.**
 - **The District combined Aboriginal six year graduation rate and school certificate completion rate will rise by 10% from the current 48% level.**
 - **The District will establish a formal grade to grade transition monitoring plan applicable to each student in our system from Kindergarten to grade 12. This is in addition to the mandatory Provincial graduation transition plan for individual students.**
 - **100% of our students identified as at-risk of withdrawing prior to graduation or school completion will be directed to a school-based and/or a District intervention protocol or strategy.**
- 2) **Literacy - That for 2007/2008 the School District continues with its goal to improve the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in literacy with the specific target objectives:**
 - **K to Grade 3 – By the end of grade 3, 95% of students will meet or exceed expectations according to the School District No. 23 Early Literacy Screener.**
 - **Grade 4 – 90% of grade 4 students will meet or exceed expectations according to the Reading Comprehension FSA results.**

- **Grade 7 – 85% of grade 7 students will meet or exceed expectations according to the grade 7 Reading Comprehension FSA results.**
 - **Grade 10 – At least 90% of the grade 10 students will complete their English graduation requirements in the appropriate year.**
- 3) **Numeracy – That for 2007/2008 the School District continues with its goal to improve the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in numeracy with the specific target objectives of:**
- **95% of students meeting or exceeding expectations within the grade Kindergarten to grade 3 District Primary Benchmarks.**
 - **90% of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the grade 4 FSA test.**
 - **85% of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the grade 7 FSA test.**
 - **Increasing by 5% the number of students participating in grade 11 and 12 math courses, with an emphasis on Principles of Math 11 and 12 enrollment.**

AND THAT: The Board establish its supporting Focus Statements for the 2007/2008 school year shall be:

- **That the Board work to improve student success by connecting students to a variety of learning opportunities by a) establishing a new formal graduation transition framework applicable for June 2008, and b) establishing either schools of choice or programs of choice within each region of the School District by 2010.**
- **That the Board obtain and develop the highest quality staff by establishing formal employee recruitment and professional development plans by August 31, 2007.**
- **That Board implement a four year comprehensive plan to improve classroom instructional practices through the use of Assessment For Learning in cooperation with teachers and administrators.**
- **That the Board implement the new District Health Promoting Schools Plan, with emphasis on promoting the physical health of students by having all schools establish student activity initiatives by June 2008, and by moving toward the 2009 Ministry of Education “Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools” as early as possible.**

4. Policy 525A “Field Trip Activities Appendix”, Housekeeping Change

The Assistant Superintendent advised that the request for the housekeeping change had come from the field as many elementary school PACs had purchased ‘crazy carpets’ for use on school grounds and, with the current wording of the policy appendix, use of these would be prohibited.

Outcome

- 1. The Committee agreed that the amendment to #21 on the Restricted Activities list should read: “Sliding on snow is restricted to the use of flexible, flat mats such as ‘crazy carpets’”.**

The Assistant Superintendent also advised that a request from schools to include ‘tubing in an approved tube-park facility’ on the Restricted Activities list had also been received. These facilities have strict guidelines as to slope and the absence of jumps.

Outcomes

- 1. The Committee agreed that #18 on the Prohibited Activities list would be changed to read: “tobogganing, bobsledding, sledding and tubing (exception: tubing at an approved tube-park facility)” and a new #22 be added to the Restricted Activities list to read: “tubing at an approved tube-park facility”.**
- 2. The Committee agreed that the above amendments to Policy 525A “Field Trip Activities Appendix” be sent to the Board for approval.**

Information Items

1. S.D. No. 23 Regional Education Report to BCSTA Education Committee – February 2007

The Assistant Superintendent advised that this report was prepared after partner group discussion at the February 7th Education and Student Services Committee Meeting. Partner group input will continue to be included in the semi-annual reports.

2. Items for Future Education and Student Services Committee Meetings

- Program Review Template (*May*)
- Graduation Portfolio Program Changes (*May*)
- Policy 425 and 425R - “Student Fees” – Policy Review (*Pending changes to the Act*)
- BCSTA Okanagan Branch - Education Committee – Items for Discussion (*for February and October Meetings*)

3. Meeting Schedule

April 4, 2007 May 2, 2007 June 6, 2007 (*all to be held in the School Board Office Board Room*)

4. Documents circulated at this meeting are available upon request:

- International Education – State of the District
- International Education Information
- Grad Portfolio Changes Information
- Recommendation for 2007/08 District Goals and Objectives Memorandum
- Policy 525A “Field Trip Activities Appendix”

Questions – Please Contact:

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