



"Together We Learn"

School District No. 23
(Central Okanagan)

BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Date: **Wednesday, October 14, 2009**

Recognition/Presentations/Delegations

- 1. The following new Administrator was introduced:**
Brenda Kirsch, Vice-Principal, Chute Lake Elementary School
- 2. Presentation:**
Ailsa Beischer, a graduate of Mount Boucherie Secondary School, and Teala Beischer, a grade 12 student at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, presented initiatives from the Free the Children organization. The presenters encouraged schools to consider purchasing "Me to We" eco-friendly clothing for school use.
- 3. Recognition:**
School Bus Safety Week - October 19, 2009 through to October 23, 2009
The Board declared the week of October 19th – 23rd 2009 as "School Bus Safety Week" in the Central Okanagan School District supporting the theme: "Avoid Harm, Obey the Stop Arm".

Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Gloster thanked the partnership groups for their involvement in the Board's first Finance and Legal Committee Budget Working Session. The next Finance and Legal Committee Budget Working Session meeting is scheduled for November 4th, 2009.
- 2. Implementing Full School Day Kindergarten – Year One**
The Ministry has announced that Full Day Kindergarten will be universally implemented over the next two years throughout the province of British Columbia. The Ministry is committed to ensuring that, during the 2010-2011 school year, up to 50% of the students in the province will have access to full day Kindergarten programs. In 2011-2012, it is the provincial government's intent to have full day Kindergarten programs fully implemented in B.C.

The Ministry is requiring all Districts to prepare a report recommending schools for year one implementation of the full day Kindergarten program. The Ministry will be selecting schools in the first year that meet several of the following criteria: high vulnerability, adequate classroom space, no renovation requirements, no displacement of the school's present early learning initiatives (i.e. Preschool, StrongStart Centres, etc.) and existing before and after school care programs.

The District will be hosting information sessions for staff and parents once more information is available from the Ministry.

3. Me to We Day - Vancouver

The Superintendent commended Trustee Hunt-Binkley, senior staff, principals, vice-principals and the teachers who organized and attended the September 28th, 2009 Vancouver's first "Me to We" Day. In total, 351 students and 37 adults from School District No. 23 attended this event. A video presentation, created by Brent Applegath, a teacher at Rutland Senior Secondary School, highlighted student involvement in this event.

During the Public Question and Comment period, Hayley Pipher, a Grade 12 student at Mount Boucherie Secondary School, shared her experiences as a participant of "Me to We" Day noting that students from our District are now engaged in planning activities in support of local and global initiatives.

4. Commendations were noted to the Career Life Programs Department staff for organizing the Heavy Metal Rocks Program where 25 students had the opportunity to be trained on the use of a variety of heavy machinery at the Emil Anderson Gravel Pit in West Kelowna.

Action Items:

1. Provincial Class Size/Class Composition Consultation Report

Ross Dumontet, Director of Instruction – Human Resources reported the following class size averages:

Elementary

Kindergarten	16.5	student average per class
Grades 1 through 3	20.1	student average per class
Grades 4 through 7	26.7	student average per class

Middle/Secondary Schools

Grades 8 through 12	25.3	student average per class
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The Board of Education voted to receive and approve the Provincial Class Size/Class Composition Consultation Report as presented.

2. Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services – Budget Consultation Process (October 15th, 2009)

Chairperson Cacchioni will be presenting, on behalf of the Board of Education, a written summary to the Standing Committee concerning predictable funding for public education and expressing concerns regarding recent funding cuts to Districts (i.e. Annual Facility Grant).

3. Request from COPAC – One Designated Trustee Representative to COPAC

This request was not supported by the Board. The Board will be meeting with the COPAC Executive regarding next steps in continuing to support ongoing communication.

4. Partner Group Advocacy Letters

The Board of Education agreed to join with the Partner Groups (CUPE Local 3523, Central Okanagan Teachers' Association, Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council and District Student Council) to co-sign a letter directed to the Minister of Education regarding funding cuts.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
The public is welcome to attend.