



"Together We Learn"

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 (CENTRAL OKANAGAN)
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Memorandum

Date: September 9, 2015
To: Board of Education
From: Hugh Gloster, Superintendent of Schools
Re: **2015 School Opening Report – Part 1**

1. RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Annual report requested by the Board.

2. BACKGROUND

This report covers the time period of September 8 and 9, 2015 and provides an update regarding the first two days of the school year. There will be additional adjustments and refinements in the coming weeks, and these will be reported at the next Public Board Meeting on September 23, 2015. It is also important to note that data coming from the middle and secondary schools is subject to significant variation at this time. Elementary school enrolment information is more accurate, however, several schools still have wait list issues to resolve which will impact enrolment numbers at neighbouring schools. Because of this, no individual school information is being provided in this report.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

School Opening

All schools in the District reported relatively smooth and orderly openings this year. To date, the majority of schools appear to be coming in reasonably close to their projected enrolment numbers.

There will still be adjustments to enrolment from the International and Adult student populations that will have a positive impact on overall enrolment. Once all of the adjustments are made, it is anticipated that the District will experience a modest overall increase in enrolment over last year.

4. INFORMATION STATEMENT

District Enrolment Trends

The projected headcount for September 30, 2015 was 21,316, which represented an anticipated increase of 47 students from the same time last year. As of September 8, 2015, 21,581 students were registered in our system, representing an increase of 265 over projections and 312 over last year's September 30, 2014 numbers (21,269). Having noted this, it is important to recognize that very few schools have been able to follow-up on student absences at this time, and it is anticipated that this total number will decrease somewhat by the end of September.

Unfortunately, the introduction of MyEducation BC is also causing slow-downs in the processing time required for new registrations. A more accurate count of student enrolment will be provided in Part 2 of the 2015 School Opening Report at the September 23rd Public Board Meeting, as well as following September 30th.

International Education Program and The Welcome Centre

Our International student program continues to enjoy a strong reputation with our consultant partners and alumni around the world. Much of this positive image can be attributed to the amazing efforts of our staff, district, and community through the district's personalized approach to servicing our international students. As a result, we have been able to grow the program for the current year with 374 fee paying students registered for the 2015/2016 school year. This number, consisting of long-term and short-term program students, represents approximately 290 FTE students as compared to the 225 FTE from 2014/2015. The students in the program represent 26 different countries and jurisdictions including: Australia, Myanmar, Switzerland, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Austria, Spain, Turkey, Vietnam, Portugal, France, Kazakhstan, Belgium, Ukraine, China, Thailand, Republic of China, Japan, Finland, Korea, Peru, Macau, USA, and Hong Kong.

The Welcome Centre for the School District helped to settle 152 students and their families into the Central Okanagan schools and community over the past year. There are currently a total of 689 newly immigrated children and their families in the Central Okanagan schools all of whom are supported through the Welcome Centre and the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program. The Central Okanagan continues to be an attractive destination with steady influx of families from many countries around the world including: France, Ethiopia, Jamaica, New Zealand, Philippines, Nigeria, Korea, Germany, India, China, Syria, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Israel, Belarus, Netherlands, Peru, Finland, Armenia, Lebanon, United Kingdom, Russia, Iraq, Ghana, Jordan, Taiwan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Japan, Romania, Australia, Cuba, Serbia, Ireland, Malaysia, Poland, Lithuania, Burkina, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Columbia, Peru, South Africa, Bulgaria, Brazil, Ukraine, Pakistan, Indonesia, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Nepal, Iran, Romania, El Salvador, Hungary, and the USA.

The diversity and cultural richness that international and new immigrant students bring to the Central Okanagan School District continues to enhance our schools and enrich the experiences of all students. The School District continues to benefit financially from the international program while students, schools, and the community benefit from the exchange of ideas and culture through interactions with students and families from around the world.

Teacher Hiring

The Human Resources Department has completed the initial placement of teaching staff for school start-up. Actual enrolment from the elementary schools resulted in some minor organizational changes being necessary to accommodate the difference between projected and actual enrolment. Additional staff has been added to Chief Tomat, Dorothea Walker and Rose Valley Elementary Schools.

Staffing at the middle and secondary levels has been relatively stable. With classes starting on September 8th, the secondary schools are still working to balance class size with a few schools adding small blocks of time to keep class sizes down.

As a result of the grade re-configuration in the Rutland zone, we had 7 teaching positions declared surplus this spring. During the months of May and June, a total of 188 teacher postings were filled. All of the teachers whose positions were declared surplus were successful in finding positions for the upcoming school year. This summer approximately 115 temporary contracts were awarded to teachers. The majority of these temporary assignments were created due to teachers taking a leave of absence for a variety of reasons (maternity and parental leaves, medical leaves, leaves to participate in job share assignments and self-funded leaves) as well as the addition of Learning

Improvement Funds. Since May 2015, we have hired 60 individuals to our Teachers Teaching on Call (TTOC) team. We anticipate recruiting an additional 20 TTOCs with an emphasis on experienced Kindergarten, Primary, French Immersion, and Special Education teachers. We will also continue to recruit TTOCs for specialty subject areas such as Music, Band, Counselling, and Technology Education.

Our partnership with the Teacher Education Program at UBC-Okanagan continues to provide our District with high quality beginning teachers throughout K-12 with a graduating class last year of approximately 120 elementary and secondary teachers. We currently have approximately 121 student teachers assigned to our schools in the Central Okanagan and anticipate receiving additional requests from other universities in the province.

Over the months of September and October, we will be recruiting CEA's, Bus Drivers and Teachers.

During the 2014/2015 school year, the Human Resources Department processed:

- 286 support staff postings
- 188 teacher postings during the Spring staffing period
- 32 Principal and Vice-Principal changes (retirements, resignations, appointments, reassignments)

Budget

The external auditors have concluded their year-end review of the District's financial reports. The fiscal and accounting processes were once again found to be comprehensive and appropriate.

Facility Updates

Throughout the summer season, the Operations Department was very busy completing a number of projects. This work was in addition to the normal summer clean-up that took place at every school in the District. During this same period, routine maintenance of facilities, grounds and custodial summer cleaning was carried out. Highlights of the summer projects include:

Projects substantially completed to date:

- A.S. Matheson Elementary School – CCTV upgrade
- Bankhead Elementary School – CCTV upgrade
- Casorso Elementary School – exterior painting/lighting
- Central School Programs and Services – flooring replacement/office/staffroom
- Constable Neil Bruce Middle School – boiler upgrade, flooring replacement/office/staffroom
- Davidson Road Elementary School – fire alarm upgrade, gutter remediation/roofing
- Dease Road site – fuel pumps
- Dorothea Walker Elementary School – GSC RTU replacements, roofing
- Dr. Knox Middle School – server room cooling
- École KLO Middle School – lockers, upgrades to bleachers
- George Elliot Secondary School – HVAC exhaust upgrade in shops
- George Pringle Elementary – replacement of fire hydrant
- Glenrosa Elementary School – mechanical upgrade
- Glenrosa Middle School – cooling upgrade
- Helen Gorman Elementary School – fire alarm upgrade
- Hudson Road Elementary School – upgrades to bus compound
- Kelowna Secondary School – classroom renovation, HVAC upgrade
- Mount Boucherie Secondary School – controls upgrade, roofing
- Peachland Elementary School – flooring replacement/office/staffroom
- Quigley Elementary School – mechanical upgrade
- Rutland Elementary School – heat pumps
- Rutland Middle School – upgrades to accommodate grade reconfiguration

- Rutland Senior Secondary School – new bleachers, upgrades to accommodate grade reconfiguration
- Shannon Lake Elementary School – exterior painting/lighting
- South Kelowna Elementary School – repeater for bus radios
- Springvalley Middle School – millwork/renovation
- Various schools – upgrades for Student Support Services

Providing qualified staffing for all of the projects had its challenges. The list of projects this year were extensive and many complex in design. All staff provided outstanding leadership and workmanship in achieving the completion of all the major projects within the District. There is little or no disruption for the start of the 2015/16 school year anticipated.

Transportation

This is the seventh year of having a transportation user fee, and the transportation system outcomes are slightly higher when compared to last year at this time. Parents are becoming more comfortable and familiar with the system (approximately 97% corresponding electronically) although hundreds of parents still call or register online with last minute requests as school start up approaches. There does not appear to be a decline in ridership with the return to the original Transportation Charge of \$224.00 per student (before rebates). As of Friday, September 4, 2015 there were 4,228 (3,975 in 2014) applications for busing in the system with 4,013 (3,722 in 2013) students having been assigned seats. Unprocessed applications are a combination of requests for eligible, courtesy and for routes that do not currently exist. There have been 121 subsidy requests this year which is similar to the prior year and in line with expectations. We will continue to adjust our 64 School Bus Routes as required to accommodate “capped” students and increased Special Needs transportation requests as we receive and process them.

5. NEXT STEP

An update will be provided at the next meeting of the Board of Education on September 23, 2015.

6. APPENDIX

None.