

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: General Affairs Committee DATE: February 4, 2015

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee R. Cacchioni STAFF CONTACT: H. Gloster, Superintendent

Attendees:

Trustee R. Cacchioni (Chairperson)
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee D. Butler
Trustee J. Fraser
Trustee C. Gorman
Trustee L. Mossman (absent)
Trustee L. Tiede

Staff:
H. Gloster, Superintendent
T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

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|--------|-----------------------------------|
| COPAC | Shelley Courtney, Member at Large |
| COTA | April Smith, First Vice-President |
| COPVPA | Raquel Steen, President |
| CUPE | No representative |
| DSC | No representative |

Agenda

The February 4, 2015 Agenda was approved.

Report/Matters Arising

The General Affairs Committee Public Meeting Report of October 1, 2014 was received as presented.

Presentation

1. Maureen Doucette on behalf of École George Pringle Elementary School Parents

Re: Westside Middle School French Immersion Program

Ms. Doucette, on behalf of the parents of École George Pringle Elementary School, made a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee outlining parent concerns and recommendations in response to the staff recommendation to introduce a middle school French Immersion Program at Glenrosa Middle School, beginning with grade 7 students in September 2016. The parent concerns include the isolation of students from the larger cohort of French Immersion students at KLO Middle School, the limited French Immersion resources which would be available (including learning assistance), and the geographic location of the Glenrosa Middle School including inadequate public transit. The parent recommendations presented, which were compiled from comments received from parents, included continuing with the current practice of Westside French Immersion students attending KLO Middle while a more thorough and equitable district-wide plan is created to alleviate space concerns at KLO Middle; create a three year plan to divide the French Immersion elementary feeder schools equally between KLO Middle and Springvalley Middle with implementation for September of 2017 (or 2016 if possible); and, create a long-term plan for French Immersion at Glenrosa Middle once there are two or more elementary feeder schools coinciding with graduation from a Mount Boucherie Secondary French Immersion program.

Public Question/Comment Period

Susan Zimmermann, Parent of Student at École George Pringle Elementary School

- Ms. Zimmerman requested clarification on the enrolment of French Immersion and English students at KLO Middle.

The Superintendent confirmed that the Ministry Enrolment Capacity of KLO Middle (core space available) is 700 students with an additional 175 for the 7 portable classrooms on site. With the additional 175 students there is no additional core space provided (ie library, gymnasium, washrooms, resource room).

Committee Members Queries/Comments

Trustee Fraser queried the Superintendent on the process if KLO Middle is capped.

The Superintendent confirmed that if KLO Middle was capped, the English population would be redirected to either Okanagan Mission Secondary, Springvalley Middle or Dr. Knox Middle. There is no other option available for middle school French Immersion students other than transferring to the English program which may include returning to their home school due to the limited space available at KLO Middle.

Trustee Fraser queried the option of offering a late Immersion Program.

In response, the Superintendent advised that staff are engaged in a full review of the French Immersion Program. The previous direction of the Board of Education is a commitment to dual track and early French Immersion. A request for late Immersion would require vetting through the Committee and on to the Board of Education for consideration.

Shelley Courtney, Member at Large, COPAC

- Ms. Courtney inquired if the new middle school that is proposed for the Upper Mission area could be considered dual track.

The Superintendent confirmed once approved by the Ministry of Education consideration of the new school being dual track would be reviewed as part of the overall plan.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Review of Schedule of Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

The Committee reviewed and agreed with the new schedule of future General Affairs Committee Meetings.

2. Westside Middle School French Immersion Program

Due to the pressures of increasing numbers of French Immersion students at École KLO Middle School, district staff worked through a process looking at student enrolment projections, facility capacities, staffing implications and budget considerations. As a result, staff recommended that the District implement a plan to establish a French Immersion Program at Glenrosa Middle School, beginning with grade 7 students in September of 2016. The Committee discussed the staff recommendation, and specifically the small size of the cohort which would attend Glenrosa Middle School. The staff recommendation is to provide a long-term solution for students on the Westside in the French Immersion Program. The staff recommendation was not supported by the Committee.

The Committee discussed and approved the staff recommendation that the Superintendent investigate the option of introducing a second French Immersion elementary school program on the Westside.

A discussion occurred on the possible establishment of Springvalley Middle School as dual track with Peter Greer Elementary, Belgo Elementary and possibly Glenmore Elementary feeding into Springvalley Middle. As these discussions affect the entire District, it was agreed that the Board conduct a consultation process with all schools in the District with recommendations being provided back to the Board prior to the winter break 2015.

Outcome:

The General Affairs Committee recommends to the Board that:

- 1. The Superintendent be directed to investigate the option of introducing a second French Immersion elementary school program on the Westside.**
- 2. The Board enter into a full consultation process with all school communities in School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) regarding the French Immersion Program in the District.**

Recommendations/Referrals to the Board/Coordinating Committee/Other Committees

Future Public Board Meeting:

- Westside Middle School French Immersion Program

Items for Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

- Middle School French Immersion Consultation Process (prior to December 2015)
- Amendments to Policy 705 – Relations with Parents of Students
- Amendments to Policy 715 – Consultation with Partners in Education
- Amendments to Policy 525 and Regulations 525R – Field Trips
- Development of a Conflict of Interest Policy

Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 4:30 pm

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 4:30 pm

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 4:30 pm

All meetings will take place at the School Board Office unless otherwise advertised.

Questions – Please Contact:

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Rolli Cacchioni, Chairperson