

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings.

2011/03/16

Student Achievement

DISTRICT-BASED INITIATIVES

Superintendent Transition: Superintendent Young reported that along with catching up to speed on many issues and working with staff regarding setting our priorities and work over the coming weeks with regard to staffing and the budget process, she has been visiting schools and meeting community leaders and partner groups. Ms Young has been impressed with the positive and collegial tone in the district and wants to thank those whom she has met and work with for being so welcoming and helpful in this transition.

Celebration of Life for Chris Hambleton: The district is saddened by the tragic loss of Chris Hambleton, Principal of Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School. The Board thanked counselors, critical incident response team members, and friends and colleagues who stepped in to support students and staff at this difficult time. A celebration of Mr. Chris Hambleton's life will be held at the Sonora Centre in Osoyoos on Saturday, March 19, 2011, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

2011-2012 School Staffing Process: One of our priorities in the coming weeks is to work on a staffing process for schools and to prepare for the spring post and fill process. We have established some guiding principles around the allocation of resources to schools which include transparency, equity, sustainability, and accountability. We will be working on this during spring break and the following weeks to provide staffing allocations to schools in April.

Oliver Parks and Recreation Society: Rural Area "C" and the Town of Oliver are working together to secure the Oliver Parks and Recreation Society Board for 2011. They are of the opinion that the School District's participation and input is a valuable asset to the Board. Trustee Edwards volunteered to represent SD #53 on the Parks and Recreation Society Board.

Curriculum

FSA: Our teachers and principals deserve our thanks for once again working together throughout the FSA process. Scoring the FSA's was done on Saturday, February 26 by a team of 15. Shannon Miller, David Foster and Lisa McCall were the team leaders and did a superb job training and organizing the session. Thank you also to Jim Insley for leading this.

Numeracy: Barry Gruntman represented us at the GRINN (Greater Interior Numeracy Network) meeting in Kelowna on February 17th. The purpose of this network is to discuss K – 12 mathematics education, curriculum implementation, and pedagogical topics, and to share the complex aspects of roles in the schools. Barry produces a report and shares the information with other teachers in the district.

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K/1 Learning Community: we were fortunate to be able to include our new K/1 teachers in this learning community happening in Kelowna, sponsored by Donna Kozak, Early Learning Consultant for SD 23. The teachers have indicated that it is very helpful and have been enthusiastic about attending.

Stuart Shankar Webinar: 25 teachers, ECE's and administrators attended this webinar at various sites around the district.

Tracking Student Achievement Workshop: Four elementary school administrators attended a workshop with Peggy Wellwood and Kathy Wickum, principal of J W Inglis in Vernon. Kathy demonstrated how Michaelangelo may be used to track student progress over the school year. The workshop was informative and useful.

Early Learning

Early Development Instrument (EDI): Has been wrapped up. Thanks to our kindergarten teachers for their participation and enthusiasm. A special thanks to Chere Plante for her leadership in providing the training and monitoring of the process.

StrongStart BC

On February 3rd and 4th, our facilitators attended a ministry sponsored workshop in Surrey. It was mostly about networking but we all found it to be useful and the sharing amongst ourselves and others to be outstanding. We all arrived home with the feeling that we have very good programs and with ideas to make them even better.

Aboriginal

We held our third Enhancement Agreement meeting on Tuesday, March 15 at the SBO Annex. We are progressing nicely and there is much consensus on the direction we need to go, which is basically tweaking our present plan. We are working hard to make the document more succinct and reader friendly. Community forums will be arranged for April. These will allow for input from all parents of Aboriginal ancestry students.

The Similkameen schools' support workers and administrators met with the Upper Similkameen Indian Band community on Wednesday, March 16th to discuss programs and student progress. The USIB has initiated this meeting.

Career Prep

The district's Trade/Apprenticeship Council met on Thursday, February 24th in Keremeos. Topics discussed included local economies and employment opportunities, issues around Secondary School Apprenticeships, Work Experience and employer concerns. It was a very positive meeting with six employers from across the district attending. Please note that we have signed up 17 new SSA students thus far this school year.

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Health and Safety

Scent Free Initiative is underway. The documentation has been distributed to staff through school and district administrators and broadcasted on FirstClass "All Staff". Health and Safety training took place during the afternoons of March 8th at SESS and March 10th at the SBO. Mitch led the training about the process of writing Safety Procedures.

SCHOOL-BASED INITIATIVES

Congratulations: The Board passed on their congratulations to the Senior Boys AA Basketball team from SOSS on winning the provincials, as well as the Sr. Boys' Basketball team from SESS for their third place finish at the Provincials. Thank you to the coaches for their many volunteer hours in working and travelling with students. The Board also congratulated the fourteen students from SD #53 for their participation and excellent placement in the regional Skills Canada contest in Kelowna on March 11th. There were 7 medal winners from our district including 3 firsts (Travis Nowicki – SOSS – Mechanical CAD, Jack Crouch – OSS – Architectural CAD, Colton Hauer – OSS – Culinary Arts), 2 seconds (Trent Philips – SOSS – Mechanical CAD, Brady Houle – SOSS – Cabinetmaking), and 2 thirds (Jessica Kriese – OSS – Cabinetmaking, Jake Hamers – SESS – Automotive Servicing). First place finishers are eligible to attend the provincial Skills Canada competition on April 20th in Abbotsford.

Operations

Enrollment Report – February 2011: a comparison from September 2010 to February 2011 notes an overall increase of 12 FTE at the elementary level and a decrease of 45.5 FTE at the secondary level, with a net decrease of 33.5 students. When combined with YouLearn.ca the overall change is an increase of 52 students.

Budget Process: Secretary-Treasurer, Lynda Minnabarriet, provided an update regarding the funding announcement and the budget process. The district's estimated Operating Grant includes a decrease in enrolment based funding as a result of declining enrolment but an increase in funding protection to \$1.4 million resulting in a status quo budget for 2011-2012. The Ministry has indicated that there will be a review of funding protection next year. 46 of 60 districts are projected to receive funding protection in 2011/12.

Consultation Process: The Board approved a process for the April 27th and May 4th public meetings to include a presentation from staff on educational challenges and opportunities, financial implications and facility requirements. Public input can be given at any point in the consultation process either electronically or written. The Board also set a separate consultation meeting for staff of the two elementary schools for April 27th and a special public meeting of the Board on May 11th at 7:00 p.m. to give first and second reading of the School Closure Bylaw. The Board will make final considerations and decision at the May 25th regular meeting. Letters

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will go out to PAC chairs of Oliver Elementary and Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary Schools, staff, media, and partner groups regarding the process.

Joint Use Committee Meeting:

Representatives of the school district and Town of Oliver met on February 16 to review the Joint Use Committee guidelines for administration of the Frank Venables Auditorium and West Gym. Future discussion items for the committee include: establishment of rental fee, determination of user group insurance requirements, and rental activities scheduling.

Technology Tender: The computer equipment tender was distributed to several vendors throughout the province on March 9. The closing date for submissions is March 28, 2011.

International – Bandai Exchange: The Town of Oliver has formed a small community committee to oversee international exchanges and communication. This March break, our two young ambassadors, Julie Martine and Rory Lodge, were scheduled to go to Bandai with chaperones Kersten and Bob Grant. A Bandai delegation was planned to return in August. We will provide district pins to the students for gifts. This initiative is put on hold due to the earthquake in Japan.

The Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, April 20, 2011
at the SBO, starting at 7:00pm
