

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53

(Okanagan Similkameen)

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the Board of Education

June 22, 2011

Student Achievement

2011 Graduates: At this time of year, it is important to recognize those students who have worked hard to meet graduation requirements and earn their diplomas. Their success is being recognized in graduation ceremonies at the OSS, SOSS, SESS, and YouLearn.ca schools. This success is also recognition of the work of all educators, support staff and administrators K-12. Our early learning programs and partners are also having a very positive effect on student success and our future graduates. Forty-one students are graduating from Osoyoos Secondary, thirty-nine students from Similkameen Elementary Secondary, forty students from YouLearn.ca and eighty-one students from Southern Okanagan Secondary.

Superintendent of Achievement: As part of restructuring in the Ministry, Rod Allen, Superintendent of Achievement is now responsible for the entire learning division in the Ministry. As a result, Rick Davis will now be the SOA working with School District No. 53 regarding our Achievement Contract.

Designation of Purpose for Non-Instruction Days Order: The School Act order for the designation of Non-Instruction Days (M143/11) *School Act* section 168 (2) (m) has been amended to include “a board must schedule one non-instructional day in the 2011-2012 school year for the purpose of facilitating activities that in the board’s opinion are designated to enhance student achievement, with a focus on either personalized learning or aboriginal student success’. We will be communicating with administrators regarding their summer days and this order.

Roots of Empathy Program: Premier Christy Clark, joined by Minister of Children and Family Development Mary McNeil, Richmond East MLA Linda Reid, and Roots of Empathy founder Mary Gordon, announced the expansion of the Roots program into approximately 360 kindergarten classrooms across BC this year. The Seeds of Empathy program, which focuses on teaching four and five year-olds, will also be expanded into twenty-two preschools or child care settings in 2011-12. The programs will be co-funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Education. The two ministries have committed to jointly provide \$800,000 annually to support both of these programs over 5 years. An anti-bullying classroom program for elementary school students, the Roots of Empathy program actively promotes respectful, kind behaviour and addresses aggressive behaviours such as bullying, harassment, violence and intimidation. The program brings together a family with a young infant and volunteers in an elementary classroom twenty-seven times over the school year. Students are coached to observe the baby's development, celebrate milestones, interact with the baby and learn about an infant's needs and unique temperament. Modeled on the Roots of Empathy program, Seeds of Empathy is designed for early childhood settings to foster social and emotional competence and early literacy skills in pre-school aged children (three to five years old). The Ministry of Children and Family Development currently supports the Seeds of Empathy program in fourteen urban Aboriginal settings and First Nations communities throughout BC and has provided \$1.3 million in program funding for Seeds of Empathy since 2004.

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Innovation / Initiatives

DISTRICT-BASED INITIATIVES

District Retirees: We would like to recognize this year's retirees from School District No. 53 and wish them well in their retirement. Their service to students over the years is appreciated and has made a difference in the lives and success of many students. Their combined years of service equal 218 years!

Support staff: 4 retirees totaling 54.5 years of service

Teachers: 4 retirees totaling 108.5 years of service

Administrators: 3 retirees totaling 55 years of service

New Administrative Appointments: Congratulations to Karen Newson on her appointment to Oliver Elementary School as Vice-Principal, to Shendah Benoit on her appointment to Osoyoos Elementary School as Vice-Principal, Tracy Harrington on her appointment to Southern Okanagan Secondary School as Vice-Principal and to Will Eaton on his appointment to YouLearn.ca as Vice Principal. We look forward to working with them in their new role.

Local Education Agreement with LSIB: Bev Young and Jim Insley met with the Lower Similkameen Indian Band negotiation team on Friday, June 3. Team members for the LSIB are Lauren Terbasket (lead), Kerry Terbasket and Huia Martin (Education Manager). We did a lot of listening and questioning for clarification. It was a good meeting and we feel we can find some common ground through the process. Our second meeting is on July 13 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

District Literacy Plan (DLP): Naomi Ludington, Literacy Outreach Coordinator for Literacy Now South Okanagan-Similkameen presented the DLP for 2011-2012. The plan identifies goals and priorities for 2011-2012 for community literacy including early years, school years, and adults. The school district values the partnership with community agencies and Literacy Now in achieving its literacy goals.

Career Education Society (CES) Grant: We will once again receive a grant from the CES to support our work in Career Education. This coming year we will receive \$20,000. Our main thrust will be to improve awareness of the various programs (SSA, ACE-IT, Dual Credit and Work Experience). As part of this thrust, we will develop a grades 6/7 awareness program. Thank you to Assistant Superintendent Jim Insley for his leadership in obtaining this grant.

Certificates of Appreciation: The District received the following certificates of appreciation in recognition of support:

1. Republic of the Philippines – program support
2. Republic of the Philippines – donation of 13 Apple computers to San Rafael National high school
3. Republic of the Philippines – donation of books and (6) computers
4. Certificate of gratitude from the Department of Education, Western Visayas for “giving two units of computers for the use of the school children.”

SCHOOL-BASED INITIATIVES

Summer Professional Development: Schools are well into the planning of their summer days. Each school, except YouLearn.ca, will use the week before school start-up August 29 to September 2. YouLearn.ca has the option to use a Friday as one of their days as teachers are not scheduled for working on Fridays. Activities will include a writing workshop, attending the Stuart Shankar workshop in Penticton and Assessment for Learning workshop. Response to allowing teachers to use alternate days to these designated days is good and the activities are of a very high caliber.

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Summer Pro-D Days: The following days are designated as summer professional development days and school planning days:

School	School Selected Dates				District	School Planning Day
CPS	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	21-Oct	29-Aug
OKF	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	21-Oct	2-Sep
OES	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	21-Oct	2-Sep
OSE	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	21-Oct	2-Sep
OSS	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	21-Oct	2-Sep
SESS	29-Aug	30-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	21-Oct	31-Aug
SOSS	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	21-Oct	2-Sep
TEN	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	21-Oct	2-Sep
YL.CA	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	17-Feb	20-Oct	10-Apr

This year the Ministry through Ministerial Order M143/11 has directed that schools use the school planning day “for the purpose of facilitating activities that in the board’s opinion are designed to enhance student achievement, with a focus on either personalized learning or Aboriginal student success”.

Operations

May 2011 Enrolment Report: As indicated in the enrollment report, student enrolment is 2,433 which is an overall increase from September 2010 of 48.175 FTE. Elementary schools have increased by 11 FTE, secondary schools are decreased by 58.5 FTE and YouLearn.ca is up by 114 FTE since September 2010.

2011/12 Budget – Town of Oliver – Water Meter Costs: The Town of Oliver implemented water meters at local schools in 2010. Charges to the district for water became effective January 1, 2011. From July 26, 2010 to June 15, 2011, 24,424.20 cubic meters were used at Oliver Elementary and South Okanagan Secondary. The district estimates an additional use of 7,964.49 cubic meters from June 15 to July 26, 2011, for a total use of 32,388.69 cubic meters at the two sites. At a cost of \$0.53 cents per cubic meter, the annual cost to the district is projected to be \$17,166. The district projects a similar cost for Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary. There are currently two rates in place – domestic and agricultural. The Board may wish to request the lower rate of the Town of Oliver for fields used for community use.