

# BOARD REPORT

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

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May 25, 2011

## **Student Achievement**

**Secondary School Apprenticeship:** Over the past three years the district has benefitted from a grant (\$15,000 in 2010/11) from ITA to enhance participation in SSA and ACE IT programs. As a district we have done exceptionally well with 23 SSA's in 2008/09, 31 in 2009/10, and we're up to 20 this year, with more to come (20 is not bad considering the economy in the area). We have once again applied for this grant of \$20,000 this year. Our main focus, other than maintaining the excellent work already being done, will be to develop an awareness program to students in grades 6 through 9.

**Read/Rhyme and Rec:** We will again be offering our very effective summer intersession/intervention and support reading program to K/primary students. All schools staffs and school administrators are in the process of putting their team together and planning how the program will run.

**Pow-wow:** Our thanks to the district Pow-wow committee: Helen Gallagher, Myrna Coates, Sandy Terbasket, Les Louis, Marty Ring, Gloria Bent, Sonya Jensen, Raylene Baptiste, Sam Marsel, and Barton Tumlinson. This year featured a more student-focused Friday which was very well received and appreciated by teachers and students from around the district. Numbers were down for some unforeseeable reasons, but overall, it was a good event. As one of the workers said, "Those that are here are happy to be here."

**School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program:** Premier Christy Clark announced on May 17<sup>th</sup> that this program will be expanded thanks to a \$3 million expansion. The School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program was created in partnership with the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Education and is led by BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. Enrolled schools receive delivery of fruits or vegetables once every two weeks, 13 times during the school year. All of the fruits and vegetables are grown in BC. All but one school in School District No. 53 is involved in the program.

**School Planning Visits:** Visits to schools regarding how their school plans for improving student achievement have been going very well. We have completed visits to 5 schools so far with 4 remaining. We have appreciated the spirit of inquiry with which staff and administrators address identified areas and the contributions of teachers, support staff and administrators at these meetings.

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## Innovation / Initiatives

### DISTRICT-BASED INITIATIVES

**Aboriginal Staffing and Budgets:** The Aboriginal Education Advisory Council considered the Aboriginal program budget at its May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. This budget will be within the targeted funding and schools should receive their preliminary allocations before the end of the month. These may again be adjusted in September when final student numbers are known.

**Local Education Agreement with LSIB:** Bev and Jim will meet with the Lower Similkameen Indian Band's negotiation team on Friday, June 3, from 10:00 to 3:00. This is our first meeting and we look forward to seeing the LSIB's proposal.

### 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.

**Welcome to Kindergarten:** Schools are busy holding their Welcome to Kindergarten events. WTK is a program sponsored by the Early Learning Partnership and is an enhanced orientation program for students entering Kindergarten in September 2011. The district uses Ready, Set, Learn funding to purchase a "book bag" full of books and other materials parents can use at home to help their child develop kindergarten skills. At the event, the school team welcomes parents and children to the school to learn all about the kindergarten program and the school, and meet the teacher and other important personnel at the school. WTK events are/have been on the following dates:

Okanagan Falls Elementary	Tuesday, May 17	5:00 – 7:00 pm
Osoyoos Elementary	Thursday, May 19	5:00 – 6:30 pm
Cawston Primary School	Thursday, May 26	9:30 – 10:45 am
Tuc-el- Nuit Elementary	Tuesday, May 31	11:30 am – 12: 30 pm
Oliver Elementary	Tuesday, June 7	9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**District Elementary Track Meet:** Schools and students are busy preparing for the elementary track meet on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Osoyoos Elementary School.

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## Operations

**April 2011 Enrolment Report:** As indicated in the enrollment report, student enrolment is 2,413 which is an overall increase from September 2010 of 46.175 FTE. Elementary schools have increased by 13 FTE, secondary schools are decreased by 58.5 FTE and YouLearn is up by 90 FTE since September 2010.

**2011/12 Budget – School District Property Loss Changes:** The Ministry of Education has advised that an additional insurance premium is required effective July 1, 2011 to cover loss replacements. The insurance requires a provincial pool of \$3,000,000 of which Okanagan-Similkameen's annual share is \$17,816. The Ministry has also advised that the deductible payable per loss by districts will increase from \$3,000 to \$10,000. This additional fee has been incorporated into the 2011/12 budget.

**Oliver Elementary Capital Project:** Work has begun on the \$1.5 million geo-thermal project at Oliver Elementary School. Building renovations started at the school over spring break and the project should be complete by September. The project is partially funded by the Ministry of Education through an Energy Efficient Mechanical Upgrade grant of \$500,000 and a \$52,000 grant from SolarBC, Natural Resources Canada and Terasen Gas.

The district will experience a reduction in utility costs from energy savings of over 2,000 GJ per year and over 70,000 KWH/year. Our carbon footprint is also reduced by over 100 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

**Technology Lease Update:** District staff is finalizing the details of the technology lease which will include the purchase of 153 HP desktops and 475 IBM laptops. Staff recommends a three year plan to include the financing of the new equipment and the remaining payment of the current lease.

**BCeSIS Planning:** The Ministry is working with districts to develop a long-term strategy for providing a common student information system. This is driven by several factors, including problems last fall with BCeSIS performance, the acquisition of Administrative Assistants Ltd (AAL is the developer of eSIS) by Pearson Canada, and evolving requirements for personalized learning. The Ministry has engaged Gartner Consulting to conduct an external review of current and future SIS needs and to identify options for going forward. The needs assessment is nearly complete and includes data collected through a combination of in-depth interviews with selected districts and surveys of users from all districts and independent school associations. This information is being mapped against options available in the SIS marketplace to identify the strategies that best meet the needs of the schools in British Columbia. Gartner is considering **all** options, including enhancing the existing BCeSIS service, developing a new solution, and

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acquiring new products from a vendor. The final report should be completed by Gartner by mid-June.

**Long Service Awards:** On behalf of BCSchool Trustees Association, Chair Harrington presented long service awards to Trustee Hancheroff for 6 years service, Trustee Coates for 9 years service, and Trustee Tarr for 9 years service. Trustee Marten presented Chair Harrington with her 21 year life-long service certificate. Trustee Petersen was not in attendance but was acknowledged for his certificate for 12 years of service.

**The next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 22, 2011  
at the SBO, starting at 7:00pm**