

COMMITTEE III - EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, 2007 OCTOBER 10

Committee Report to the Board, 2007 October 15

The Committee met to discuss the following items:

1. Education Guarantee

The Chairperson of the Committee welcomed J. Dallas, Director of Learning and Information Technology. She referred to the memorandum dated 2007 October 05 entitled **Education Guarantee** and provided an overview of the Ministry of Education's changes in tuition-free education for graduated students.

In a three-step process, effective 2007 September 07 all students can take courses free of charge through the Province's virtual school, LearnNowBC. Starting 2008 January all students will have access to tuition-free adult basic education courses at 18 public post-secondary institutions and starting 2008 September, all students will be allowed to take free adult basic education courses through school district.

Trustees and representatives indicated support.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Board of Education of School District No. 39 exercise the discretion provided by the Ministry of Education and permit graduated adults access to K-12 programs (adult basic education) at no cost.

2. Community Link Report

The Chairperson of the Committee welcomed T. Grant, Associate Superintendent - Area, and D. Marriott, Co-ordinator, School Community Schools Teams, N. Rodrigues, K. Doge, B. Pidherny, C. Macer, C. White, R. Scott, L. Smith and C. Fuoco, Community School Team. T. Grant expressed his appreciation and complimented D. Marriott and the Community Schools Team for the work done. He noted that this is an annual report for committee information and will be sent to the Ministry of Education.

T. Grant and D. Marriott referred to the document dated 2007 June entitled **Vancouver School Board CommunityLINK, Executive Summary** and commented on the progress of the work of the Community Schools Teams (CST) as follows:

- o the main criteria for determining vulnerable schools has been socioeconomic factors influencing lives of children and youth;
- o universal programs served almost 72,000 students; 12,000 vulnerable students;
- o targeted programs served 5,104 identified, vulnerable students;
- o the Community Schools Team have continued or formed over 266 partnerships;

- o progress assessed revealed weighted mean growth in literacy programs was 27% improvement and in social responsibility programs was 11%; and,
- o this year CST received over \$1.28 million in grant funding to support programs.

In response to questions from trustees and representatives, the following additional information was provided:

- o non-profit organizations who would like to be involved to support students and program should contact T. Grant or D. Marriott;
- o indicators have shown that the number of vulnerable students in the city has dropped but there are many reasons for this and the actual numbers of vulnerable may not have declined significantly;
- o the CSTs are comprised of a teacher, youth and family worker, a coordinator and activity programmer;
- o the funding level has been stable except for increases to cover negotiated salary increases and pay equity provisions; and
- o teams were successful in securing grants from Human Resources and Social Development Council.

T. Grant commented that four years ago all stakeholders were involved in developing the model that includes Youth and Family Workers, Community Coordinators and teachers. An assessment of this model will be undertaken to determine if the composition of teams' is appropriate and if CSTs are adequately supported across the district.

R. Scott, Coordinator - Templeton Secondary, and N. Rodrigues, Teacher, commented on the positive work environment between the team, administrator and teacher in the hub of schools.

L. Smith, Youth and Family Worker, and B. Pidherny, Teacher, Community of Schools West 2, commented that scheduling time for each of the schools present challenges due to the geographical and the scope of the number of schools in West 1.

C. Fuoco, Coordinator - John Oliver Secondary, commented on teaching the new mentor youth program and the successful day camps organized during the summer.

The Chairperson thanked the presenters for their presentations.

This item was received for information.

3. New Business

a) Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

The Chairperson of the Committee spoke to information released by the Ministry of Attorney General, Minister responsible for Multiculturalism and the Ministry of Education. The provincial government has provided ten school districts who are also participating in the SWIS program approximately \$150,000 to \$2 million per year, depending on the number of ESL students in each district. SWIS is an outreach program that helps immigrant and refugee students and their families.

It was agreed that this item would be placed on the agenda of a future meeting of this Committee, with staff reporting on the current status of Settlement Workers in Vancouver.

b) Recycling

Trustee Denike distributed and referred to a document entitled **Recycling in Vancouver Schools – Preliminary Report**. He commented on the district's various recycling activities. Facilities staff conducted a survey of all schools, providing a "snapshot" to determine what company or group is responsible for recycling materials.

M. Taddei, Vancouver Association of Secondary School Administrators (VASSA) representative, commented that sustainability is a school goal and many students are involved in Byng's environmental club. Through the work of the Sustainability Task Force, students participated in a lunchtime Earth Day celebration, listening and sharing information on global warming and environmental issues.

V. Overgaard, Associate Superintendent – Learning Services, commented on what is taking place throughout the district in terms of environmental programs. Destination Conservation is supporting 15 schools in a program that focuses on energy and water conservation and waste reduction. B.C. Hydro Powersmart is a program about energy conservation for elementary classrooms. Workshops are offered and teacher release time is provided. At the secondary level, B.C. Hydro Powersmart supports students to learn about and work on energy conservation. Another partnership is the GetToKnow program, a program generating information about conservation, sustainability and biodiversity. Robert Bateman will be promoting the launch of the Get To Know Interactive CD on 2007 October 19. V. Overgaard also referred to initiatives in schools and in the Province. The District is also working with Metro Vancouver on a variety of projects and plans for support.

Trustees asked staff to look further into issues, both operational and educational, about recycling and sustainability and bring back possible directions at a future meeting, possibly Committee II/III.

c) District Parent Advisory Council – Bylaw Change

Trustee Gibson referred to the Notice of Motion regarding the bylaw changes dealing with at-large (rather than area) election of District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) executive members. Trustee Gibson expressed her concern commenting that on the surface this change is more than a bylaw change and a broader discussion is needed. After a brief discussion, L. Anderson, Associate Superintendent, Continuing and International Education, agreed to meet with DPAC and members of District Management and trustees to further discuss the issue.

4. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, 2007 November 14 at 1730 hours.

Eleanor Gregory, Chairperson

Committee III Members Present:

Ken Denike
Carol Gibson
Sharon Gregson
Don Lee
Allan Wong
Shirley Wong

District Management Present:

Laurie Anderson
Judy Dallas
Tom Grant
Valerie Overgaard
Catherine Remedios

Association Representatives Present:

Maria Taddei, VASSA
Hugh Hooper, VEPVPA
Gigi Manuel, CUPE
Julianna Doctor, DPAC
Debbie Pawluk, VSTA
Jack MacDermot, VESTA