

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, January 23, 2017

The Education Committee met on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 4:30 pm. In attendance were Trustees Harman Pandher (Chair), Meiling Chia and Katrina Chen, DPAC Representative Kristin Schnider, BTA Vice President Leanne Sjodin and Assistant Superintendents Heather Hart and Wanda Mitchell.

1. Mental Health and Schools – Evidence Based Solutions to Youth Mental Health Needs

Dr. Stan Kutcher, Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health at the Izaak Walton Killam (IWK) Health Centre at Dalhousie University spoke to the committee about the Mental Health and High School Curriculum Guide. He and his team have designed an evidence-based Canadian mental health literacy curriculum resource for use in grades 8 through 12. An important component of this guide is mental health literacy, which is the foundation for mental health promotion, prevention and care. The resource can be used by both classroom teachers and school-based counsellors.

Dr. Kutcher shared that in numerous studies conducted in Canada, and globally, the Mental Health and High School Curriculum Guide has been shown to improve mental health knowledge, decrease stigma and enhance help-seeking efficacy for students and teachers alike. The guide allows teachers to educate and better communicate with their students around mental health. It is intended to promote positive dialogue between teachers and students. It creates an environment where youth feel safe to ask questions and to educate themselves and each other about mental health and mental disorders.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Coding

Garth Errico, Director of Instruction, introduced Lucky Saini, Learning Technologies Consultant, who provided the committee with an update on the work being done throughout the district in the area of coding.

Coding and computational thinking are among the many new and exciting aspects of the new Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST). A mandatory coding experience will be required for students in Grades 6-9 beginning in the 2018/19 school year. Coding requires a sound knowledge of computational thinking which involves problem decomposition, data representation and modeling; coding is computer programming.

A pathway of learning has been developed for students to progress through different levels of computational thinking and coding. Problem solving centres will be used at K-5, the

program *Scratch* in grade 6, another program *Twine* to create interactive stories in grade 7 and coding of Robotics in grades 8 and 9.

The Burnaby School District is continuing to create a number of learning opportunities for students and professional development opportunities for teachers in the area of coding. Many of our schools were involved with the Hour of Code in December with students from Moscrop going to Electronic Arts (EA) Sports. Teachers also attended a session at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in November. There will be ongoing training opportunities for them over the next two years provided by staff from our Learning Technologies team.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

3. Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 4:30 pm.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

POLICY COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session Monday, January 23, 2017

The Policy Committee met on January 16, 2017 at 5:35 pm. In attendance were Trustees Gary Wong (Chair), Harman Pandher and Katrina Chen, Superintendent of Schools, Gina Niccoli-Moen, Secretary Treasurer, Russell Horswill, Burnaby DPAC Representative, Jen Mezei and Assistant Superintendent, Heather Hart for item 1.

1. Access to Services

The district draft document, *Access to Services for Residents with Uncertain or No Immigration Status*, was approved by the committee. The document, which outlines district practice and procedures for registration and support for newcomers will be shared with school and district-based principals, vice-principals and management staff.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. District Anti-Bullying Policies – Code of Conduct

The Province of British Columbia announced new anti-bullying measures to ensure that all students, regardless of their sex, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, enjoy a safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environment.

In accordance with amendments to the B.C. Human Rights Code, Boards of Education are required to include explicit reference to sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in their anti-bullying policies.

The district Code of Conduct has been updated and posted on the website. Staff are reviewing current policies and subsequent changes to district policies will be brought forward for review at a future meeting.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

3. Maintenance of Order

In May 2016, the provincial government released Provincial Guidelines on the Maintenance of Order under section 177 of the *School Act*. Section 177 of the *School Act* addresses the preservation of order on school premises, including ordering a person to leave and calling in police assistance if necessary.

The Ministry of Education requires all boards of education to review their procedures and policies to ensure that they include the elements set out in the aforementioned guidelines.

Staff have reviewed resources provided and noted that changes to district policies are required. Recommended changes will be brought forward to a future meeting to ensure compliance with provincial guidelines.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Policy Committee meeting is February 20, 2017.