

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, May 22, 2012**

The Education Committee met on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 4:15 pm. In attendance were Trustees Ron Burton (Chair), James Wang, and Harman Pandher, Assistant Superintendents Heather Hart and Kevin Kaardal; BTA representative Richard Storch; and DPAC representative Jennifer Mezei.

**1. Distributed Learning update**

As part of the BC Education Plan, the Ministry of Education has indicated that both regular school instruction and distributed learning could be encouraged in Districts. In a blended model a student would be taking courses in classrooms at their home school and some courses through distributed learning. This model has the potential to allow students to have access to courses not offered in their home school thereby creating a more flexible learning schedule. In anticipation of this, the District has run a pilot program at Ecole Cariboo Hill Secondary School this year.

This pilot encouraged all grade 10 students at Ecole Cariboo Hill Secondary School to take Planning 10 through Burnaby Online this year. The pilot was monitored during the year and experienced both successes and challenges.

**Successes**

The program was successful for the majority of students, especially those who were interested in taking Planning 10 from Burnaby Online. Many students took advantage of the time available in their schedules to register for optional courses. The District increased teacher contact time for students who were struggling with the online course.

**Challenges**

There are approximately 30 students who continue to struggle with the course in this format. Additional staff support, including increased face to face teacher-student contact time has been provided to help them get through the course content. The district and secondary schools are also working with students to ensure that they are scheduled with a full course load.

**Next Steps**

The District has assigned duties for Burnaby Online to a Vice Principal at Ecole Cariboo Hill Secondary School to oversee the Distributed Learning program. This administrator will be on site, working and coordinating with other secondary schools to address the challenges and to support the development of blended program models at each school site.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

## **2. Graduated Adult Funding update**

### **Graduated Adults**

Graduated Adult students are students who are over the age of 19 years and have graduated from a secondary program. For students that may have graduated from a jurisdiction outside of British Columbia, these students would self-declare themselves as a “Graduated Adult”. Graduated adult students primarily take courses from the Burnaby School District for either developing their English Language Skills or for academic upgrading so that they may enter into other post-secondary or vocational programs.

### **Background**

Up to 2007-2008, the Ministry of Education did not provide funding for Graduated Adults wishing to upgrade their high school education. At the time, the Burnaby School District charged \$350 per student. Following that year, the Ministry established the Education Guarantee for Adult Learners. This Education Guarantee provided tuition-free courses for language training and academic upgrading. This Education Guarantee encompassed 53 academic courses including 16 courses in the Foundations program for Continuing Education. Graduated adults who registered for courses through the Distributed Learning Centres were funded for any grade 10, 11 or 12 courses on the list of Ministry Approved courses.

On May 1, 2012, the Ministry announced changes to the Education Guarantee reducing the number of courses eligible for Ministry funding. In addition to the Foundation program courses, only 6 academic courses (English 12, Biology 12, Math 11, Math12, Chemistry 11 and Physics 11) will now be funded. The new list applies to both Continuing Education and Distributed Learning Schools. This new list drops over 17 courses of 325 graduated adult students, who had taken courses with Continuing Education this past term. At the current Ministry grant of \$553 per course for an adult graduate, this would represent a potential loss of \$179,725.00. For Distributed Learning, their potential loss is estimated to be an additional \$117,000.00.

### **Proposal**

To offset the potential loss of funding, school districts are now considering, or have begun charging a fee to graduated adult students. Last term, there were 325 graduated adults among the 824 students in what will now be unfunded courses.

To determine what course fee might be appropriate, Continuing Education and Distributed Learning considered the average cost of a teacher’s salary plus benefits. A cost analysis will be used to determine the minimum class size for these programs.

In the Ministry of Education announcement of May 1, 2012, the Ministry also announced that funding for students will be tied to “course completion” by the student. As stated in the announcement “A definition of ‘completion’ for the purposes of this policy will be communicated through updated language on the Ministry website and future data collection

instructions.” Funding will be allocated to Districts on a percentage given based on enrolments reported on 1701 data collection and the rest allocated on course completions.

For Distributed Learning Centres including Burnaby Online, initial funding of these courses will be at 75%, with 25% upon “course completion”. In 2013-2014, this will change to 50%, and 50% upon “course completion”.

In a survey of neighboring school districts, the fees being considered range from \$450 to \$500 plus a textbook deposit. Textbook deposit fees range from \$50 to \$100 per course.

Recommendation: THAT effective July 1, 2012, the Board approve for Continuing Education and Burnaby On-Line, the Adult Graduate fee of \$500 per course, which will include a textbook deposit of \$50.

### **3. Integrated Operating System devices (iOS) in the District –**

iOS devices such as Ipads, are a relatively new addition to the technology tools available in our district. In just 15 months the District deployed almost 400 units, with the bulk of these units purchased from April 2012 onward.

#### **Implementation Highlights**

In the spring of 2011 the first iPad was purchased to support a student in the LSS department at Burnaby Central. Burnaby South followed with a purchase of 30 units to support a literacy initiative. These purchases prompted the Technology Services Group to invest time and resources into developing a model for iOS implementation, management and support.

In the fall of 2011;

- Brantford Elementary School purchased 20 devices to support student learning. This deployment provided the District with a management and support test bed.
- The iUser Café blog site was launched (<http://blogs.sd41.bc.ca/groups/iuser-cafe/>) to support the growing iOS user community.
- A Mobile Device Management (MDM) project was initiated by the IT Services department for the enterprise management of iOS devices, and
- An iPad Support Development Group was formed to guide strategic direction.

In the spring of 2012, a management solution was put into limited (beta) production and it is anticipated that this management tool will be in full production by the end of May 2012. A major workshop was held in April with 24 schools and 42 people in attendance. 250 iPads were configured and deployed during this event. District staff continues to meet the challenges associated with effectively deploying these devices. These challenges include technical support, wireless access, available bandwidth, and equity of access. To date district staff have almost 400 iPads deployed.

There are a number of opportunities that iOS implementation brings including:

- The use of new, highly user friendly tools for supporting student learning.
- New ways of supporting our Special Needs students.
- Enhancing Literacy initiatives.
- Supporting and extending our reporting, data gathering and information sharing opportunities.
- Empowering the learning process by increasing the integration of technology into curricular activities, and
- Creating a technology environment that is forward facing and flexible in nature.

### **One example: Learner Profiles in Real time**

Teachers and administrators from Parkcrest Elementary, Ecole Capitol Hill Elementary and Burnaby North Secondary schools, along with the District's Literacy Program Consultant Ben Paré, literacy expert Faye Brownlie and a representative from SFU's New Media Lab, Costa Dedekigas, are participating in a pilot project involving an online assessment tool called Learner Profiles. This project allows elementary Grade 6/7 teachers and secondary Grade 8 English Language Arts teachers the opportunity to work together in coding students' literacy assessments, helping to establish relationships and continuity between our elementary and secondary schools and it allows teachers hands-on experience with the Learner Profile interface.

With the Learner Profile application, teachers use an iPad or similar tablet device to assess work using either pre-existing or custom evaluation rubrics. The teachers highlight a student's performance on the rubric which interacts with a district hosted web database that receives the teacher's assessment instantly. This cross population of student performance data allows the student, parent, teacher or administrator password-protected access to the evaluation, in real time. Teachers and students can upload work, either written work, video or audio to each individual profile page as well, meaning that students can use the tool to keep a running portfolio of their work through the years.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

#### **4. Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 4:15 pm.

#### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

## **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

### **Reporting to Public Session May 22, 2012**

The Youth and Community Services Committee (YCSC) met on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Trustee committee members Baljinder Narang (Chair), Meiling Chia, Harman Pandher, Gina Niccoli-Moen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Sue Dorey, Manager Youth Services for item 1 and Victoria Brenden, Burnaby DPAC.

#### **1.0 Youth Services Restorative Justice Program**

The Youth Restorative Justice Program, made possible by the partnership between the Board of Education, the Burnaby RCMP and the City of Burnaby, provides conflict resolution services to students impacted by crime and conflict. Together with the school district, the RCMP support a viable and sustainable program in Burnaby which provides a response to youth involved in school and community-based incidents. The program involves a non-punitive approach to repairing harm, reducing likelihood of repeat behaviours, providing opportunities for restitution and the development of social responsibility and creating opportunities to actively engage and empower youth and the community.

In 2008, the Board of Education approved the participation in this program and provided funding to assist in the hiring of a Youth Restorative Justice Coordinator. The Board's funding commitment was on a yearly basis, subject to ongoing review. For the 2011-2012 school year, a recommendation was made to withhold funding pending a full review of the program. Following the review of a progress report which outlined high levels of satisfaction with the program, the committee recommended the reinstatement of the school district's contribution to the program for 2012-2013.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information and approve the reinstatement of the school district's contribution to support the Youth Restorative Justice Program for 2012-2013.

#### **2.0 School Meal Program**

The School Meal Program currently operates in 13 elementary schools, and 1 secondary school. Lunches are provided to over 2,500 students daily. The goal of the program is to assist students who come to school hungry to achieve academic success. The Burnaby School Meal Program is guided by the principles of universality, confidentiality, health and nutrition, environmental friendliness and efficient use of funds.

The committee was briefed on the progress of additional schools under review. After further consultation with the parent community, the committee approved, in principle, the expansion of the School Meal Program to Armstrong Elementary, subject to finalization of capital requirements and funding.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information and approve, in principle, the expansion of the School Meal Program to include Armstrong Elementary, subject to finalization of capital requirements and funding.

**3.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**4.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Youth and Community Services committee will be on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.