

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, October 9, 2012

The Education Committee met on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 4:15 pm. In attendance were Trustees Ron Burton (Chair), James Wang, and Harman Pandher, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Kaardal; BTA representative James Sanyshyn, and DPAC representative Jennifer Mezei.

1. Mind-UP™ – Social & Emotional Learning

District Principal Deborah Simak and Coordinator Student Safety and Child Abuse, Suzanne Vardy updated the committee on the educational initiative active in schools in Burnaby entitled, “MindUP”. MindUP™ was developed by The Hawn Foundation in collaboration with leading researchers and practitioners in neuroscience, positive psychology, social emotional learning, and piloted and tested by school educators. MindUP™ schools in British Columbia were recently featured in Scientific America Magazine as a researched strategy to support social emotional learning that works. Students participating in the MindUP™ Program showed a significant decrease in aggression and behavioral problems, improved self-esteem, self-management and optimism.

The MindUP™ Program has four main goals to:

- teach mindful focused awareness;
- increase positive human qualities, such as empathy, perspective-taking, helpfulness and kindness;
- increase optimism and well-being; and
- foster a cohesive, caring classroom climate that enhances learning.

In the Response to the Intervention Model, MindUP™ fits into the bottom tier – universal programming for all students. We currently have three MindUP™ Trainers in Burnaby, with one additional trainer who will complete the Trainer Training in the spring of 2013. The last training for Burnaby educators offered on September 21, 2012 reached capacity with 60 teachers and administrators signing up within two hours. We fielded numerous requests from schools wishing for school-based training. At this point, however, we are unable to offer school-based training as our facilitators are kept busy offering district-wide trainings.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Adventure-based Learning – the Hero’s Program

Director of Instruction Roberto Bombelli and Manager of Youth Services, Sue Dorey updated the committee on changes to programming occurring at the district’s Storefront program. The Storefront program has been in place since September 2002. Two teachers and one Youth Engagement Support Worker work with approximately 30-40 students each year. Approximately 90% of the students are referred through the Intervention Committee. While the current program has demonstrated success with

students every year, there is still a number of youth who remain at risk of increased involvement in high-risk community activities.

In an effort to increase school engagement and academic success, and to support youth in making positive life decisions, the Storefront program staff has begun increasing program options for students. These program changes have been focused on “Learning Outside the Classroom”, and include the addition of an Outdoor Classroom Education Garden and the development of a photography program.

Staff are implementing the following changes:

- Increase opportunities to gain academic credits
 - offer BAA Outdoor Education program
 - This adventure based learning program also targets social emotional skills and builds resiliency
- Continue with high standards for appropriate behaviour and belonging through programs
- Rename the program to Royal Oak Secondary Program
 - This name change removes the stigma associated with “Alternate” programs
- Explore possible partnership with Take a Hike Foundation - may offer enhanced support to achieve program goals

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 5, 2012 at 4:15 pm.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Reporting to Public Session October 9, 2012

The Youth and Community Services Committee (YCSC) met on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Trustee committee members Baljinder Narang (Chair), Meiling Chia, Harman Pandher, Gina Niccoli-Moen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Trustee Larry Hayes for item 1.

1.0 Reports from Community Committees

Trustees who represent the Board on community committees updated the YCSC on items that would be of interest to the Board.

1.1 From the City of Burnaby's Community Policing Committee

Trustee Larry Hayes updated the committee regarding a presentation at the September 13 Community Policing Committee meeting. Corporal Neil Roemer, Burnaby RCMP, provided a presentation on the School Liaison Program. The presentation highlighted the unique and successful partnership between the school district and RCMP and the proactive approach to community policing.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2.0 Association for Community Education (ACEbc) Provincial Conference 2012

The committee received information regarding the upcoming ACEbc Conference hosted by Burnaby, October 18-20, 2012. The Conference, *"Together for Kids and Communities: A Common Vision"* boasts an array of prominent keynote speakers in the field of Community Schools and Community Education. Registrations are still being accepted with over 100 participants registered to date.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3.0 Expect, Respect And a Safe Education (ERASE) Bullying Strategy

The committee was updated on the Ministry of Education's ERASE Bullying Strategy. In June 2012, the Province announced a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy to address bullying and enhance safety protocols in districts to ensure all children enjoy a safe school culture and learning environment.

The strategy includes the following components:

- Regional training for educators and community partners throughout the province. Training will focus on preventing bullying and ensuring safe school cultures and basic risk assessment for elementary and secondary school teams respectively;
- An Online Reporting Tool for students that will be provided to school districts for the anonymous reporting of bullying and threatening behavior;
- The provision of Safe School Coordinators in each school district;

- Enhanced Codes of Conduct to ensure codes are clear about prohibited grounds of discrimination and align with the prevention of bullying and foster safe, caring school communities;
- The designation of professional development time to focus on anti-bullying.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

4.0 McCreary Adolescent Health Survey

The committee reviewed the request for participation in the fifth BC Adolescent Health Survey.

BC AHS V is a province-wide questionnaire for students in grades 7-12. It has been conducted every five years since 1992 and has become the most comprehensive source for BC based information on youth health. The BC AHS V is administered in randomly selected classrooms by trained public health nurses.

The committee reviewed the survey questions and administration protocol information.

Recommendation: THAT the Board approve the district's participation in the fifth BC Adolescent Health Survey.

5.0 Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

The committee reviewed correspondence from the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) regarding the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) research project.

The Middle Years Development Instrument is a self-report survey that is completed by students in grade 4, with assistance from their teachers, to garner information about their lives inside and outside of school.

Participation in this project would provide worthwhile information that can be used to learn more about children during middle childhood and find ways to promote positive development. The research project, which had previously been postponed, is set to commence in January 2013.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

6.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

7.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Youth and Community Services Committee is November 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.