

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, October 11, 2011

1. Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

Over the past three years the school district has realized significant reductions in electricity consumption, natural gas consumption and green house gas emissions, due in large part to the Board of Education's policy on environmental sustainability.

This evening Matt Foley, Manager Facility Services, Luisa Galuppo, Energy Specialist and Reno Ciolfi, Director of Instruction, will present the many ways in which the district has reduced its carbon footprint. The presentation will include information about facility upgrades as well as student and staff initiatives to change behavior and attitudes. The presentation will also highlight that the Burnaby School District has become a provincial leader in energy management.

Recommendation: That the Board receive this information.

2. Organization of Classes for the 2011 - 2012 School Year

The provisions of Section 76 of the School Act require the Superintendent of Schools, prior to October 1, to provide a report to the Board of Education regarding the organization of classes in the district. The report being presented will demonstrate for the 2011-2012 school year, that classes in the district have been reviewed, appropriate processes have occurred, consents have been provided, appropriate rationale have been summarized for classes that exceed thirty students, and that school organizations are appropriate for student learning.

Prior to submitting their school's organization report to the Superintendent and a declaration stating that all classes are appropriate for student learning, principals have the responsibility to consider all factors deemed relevant for each class or division. In reaching an opinion as to whether or not a class with over 30 students, or with more than 3 designated students is appropriate for student learning, principals and the Superintendent consider a variety of factors including, but not limited to:

- the number and background of students in the class
- the number of designated IEPs for the class
- the type of IEPs present and their relevance to the class
- the course in question and its academic demands for students and the teacher
- the grade and subject composition of the class
- the experience and background of the teacher
- whether or not other persons such as education assistants or Aboriginal support workers attend the class to assist students or the teacher
- what additional time, resources or supports are provided to the teachers and students

- processes completed prior to September 30th to ensure the balancing of students, resources, and needs between classes over time
- other general factors such as room size, safety, technology, and equipment
- any other factors the Principal believes is relevant, including information presented by the teacher

Class Size Requirements

The following chart outlines class size requirements:

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Exceed Maximum</u>
K	22	19	No
1-3	24	21	No
4-7	30	28	Teacher Consent
8-12	30	None	Teacher Consultation

Process to Assist in Ensuring Compliance with Class Organization Requirements:

- Ongoing reminders and information provided to principals of the requirements of the School Act in anticipation of preliminary school organizations and staffing.
- Preliminary class loading with teacher involvement occurred in May/June 2011.
- Preliminary organizations and timetabling of classes loaded to meet the School Act regulations in terms of class size and composition—May to September 2011.
- School Act requirements for the organization of classes were reviewed with all administrators in late August and September 2011, with a special focus on the revised consultation requirements.
- In September Assistant Superintendents reviewed with the BTA President and Vice-President the implementation of the provisions of the School Act and the consent/consultation process. The BTA shared the process they would be using to support teachers through the consent/consultation process.
- Preliminary information and collection of data from schools on class size and composition completed and sent to the district office by September 26, 2011.
- Elementary and Secondary school principals met with their respective School Planning Councils to share their organizations prior to October 1, 2011.
- School-based principals provided a declaration to confirm that the organization of classes for their schools is in compliance with the provisions of the School Act and is appropriate for student learning.

- Report on the organization of classes in the school district for 2011-2012 submitted to the Board of Education and the District Parent Advisory Council on September 29, 2011.

Elementary Schools

There are forty-one K–7 elementary schools in the district each offering additional options and programs for students including band, music, and choir. A summary of the school organizations include:

- 571 K-7 enrolling divisions are at or below the allowable class size limits outlined in the School Act. There are no enrolling divisions which exceed the allowable class size maxima.
- 24 individual classes at the elementary level have more than 30 students, as noted below:
 - 14 Grade 7 band classes have received teacher consent. Band teachers consider the organization to be acceptable and view the larger classes as a means of encouraging more students to join the program.
 - 8 non-enrolling choir classes have received teacher consent. Music teachers consider large groups acceptable, and in many instances, preferable for choir instruction. Schools have created unique organizations to deliver these classes if it is deemed appropriate to have more than one teacher involved.
 - 2 general music classes have received teacher consent.

Secondary Schools

There are eight 8-12 secondary schools in the district each offering comprehensive curricular programs for students. A total of 2725 classes are being delivered to students in secondary schools.

- 2685 classes or 99 % are at or below the allowable class size limits outlined in the School Act.
- 40 classes or 1% exceed 30 students.

The reasons for classes exceeding thirty students vary from school to school however the rationale can be summarized by the following:

- The learning conditions were considered and are appropriate. All reasonable solutions to balancing class sizes were attempted. The best alternative available

to meet the educational programming needs of the greatest number of students was followed.

- Band, Music, Dance and Choir are organized in larger classes to facilitate performances, support ensemble classes, and to encourage greater student participation. Past practice has taught us that these learning conditions are appropriate.
- This course is a singleton offering. The current class organization provides the opportunity for a number of students to meet specific requirements of their learning program that would not occur without enrolment in the course. The learning conditions have been considered and are appropriate.
- Supports have been put in place to ensure that the learning conditions in the class are appropriate.

Summary

This is to verify that the organization of classes in School District 41 (Burnaby) is in compliance with the class size provisions and is, in the opinion of the Superintendent, appropriate for student learning.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive and approve the Report on the Organization of Classes, as presented.

3. District Student Enrolment

The preliminary enrolment counts for the 2011-2012 school year have been finalized and will be reported to the Ministry of Education by the extended deadline of October 14, 2011.

The K-12 school-aged enrolment is below the district's 2011-2012 projections by 36 FTE students and it is above the 2010-2011 enrolment by 236 FTE. Overall the September 30 school-aged enrolment is 23,652 FTE students. This figure excludes students who are enrolled in the distributed learning, continuing education and international education programs. Enrolments in these programs are reported at three intervals during the year and then are added to the overall district enrolment.

For the school-age program, elementary enrolment is 105 FTE below the 2011-2012 projection of 13,120 students. Secondary enrolment is 69 FTE above the projection of 10,568 students. The increase in enrolment over the 2010-2011 school year is largely due to the full-day Kindergarten program that has now been implemented in each of the district's 41 elementary schools.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.