

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Reporting to Public Session October 11, 2011

The Youth and Community Services Committee (YCSC) met on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 5:20 p.m. In attendance were Trustee committee members Baljinder Narang (Chair), Tony Coccia, Larry Hayes, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Gina Niccoli-Moen and Sue Dorey, Manager Youth Services (for items 2, 4 and 5).

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 Social Sustainability Strategy Committee

Trustee Narang reported that Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy plan is now complete, has been accepted by Council and plans are underway for implementation.

Further, Trustee Narang noted that the Task Force for Sexual Exploitation and At-Risk Youth met and shared ideas for the "What's New" section of the website. Ideas include the following:

- 1) Promote a new service or an event sponsored by a Task Force member or other agency
- 2) Promote Youth Week and Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week
- 3) Promote proclaimed days/weeks/months of relevance to youth (e.g. Homelessness Awareness Week)
- 4) Cultural holidays
- 5) Actual Task Force events (e.g. poster contest)

The committee is looking for agency events or new services to highlight. Plans are for the website to be launched on October 31, 2011.

1.2 From the City of Burnaby's Social Issues Committee

Trustee Hayes presented the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning*. The joint publication by the Coalition of Childcare Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC outlines a plan which focuses on the integration of childcare programs with early learning programs delivered by schools.

Detailed information and opportunity for feedback are provided by visiting the following sites:

www.ccabc.bc.ca/cccabcdocs/integrated.html
www.ecebc.ca/news/integrated_project.html

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2.0 Stepping Stones for Success

Manager of Youth Services, Sue Dorey, updated the committee regarding the agenda for the conference that the district is hosting October 20-21, 2011.

Stepping Stones for Success: Hope for Vulnerable Youth is a conference for youth, parents and professionals working with vulnerable youth. It will take place on the provincial-wide October 21 professional development day at the Michael J. Fox Theatre and Burnaby South Secondary and will be open not only to Burnaby School District staff, but to community services providers and other school districts interested in attending. The focus of the conference is to promote best practice in the area of working with vulnerable children and youth.

On Thursday October 20, the day will be devoted to a Youth Conference where the focus will be engaging secondary students in a dialogue around issues that are important to them and affect their success at school. A recent Burnaby graduate, who overcame adversity to accomplish his graduation goal, will be the keynote speaker.

On the evening of October 20, the conference will host a presentation for parents. There will be a keynote speech by Dr. John Medina, author of *Brain Rules*, who will speak about the developing brain of children and what some of the most influential factors are which promote learning. There will also be an opportunity for parents to access community information and support.

Friday, October 21 is designed for professionals and will provide a keynote address by Medina and workshops that focus on the following topics:

- Rethinking vulnerability and building resiliency
- Understanding risk behavior
- Developing social and emotional intelligence
- Educational engagement
- Developing healthy and meaningful relationships with youth

Conference registration continues to be strong with over 200 participants to date.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3.0 Community School Pilot Project – Byrne Creek

The committee discussed the success of the project to date. Although early in the school year, the school and community have identified specific goals and have had much success in accessing families and integrating them into classroom activities. Parents are becoming increasingly familiar and comfortable with the community room and the school has already established a breakfast program.

In addition, the committee discussed the draft of suggestions for an appropriate set of effective program indicators for the pilot project. Such program indicators would be used

to guide and measure the effectiveness of the Community School Pilot Project after its first year of operation.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

4.0 Youth and Child Care Worker Review

The school district has undertaken an extensive review of the existing role of the Youth and Child Care Worker and the resources allocated to schools to support vulnerable children and youth. This review was initiated to ensure that the district is in keeping with the expectations and requirements of the provincial funding that is used by the district to fund the Youth and Child Care Worker program. As a result of this review process, the job description for Youth and Child Care Workers has significantly changed. There are now three distinct district job descriptions with new competencies, skills and abilities outlined.

Youth and Child Care Workers are now assigned to one of three district teams that will support a school or group of schools which have the highest social and demographic vulnerability. The three teams include:

1. The Youth Engagement Support (YES) Worker team will be dedicated to providing support to youth aged 13 to 19 with high levels of non-attendance, disengagement and are at risk of not completing secondary school.
2. The Child, Family and Community (CONNECT) Worker team will be assigned to an elementary school or group of schools with the greatest ranked need. The primary focus of the CONNECT Worker is to build positive relationships between students, family, school and community. This position is responsible for the creation, evaluation and facilitation of social, recreational and educational after school programming.
3. The Intensive Behaviour Elementary Support (IBES) Worker team will be part of an integrated education team and assists in the planning, developing and delivery of programs and supports that promote the social emotional development of elementary students who have been identified as having emotional/behavioural disorder.

This new structure is currently in place, with district teams having met to review job descriptions, roles and responsibilities, training on data, development and evaluation of programs and professional development in early September.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

5.0 Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention – Grant Funding Program

The Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Funding program supports communities in preventing and addressing crime, violence and victimization.

Grant funding is now available for one-time community projects that address and prevent crime, violence and victimization issues in British Columbia. The funding has become

available through proceeds from civil forfeiture and funding applications are being accepted, with preferred priorities in dealing with issues of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and gangs.

Manager of Youth Services, Sue Dorey, informed the committee that the Burnaby RCMP has submitted a proposal for grant funding with the Burnaby School District as a key partner.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

6.0 Middle Years Proposal

The committee reviewed correspondence from the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) regarding the of 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 has been postponed by HELP, from November 2011 to February 2012. Over the next few weeks, HELP will be convening conference calls to receive input and determine how best to facilitate the process.

6.1 School Meals Program

The committee discussed the possibility of expanding the District's School Meals Program. Currently, the district houses 13 programs. Potential school sites were identified and further discussion regarding community factors and school facility considerations (including space and an appropriate kitchen area) were considered. The committee requested staff to continue to review possible expansion.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Youth and Community Services committee will be on Tuesday, November 1, 2011