



Trustees:

Ken Clarkson (Chair), Susan Carr, Eleanor Palis (Vice-Chair), Dr. Dave Rempel, Stepan Vdovine, Kathie Ward

Executive:

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Stewart Sonne (Director of Instruction), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer)

Presentations

Jamie Scoular, a teacher at Thomas Haney Secondary School, and student Claire Chang described the use of technology to support learning in Grade 11 and 12 English classes. Mr. Scoular has created a website giving his students access to learning guides for their courses as well as other online resources. He described some of his students' projects, most of which involve technology, and said that the projects were successful because they allowed the students to pursue their own personal interests or passions.

Board to write to Ministry regarding FSA

The Board approved a motion brought by Trustee Carr that the Board write to the Minister of Education asking that the Ministry work collaboratively with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) to resolve the current impasse over the use of the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA).

Parents to be asked for feedback on school closure process

Superintendent Unwin presented a proposed letter to be sent to parents of students affected by the closing of Mount Crescent and Riverside elementary schools. The letter will seek feedback on the transition process families went through, how their children are doing and what if anything might be done differently in the future. Feedback will also be sought from school staff.

Board Authority Authorized courses approved

The Board approved the following locally developed Board Authority Authorized courses:

- PE Leadership 11 – developed to support and encourage students to explore their personal abilities to lead activities and students in a recreational sports environment.
- European Languages and Cultures 11 – developed to encourage students to explore three European languages and cultures. Students will learn basic vocabulary and phrases and explore aspects of French, Spanish and Italian culture.
- Passport to Trades Program – allows students going into Grade 9 extensive exposure to the trades, preparing them to successfully enter and complete trades/technical training or seek apprenticeship opportunities in the future.

Director of Instruction Sonne explained that once approved these courses are eligible to be taught at all schools and that they are aligned with similar courses offered in other districts.

The Board was also asked to approve in principle an academic partnership between the school district and Kwantlen University that would allow students to start taking university courses while still in high school. After some discussion it was agreed that in view of a number of issues that needed clarification, the recommendation would not be approved as presented; it was instead amended giving staff direction to pursue further conversations with Kwantlen in order to eliminate any possible problem areas.

Fee increases approved for international students

The Board approved raising tuition and related fees for its International Education program to offset increased costs in medical services premiums, homestay expenses, legal and administrative costs. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson added that the tuition fees had not been increased for eight years and that there was room to increase the fees and still be competitive.

Learning for Tomorrow update

The Board received an update on the Learning for Tomorrow public inquiry. Superintendent Unwin said that the wider community would now be invited to add their input to the themes identified by the 200 participants at the forum in November. New input will be received via an online survey. The combined input will guide the creation of action plans to be implemented for September.

Special Education audit

The Board received a Special Education Compliance Audit report. The Ministry of Education appointed a team of specialists in the area of Special Education to review the files of 419 students in two categories: physically disabled or chronically health impaired; and intensive behavior interventions or serious mental illness. The final audit recommendations will result in less than \$100,000 being removed from district funding, out of more than \$5 million generated by these students. Superintendent Unwin commended the work of school and Student Support Services staff, saying that it was “due to the diligence of our people...as well as the structures and systems that have been set up...that kept us from losing several hundred thousand dollars.”

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, February 9
at 6 PM in the District Education Office.**