

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, October 13, 2009

The Education Committee met on Monday, October 5, 2009 at 5:00 pm. In attendance were Trustees Baljinder Narang (Chair) and Diana Mumford; Assistant Superintendents Kevin Kaardal and Gina Niccoli-Moen; DPAC representative Jennifer Mezei and presenters Burnaby Central Principal Roberto Bombelli and Vice Principal David Greve; Director of Instruction Heather Hart and Director of Facilities Phil Shepherd; and District Principal Donna Scott.

1. Burnaby Central Collaboration Plan

The committee heard a report on the plans and adjustments that the Burnaby Central Secondary School community are implementing in year two of the use of “Collaboration Time” as a strategy to support improved student learning. Principal Bombelli outlined improvements in delivering the collaboration time model that included:

- supervision of collaborative groups to ensure their work was based on a goal that was both practical and directly related to improving student learning,
- reporting out strategies to highlight learning successes,
- improved attendance reporting,
- improved communication and feedback process.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. SFU Elementary Update

Director of Instruction Heather Hart, Director of Facilities Phil Shepherd and Assistant Superintendent Kaardal provided an update on the program and building planning committees’ work for the elementary school located at UniverCity. The presentation highlighted three overarching educational themes of Sustainability, Community Involvement, and Learning through Inquiry. The committee heard about design initiatives that will make the building and grounds teaching tools for environmental sustainability. The presentation included opportunities for community involvement in the school including a day time presence for Burnaby Parks and Recreation. Current examples of student projects that result in learning through an inquiry process were also presented. The presentation offered a number of potential opportunities for collaboration with the Faculty at Simon Fraser University. When appointed, the Principal of the school, the staff, parents and district staff will begin exploring which opportunities will enhance the education of students attending the school. Trustees also offered feedback on the draft program committee report.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. Graduation Follow-up Survey

District Principal Donna Scott presented results from the district's annual Graduation Follow-up Survey. Highlights from the survey report executive summary indicate that:

- 96% of respondents expressed satisfaction with their classroom experiences
- 93% of respondents completed grades 10 through 12 in three years
- 93% of respondents indicated indicate that school prepared them to continue with their education
- 92% were satisfied with their marks and evaluations and felt their courses were relevant
- 91% of the respondents felt they had made a successful transition from secondary school to their current circumstance
- 83% indicate satisfaction with their Career Programs work experience placement
- 79% of respondents surveyed are currently attending a post secondary program
- 77% of respondents reported that secondary school helped them learn to respect ideas, beliefs and needs of others

The committee discussed the possibility of expanding the survey to provide longitudinal data, the opportunity to examine other delivery methods including electronic surveys to increase participation rates and reviewing the purposes of some of the survey questions.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

4. Immigration Services Society of British Columbia

Trustees requested this item be deferred to the November Education Committee meeting.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

5. School Organization Report

Assistant Superintendent Kaardal provided an update on work undertaken by school and district staff and the BTA in order to ensure the best possible classroom organizations to support learning in each of our schools. The process includes meaningful consultation, open communication, and the effective placement of available human resources. This report will be presented in detail at the October 13 Board meeting.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

6. New Business

The committee discussed possible future agenda items.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

7. Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 2 at 5:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm