

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session October 27, 2009

The Youth and Community Services Committee (YCSC) met on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 5:45 p.m. In attendance were Trustee committee members Larry Hayes (Chair), Tony Coccia, Diana Mumford, Associate Superintendent of Schools Elliott Grieve and Manager of Youth Services Sue Dorey for item 1.0.

1.0 Safe and Caring Schools Update

Manager of Youth Services Sue Dorey updated the committee on the process being used and the progress to date in the development of a new comprehensive district safe and caring schools framework.

For the past ten months, staff from the Youth Services Division have been engaged in focused conversation with school administrators, counselors, teachers and support staff throughout the district. Discussions have also included community partners such as the RCMP, MCFD, Mental Health, Fraser Health, non-profit community agencies and other school districts. A thorough review of current literature in the field has also been undertaken.

This process has identified four core components that need to be in place to ensure that schools are safe, caring and orderly places to learn and work. Each component will be clearly defined in the framework and there has been significant dialogue around how to move along an continuum of services. The framework will incorporate current research on social emotional learning and how it is relevant to safe and caring schools. The framework will also address how schools respond to a variety of complex social issues such as, crime prevention (gang involvement, drug involvement and graffiti property damage) child abuse prevention, bullying intimidation and harassment (including cyber bullying) restorative justice and social responsibility.

The framework is currently in the final draft stages and requires the feedback of several groups before the final draft is completed. The goal is to present the final draft to the YCS in January.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2.0 Early Learning Updates

The committee received updates on the following early learning programs and initiatives.

2.1 EDI Community Summary 2009

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) brings together academic, government, school and community partners to focus attention on early child development across British Columbia. Beginning in 1999, HELP has collected and mapped population level child development data province wide. This data has been combined with socio-economic and community asset information to enhance the understanding of factors that influence children's development. An important goal of the project is to assist communities in using maps to monitor early child development, and in developing effective local responses that support the needs of children and families. The project is administered by HELP, in partnership with community networks and school districts of British Columbia. The project is funded by the Province of British Columbia through the Ministries of Children & Family Development, Education and Healthy Living and Sport.

A key component of the project is the Early Development Instrument (EDI), a research tool that assesses the state of children's development in kindergarten. Measuring children's development at school entry is important because it reflects the quality of children's early experiences. EDI assesses children in five domains, physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, communication skills and general development.

The EDI is a checklist that kindergarten teachers complete for each child in their class after they have known their students several months. All teachers undergo a standardized training in the administration of the instrument. This is the third wave of data collection that Burnaby has participated in and allows a greater possibility of seeing trends and measuring the effectiveness of targeted interventions. Data was collected in 2003, 2006 and most recently in February 2009. The data is not individual but population based and children are mapped by the neighbourhood where they live. Burnaby's data is collated into 20 district neighbourhood groups.

Joanne Schroder, Provincial Community Development Manager for the Human Early Language Partnership will provide a brief analysis of Burnaby's 2009 data to the Board of Education at its 2009-10-27 meeting. The committee noted that when reviewing the data from Burnaby it was important to acknowledge the stressors of immigration and poverty that may impact the early years of young children and their parents in our community.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2.2 Roots of Empathy (attachment)

Provincial Government funding for The Roots of Empathy program in British Columbia has been cancelled effective October 31, 2009. Roots of Empathy, which received \$1.45 million last year from the Ministries of Education and Children and Family Development, encourages students' emotional development by bringing an infant and parent into classrooms for regular visits throughout the school year.

Funding from the government covered the majority of costs of program delivery, including materials, training and mentoring for program facilitators and ROE's organizational support to ensure program integrity and quality assurance.

The funding reduction has impacted the Roots of Empathy program across the province dramatically. This September there will be programs in 320 classrooms in schools throughout the province, down 52 percent from the number of programs that operated last year. In Burnaby, a call went out to those facilitators who have been trained to determine how many would be willing to offer programs under a skeleton support system for the 2009-2010 school year. In total 26 facilitators or 74 percent of the number of programs that operated last year agreed to continue the program for 2009/2010.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2.3 StrongStart Centres for 2009/2010 (attachment)

In the spring of 2009 the Ministry of Education approved the district's application for expansion of four additional StrongStart centres in Burnaby. These new centers opened during the month of September to large numbers of new families with 25-30 children and their caregivers on the first day.

The newest locations are Lochdale and Stoney Creek Community Schools and Kitchener and Chaffey Burke Elementary schools. The new sites were chosen using current EDI information as well as the desire to have StrongStart locations equitably distributed throughout Burnaby. These new programs are in addition to the existing programs at Second Street, Maywood, Stride Avenue and Edmonds Community schools, Morley, Forest Grove, Cascade Heights and Twelfth Avenue Elementary schools. This district program, which is in its sixth year of operation, continues to attract a large number of parents and caregivers. The programs have become an integral part of the elementary schools where they operate. Parents and caregivers take ownership of the programs and provide support for their children as well as for many of the routines of the StrongStart day.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2.4 Newcomers Centre for Children and Families

In September of 2009, in recognition of the success of the Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) program, the district was invited by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Immigrant Integration Branch and the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table to submit a proposal for the development of *An Early Childhood Settlement Service Centre for Refugees in Burnaby*. The proposal addresses the many unique and complex needs of newly arrived (0-5 yrs) young refugee children and their caregivers and is designed to deliver an integrated service approach that meets these needs in a community-friendly storefront location.

The pilot project has received funding for a two year period ending January 31, 2011 with MOSAIC as the lead agency to manage this project.

In June, the centre opened in a renovated storefront setting on Kingsway in the Highgate neighbourhood of the city.

The majority of families attending the program are from Sudan, Congo, Afghanistan, and Ethiopia. Between June and September staff have worked with 57 children representing 30 families. Languages spoken are Arabic, Bosnian, Dhari, English, French, Farsi, Kurdish, Tigrigna and Spanish.

The centre provides early learning opportunities for children with and without their parents and an adapted preschool program prior to children attending a mainstream preschool.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3.0 Burnaby Residents Survey (attachment)

The Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table (BIPT) received a grant to conduct the *Burnaby Residents Survey*. The goal of the survey was to obtain an understanding of Burnaby residents' perceptions, attitudes and experiences with Burnaby's increasingly diverse population as well as their opinions related to supporting newcomers in the community. The report provides a summary and an analysis of the information and data collected. These results will be used by Burnaby's service providers to inform the creation and/or modification of activities, services, programs and resources related to building welcoming and inclusive communities. A copy of the report is attached.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

4.0 Children and Youth in Care

The Ministry of Education has established a new initiative regarding tracking children and youth in care. Children in care are those children and youth whose “parent” is the government on a continuing or temporary basis. The achievement of Children and Youth in Care as a defined group has been significantly lower than the general population of students.

In response to this directive, the district established a “Students in Care District Coordinating Committee” to develop and implement a plan to oversee the tracking initiative and to provide support and assistance to schools.

District staff has met with MCFD to establish communication protocols for sharing information regarding both continuing and temporary care children and youth attending school in Burnaby. The YCS committee will receive further updates as the initiative moves forward.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

5.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

6.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Youth and Community Services Committee is December 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

The locations of the Roots of Empathy classes for 2009/2010 are listed below:

School	#
Aubrey	1
Brentwood Park	2
Cascade Heights	1
Douglas Road	2
Edmonds	2
Forest Grove	2
Gilmore	1
Gilpin	1
Kitchener	1
Lochdale	1

School	#
Maywood	1
Montecito	1
Nelson	1
Second Street	2
South Slope	2
Stride	1
Taylor Park	1
Twelfth Avenue	1
Westridge	1
Windsor	1