

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

The Education Committee met on Monday, November 2, 2009 at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Trustees Baljinder Narang (Chair), Diana Mumford, and Gary Wong; Assistant Superintendents Kevin Kaardal and Gina Niccoli-Moen; BTA representative Marianne Neill; and DPAC representative Jennifer Mezei.

**1. Youth Transition Centre**

In the Spring of 2008 the district's Learning Transitions Strategic Plan identified several areas that required attention including new strategies to engage vulnerable youth in Burnaby and a review of the district's Secondary Alternate Education programs. In February 2009, the school district, along with Fraser Health, Addiction Services, Ministry of Children and Family Development, CAVE Youth Employment Centre, Child and Youth Mental Health and Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services began a dialogue on how to enhance service to vulnerable youth in Burnaby. District Principal Rennie Maierle and Manager of Youth Services Sue Dorey provided an update on this collaborative approach to provide integrated services to Burnaby's most vulnerable youth. A proposed community-based Youth Transition Centre would provide an environment of opportunity for youth in need of multiple services and the development of a shared strategy on how to best support this group.

The intended population would include youth struggling with connection to school or work and youth who require a variety of intense intervention and outreach to ensure connection with community services and supports. The service model would include:

- A welcoming and safe environment
- Individualized and flexible educational programs
- Intense and rigorous outreach programs
- Health care and counselling supports
- A holistic and youth-centred approach to service

Conversations are ongoing in order to determine space and resource needs of co-located agencies and to review the responsibilities for day-to-day operations for this exciting new initiative in Burnaby.

Recommendation:    **THAT** the Board receive this information.

## **2. Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia**

The Education Committee reviewed a consultation report prepared by the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia. The report outlines the unique challenges facing refugee immigrant youth in BC and recommendations to improve support to these learners in schools and the community. The informative report complements the work to date of the district's immigrant support services and the potential support of the proposed Youth Transition Centre. A letter of acknowledgement will be forwarded to the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

## **3. Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 5:00 pm.

## **4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.