



EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2023
VIA ZOOM
2:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Trustee Austin

We would like to give thanks and acknowledge that the lands on which we work and learn are on the shared traditional territory of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nations People.

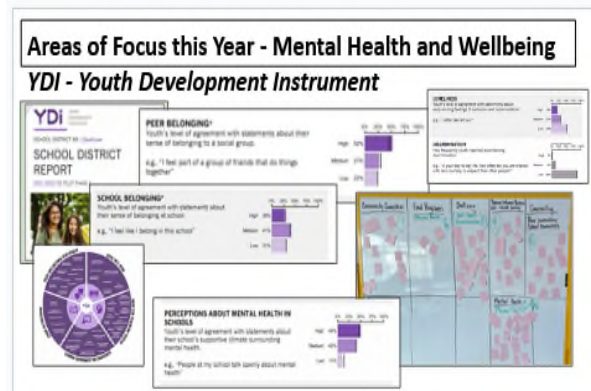
MANDATE:

To discuss and make recommendations to the Board on aspects of teaching, learning and educational equity. We will strive to have all students receive whatever they need to develop to their full academic and social potential and to thrive every day.

SCHOOLS AND/OR PROGRAMS

Youth Development Institute: Ballenas Secondary Students Sharing (Ms. Catherine and student group)

The students of BSS 'Student Voice' presented on their activities this past school year, with a focus on the YDI (Youth Development Instrument) and Wi-Fi. Each Home Room (HR) or Career Life Connections (CLC) have two students that attend meetings and bring their class perspectives to the discussion. They surveyed fellow students to initially get a sense of some of the concerns which included washroom facilities, seating, ramp access to fields, theatre upgrades and more.



Due to extreme download bandwidth being used the students are looking at reducing background usage, peak times, using airplane mode and strategic streaming.

- More meetings - especially when deep into a big topic
- Communication - IE: Google Classroom to keep us connected
- Utilize Flex for meeting
- Be more visible - share out more, bulletin boards, social media, documentation of journey, etc.
- Representation - merchandise, yearbook
- More direct connection to CLC (greater opportunities to share student voice, get input)
- Connect with other groups within the school
- Look for opportunities to connect with other student voice groups locally, and beyond

They did a deep dive into the data from the YDI and how to address some of the concerns. This sharing and learning will be ongoing with the students.

They are hoping to connect with other "Student Voices", here on the island and beyond.

Moving forward, they hope to Continuation with YDI themes, Safe, Inclusive School Communities, Mental Health Education.

The experience this year has been a 'wonderful experience' and helped hone public speaking skills.

Thanks for all you are doing! Please keep us informed and how the board may help.

Ministry Mental Health Conference (Linette and Gillian)

Linette, Gillian and other representatives from district counselling, learning support and our district social worker attended the BC Mental Health Conference – Connections, May 2-3, 2023.

Speakers included:

Monique Gray-Smith, Connecting with Light Hearts

Dr. Kim Schonert-Reichl, Leveraging Systemic Social and Emotional Learning to Promote the Well-being of Educators and Students.

Dr. Bonnie Henry and Dr. Danièle Behn Smith, Youth Mental Health in B.C.

Dr. Michael Unger, How Schools, Families and Communities Build Children's Resilience

Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith - Bridging Differences: Strategies for Connecting Across Our Divides.



The conference was information dense with discussion on Social Emotional Learning, student perspectives and recent data.

Resources:

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions – Report -Pathways to Hope

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/initiatives-plans-strategies/mental-health-and-addictions-strategy/bcmentalhealthroadmap_2019web-5.pdf

Video- Resilience through their Eyes - Students (age 8-10) from Surrey, British Columbia reflect on their lives and share their wisdom about how adults can cultivate resilience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peUzEr9q2k8>

What supports are available in SD69

[https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/Student%20Support%20Services/Pages/default.aspx#/=](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/Student%20Support%20Services/Pages/default.aspx#/)

English First Peoples Requirements (Rudy)

Rudy spoke to the Bold, Brave action for English First Peoples (EFP) 10 course, including the findings from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and finding teachers passionate about EFP is essential.

Last May teachers and secondary administrators met and it was agreed that our district would extend EFP 10 from 2 credit to 4 credits for all students to meet the grad requirement. It was felt that this would have the potential of increasing enrollment in EFP 12 (ELA 12 required credit option) and/or BCFPS 12 (SS required credit option) as elective options. Further, it was recognized that other approved provincial or future local Board/Authority Authorized courses may be added.

Thank you for teaching me this course, please continue teaching this course. It should be necessary for Canadian youth to at least be aware of our history with First Peoples and to rightfully eliminate misconceptions and stereotypes. Also, the contributions of individuals with First peoples status/descent is grossly under celebrated in terms of fine arts, the workplace, etc. Teaching EFP gives those contributions more recognition.

From student who took the EFP Course

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE ACTION

Trustee Austin gave a shout-out to the student leadership at Ballenas. Last year they potted over 100 grand fir seedlings with community steward, Sunshine Goldberry. This year they took all those trees and planted them in the Parksville Wetlands. Thank you!

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

BC Teachers Federation Conference - Responding to Hate in Schools and Community

Trustee Austin attended the BCTF conference that addressed the insidious, rising and concerning trend of hate in schools across the province and the country. Guest speakers included BC Human Rights Commissioner Kasari Govender and representation from the Anti-Hate Network of Canada.

'Student Voice' students from Imagine High in Chilliwack attended and gave a powerful presentation on their activities, particularly in standing-up for 2S LGBTQ+ issues during the last trustee election.

Resources:

Anti Hate Network of Canada

<https://www.antihate.ca/about>

B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner

<https://bchumanrights.ca/>

SHARED LEARNING

Grade 7 Health and Wellness Conference

Thanks to Gillian, Karin, Eve and more who helped put on this year's Grade 7 Health & Wellness Conference. Lots of information shared. Looking forward, student feedback suggested offering more time to hear from the students themselves and asked if it was possible to extend the event for two days as there was so much information.

Also, a big thank to the bus department and drivers who organized transporting the students.

Update Director of Instruction (Rudy)

K-12 are preparing how to report the core competencies. Teachers are looking for the containers for students to report their core competency reflections. Our district is well ahead of the curve compared to other districts.

Two students from our district competed at the provincial level for the Skills Canada competition in April. Congratulations on their gold and silver wins!

Resources:

Skills Canada BC: <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/>

School Plans Presentations (All Trustees)

Trustees reflected on the school plans presented by school administrators in early May. This year introduced a new format where principals and vice-principals shared out their plans with other schools present to foster dialogue and sharing. Numeracy and literacy was a focus for many schools as they foster an inclusion caring culture. The format was well received and may continue with some tweaking.

INFORMATION

Teachers will be sharing their learning this year from their Learning Grants Projects at the Bayside on June 19. Sharing will be small 'ignites' with opportunity to share further and informally throughout the evening. The event is open to all teachers and hopefully some parents and students will attend, though we are mindful that the space may be limited.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION TO MOVE TO THE BOARD MEETING

None

Note: Discussion regarding the recording of Education Committee of the Whole Meetings was deferred once again to June's meeting due to DPAC and MATA representatives having previous engagements and not available to attend the May Education Committee of the Whole Meeting and we would like to have their input. This item will be moved up the agenda for June's meeting to try and find resolution.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, June 20 at 2:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

The Education Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.