



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING ADDENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

7:00 PM

THE FORUM

PARKSVILLE CIVIC & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

d. Additional Ministry of Education News Releases

- Province invests half a million for literacy in BC p 1-2
- Province clarifies utilization targets for school construction p 3

e. Reports from Board Representatives to Outside Organizations

- Building Learning Together Coalition/Heart-Mind Interest Group - *Trustee Young* p 4-5

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016EDUC0101-001763
Sept. 22, 2016

Ministry of Education

Province invests half a million for literacy in B.C.

VANCOUVER – Government is providing \$500,000 to this year’s Raise-a-Reader campaign to support community-based literacy programs for children and families throughout British Columbia.

“Literacy is so important to the lives of British Columbians. These are the skills that allow us to take part in our communities and live full and healthy lives,” said Minister of Education Mike Bernier. “Raise-a-Reader and Decoda are doing great work to support literacy and by extension, build stronger communities throughout the province. I encourage everyone to go out and support literacy in their community by contributing to Raise-a-Reader this week.”

Government’s annual \$500,000 contribution to Raise-a-Reader supports programs that provide families with fun ways to engage in literacy. Programs that will benefit from this funding include Abbotsford’s Family Education Program, Chilliwack’s Families in Motion program, and Vancouver’s Families Branching Out program. Families can find a variety of literacy programs offered at their local library, school or community centre.

During these programs families learn how to read and write together, learn new songs and rhymes, or make crafts like family trees, memory books, or sock puppets. These activities help develop confidence in reading, writing, and communication skills for children and their parents.

“On behalf of Decoda Literacy Solutions, I would like to thank the Ministry of Education and the Vancouver Sun for their longstanding support of Raise-a-Reader,” said chief executive officer of Decoda Literacy Solutions, Brenda Le Clair. “The Ministry of Education’s contribution to Raise-a-Reader will complement our efforts to provide resources and training to family literacy programs throughout the province. These programs will offer more chances to increase the literacy and learning skills of children and families, youth, adults and seniors to improve their quality of life.”

“The Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader program has helped to enrich the lives of families and individuals throughout B.C. for 20 years,” said the Vancouver Sun’s local marketing manager, Leza Maloney. “Together with our valued partners in government and literacy agencies, we continue to provide important tools to build fundamental skills that we believe are vital to our province’s most important stakeholders – readers. We are grateful for their continued support and participation in this essential community initiative.”

The annual week-long Raise-a-Reader campaign can be found in the Vancouver Sun’s print and online editions this week. The campaign will feature daily stories highlighting literacy and library programs from throughout the province. Government supports Raise-a-Reader in partnership with the Vancouver Sun and Decoda Literacy Solutions, the only provincewide

literacy organization in British Columbia.

Further to government's efforts to support learning for families and young children, a new \$600,000 partnership between the Ministry of Education, the Provincial Office for the Early Years and the B.C. School Superintendents Association will give early years professionals the tools they need to better support children entering kindergarten. Provincewide sessions will enable teachers and early childhood professionals to network and share strategies to address the needs of young learners – thereby making for a smoother transition from pre-school to kindergarten.

"Every child learns in a unique way. They might be hands-on learners who love playing with blocks, or perhaps prefer listening to someone read to them," said Minister of Children and Family Development Stephanie Cadieux. "This new partnership will bring together kindergarten teachers, StrongStart co-ordinators, day care providers and others who work with young kids to discuss each child's needs and help schools prepare for their arrival. By sharing information about children moving to kindergarten, we can build local networks and create a more comfortable learning environment, one that will start each child on the path to lifelong success."

Quick Facts:

- Since 2005, the Province has invested more than \$6.8 million in support of Raise-a-Reader, including the investment announced today. Funds raised through the annual Raise-a-Reader campaign play a vital role in supporting literacy programs that help B.C. families.
- The Raise-a-Reader campaign was created by the Vancouver Sun in 1997 to support literacy by increasing awareness and raising money to fund child and family literacy programs in British Columbia.

Learn More:

Decoda Literacy: www.decoda.ca/literacy-in-bc/

Raise-a-Reader: www.raise-a-reader.com

Media Contacts:

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Children and Family Development
250 356-1639

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2016EDUC0103-001769
Sept. 21, 2016

Ministry of Education

Province clarifies utilization targets for school construction

VANCOUVER – Education Minister Mike Bernier released the following statement today clarifying utilization targets for school construction in B.C.:

“There has been a great deal of confusion about utilization targets lately – much of that confusion driven by misinformation pushed out by various parties. We are ending that confusion today by getting rid of utilization targets as part of our school investment process.

“Since the early 2000s utilization targets have been a highly technical planning tool for school districts and the Province when it comes to building new schools and expanding existing ones. The rationale is quite simple – making sure existing schools were being used as much as possible before making a multi-million dollar investment in a new school or a school expansion.

“Getting rid of the sliding scale of utilization targets used throughout the province based on a district’s size better reflects the reality of how school projects are approved in B.C. – on a case-by-case basis. Vancouver is the best example of this. We are funding the new International Village school because of the growing student population in the area even though across Vancouver there are thousands of empty seats, 10% fewer students, and utilization targets in the 80% to 85% range – well below the 95% target.

“Student safety is key and that is why utilization targets have never been a requirement for seismic upgrades. The Province has worked with districts on a case-by-case basis to ensure schools are upgraded as quickly as possible. Districts like North Vancouver, Delta and Greater Victoria have made incredible progress getting schools upgraded and ensuring the right amount of space for the right number of students.

“Vancouver is unique because it is the only district that has a districtwide goal related to seismic upgrades – something the board agreed to in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Province. It is clear this is a goal not a requirement as right now there is \$200 million worth of provincially funded seismic upgrades under way in Vancouver. To reflect this reality of funding upgrades when a solid case is brought forward, we will remove the 95% goal if the Vancouver School Board agrees.

“School districts will still need to justify their applications to build new schools or expand existing ones. Taxpayers expect to be investing in the right number of schools for the actual number of students. The reason is simple – putting massive efforts into maintaining empty classrooms short-changes students of better classroom services, more teachers and more education assistants.”



SD69 QUALICUM

Board and Trustee Representative Committee Report

Trustee Representative: R. Elaine Young
Committee Name: Building Learning Together Coalition/Heart-Mind Interest Group
Meeting Location: Family Place
Meeting Time: September 15/September 22

The Oceanside Building Learning Together (OBLT) is our early learners program, which is operated as a non-profit society. The Coalition includes community groups, government and others who are interested in early learning in District 69. OBLT operates Munchkinland at Qualicum Commons and Family Place as well as Storybook Village.

The Heart-Mind Interest Group emerged from the OBLT Coalition and is dedicated to operationalizing Heart-Mind Principles into the Oceanside Community. Membership is fluid and open.

OBLT Coalition

Goals for the next year include:

- Preparing an Early Years Community Strategic Plan (We began this process at the meeting by dividing the work. We will use the Spirals of Inquiry method of planning.)
- Heart-Mind Activities that will address concerns from the EDI (Index of early development assessment).
- Continuing to bridge between Early Childhood Education providers and Kindergarten. (Last year's *Pete the Cat* event to be repeated).

Agencies Updates

- i. OBLT/Munchkinland and WOW bus:
 - Dad's Night Out (starting this month)
 - Ready, Set, Learn Fall Faire (Sept. 29 5:00PM at Storybook village)
 - Spooktacular (Oct 27 at Storybook Village)
 - OBLT AGM Nov 1
 - Mother Goose Programs (More info on website)
- ii. Child/Youth Mental Health:
 - Connect Program – Secondary Transition Program for adult care-givers
 - Anxiety reduction groups and programs for Pre-schoolers, tweens and teens.
- iii. Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL):
 - All programs started this week. See the website for offerings.
- iv. Pacific Care:
 - October 15 – mini conference on risky play and rejuvenation (2 workshops) at Qualicum Commons. Presentations in partnership with OBLT.
- v. Qualicum First Nation
 - Many kits for families for the 0-6 age group. Topics include Home Safety, Lice Treatment etc. Kits have all resources needed to help families. Also elders programs, travel subsidies, free child care, educational kits, and Speech-Language support. A lot of resources and these are available to anyone self-identifying as Indigenous who lives in the Deep Bay to Nanoose area.
- vi. Local Action Team
 - Pop-up activities with OBLT and RDN. Will be piloting a Mom's and Mentors group.

Heart-Mind Interest Group:

- Kits for younger learners were successfully piloted this summer. Will be used by Pacific Care and OBLT soon. VIRT is also reviewing the resources.
- Heart-mind challenge for the 3 secondary schools. The goal is to create a presentation of how Heart-mind concepts are being used at the secondary schools. Looking for interested educators in each of the schools. Contact Elaine for Ballenas and Pass/Woodwinds; Bobbi Coleman for KSS.
- Heart-mind Conference to be developed to share the presentations and provide networking opportunities.

Next Meetings:

- Coalition – October 6 at noon
- Heart-Mind October 19

For more info contact me please eyoung@sd69.bc.ca