



Education Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
VIA ZOOM
3:30 p.m.

Mandate: *To discuss and make recommendations to the board on the general directions for education in the district, and to serve as a vehicle for regular reports to the board on educational programs and services.*

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

2. OPENING COMMENTS

3. SHARED LEARNING:

- a. Being Kind/Orange Shirt Day Activity – Springwood Elementary,**
Students in Grades 2 and 3 showcased artwork they created after reading two books written by Monique Gray Smith.
- b. Outdoor Pursuits - Ballenas Secondary**
Shayne Vollmers, teacher, and 3 past students from the Grade 9 Outdoor Pursuits program provided an overview of the program. The program offers students 70-80 experiences per year, though things will look a bit different this year. Average class size is 22-24 keen students. A lovely video was played which was created by a previous vision-impaired student, and showed a quick snapshot of last year's class and many of their experiences.
- c. Enhancing Student Learning**
Vivian Collyer, Director of Instruction, Gillian Wilson, Associate Superintendent, and Keven Elder, Superintendent of Schools, have begun visiting schools and talking about the plans to Enhance Learning in their school communities. This will hopefully be shared with Trustees in the late Spring.

4. INFORMATION

- a. Enrollment Numbers**
Ms. Wilson, Associate Superintendent, reported that currently 197 students in some form of Home Support but numbers are going down as parents and students are feeling more comfortable returning to the school setting.
- b. CEAP Update**
Ms. Wilson, Associate Superintendent, reported that the district's Distributed Learning program has increased in numbers and the district has added in extra staff to support the program
- c. French Home Support Update**
Dr. Collyer, Director of Instruction, reported that currently 38 students are using Home Support. She noted that this support is not in French language and total immersion, but staff are supporting the students in their progression.

d. Professional Learning Opportunities Update

Dr. Collyer, Director of Instruction, spoke to the Numeracy Program for elementary and high school students (grades 8-9).

Zoom strategies for teachers for Numeracy, currently 23 teachers in K-7 enrolled and 18 teachers for 8-9.

She then provided information on Community of Practice which invites teachers to talk and share about best practices and common themes.

17 teachers are currently participating and more can join at any time

Professional Development this week will be mostly virtual so a good turnout is expected because travel will not be a barrier.

e. Backpack Program Update – Art Fundraiser

Ms. Wilson, Associate Superintendent, provided information on the District 69 Backpack Program and a current fundraiser in collaboration with a local artist, Aura Vanderwal, who has released Limited Edition Prints of orcas swimming in seaweed for sale with 20% of the proceeds going to the Backpack Program and 5% to the Centre for Whale Research. Prints can be purchased at

<https://www.aurasgarden.com/>

f. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)– The Province has issued new dates for the FSA's to now be completed in February

g. Alternative Education Review update

The LEAP program was moved to Qualicum Beach Elementary School as of September. The referral process is changing and partially complete for PASS WOODWINDS with referral of students coming through the District Based Team. This was a recommendation from the review last school year.

5. DISCUSSION

A topic for a future meeting will be Grad Rate 2019. Numbers came this week and need to be 'unpacked' and will then be brought to an Education Committee of the Whole in either November or December.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

No recommendations at this time.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, November 17 at 3:30 via Zoom