



REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

7:00 PM

THE FORUM

PARKSVILLE CIVIC & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

2. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) adopt the agenda as presented (*or...as amended*).

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| a. | Adoption of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: August 25, 2015 | p 1-5 |
| b. | Adoption of Special Board Meeting Minutes: August 25, 2015 | p 6-7 |
| c. | Ratification of In Camera Board Meeting Minutes: August 25, 2015 | p 8 |
| d. | Ratification of Voucher No. 15-08 in the amount of \$1,535,972.35 | p 9 |
| e. | Approval in principle for a Kwalikum Secondary student field trip to Costa Rica in March 2017 | p 10-16 |
| f. | Ministry News Releases | |
| | • Scholarships revamp recognizes diversity of student success | p 17-20 |
| | • New guide a plan for safer schools | p 21-22 |
| | • K-12 International Homestay Guidelines officially launched | p 23-24 |
| | • Education by the numbers | p 25-27 |
| | • Curriculum revisions prep students to succeed in changing world | p 28-29 |
| | • Government helps future grads plan for in-demand careers | p 30-31 |
| | • Government supports families as kids go back to school | p 32-34 |
| | • Statement on International Literacy Day | p 35 |
| | • Students head back to school today | p 36-37 |
| | • New education guide will help teachers connect students to Aboriginal perspectives | p 38-40 |
| | • New lesson plans shed light on BC's dark past | p 41-42 |
| | • Province gives \$400,000 so all kids get the chance to play | p 43-44 |
| g. | Reports from Board Representatives to Outside Organizations | |
| | ▪ District French Advisory Committee - Trustee Gair | p 45-46 |

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 2015, as presented (*or...as amended*).

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS (10 MINUTES)

a. 2014-15 Audited Financial Statements

(Mark McGorman)

-
6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
 - a. **Request from Regional District of Nanaimo Letter re: Partnership Opportunities – Outdoor Multi-Sports Complex in District 69** p 47
 7. **TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS**
 8. **MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**
 9. **CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (LOCAL 3570)**
 10. **DISTRICT PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL**
 11. **PUBLIC QUESTION (WRITTEN) AND COMMENT PERIOD (10 MINUTES)**
 12. **ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. **2014-15 Audited Financial Statements** (Ron Amos)
Recommendation: separate attachment
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the 2014-15 Audited Financial Statements as presented.
 - b. **Aboriginal Education Funding** (Ron Amos) p 48
Recommendation:
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) request approval from the Ministry of Education to underspend the targeted Aboriginal Education funding for the 2014/15 school year in an amount of \$28,849 and,
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) confirm that the surplus has been allocated and will be spent on Aboriginal Education programs in the 2015/16 fiscal year.
 13. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
 - a. **Educational Programs Update** (Gillian Wilson)
 - b. **Education Planning Update** (Rollie Koop)
 - c. **Transportation Registration Update** (Dino Stiglich)
 14. **CORRESPONDENCE ATTACHED**
 - a. **Minister of Education's letters to parents/teachers** p 49-52
 - b. **BCSTA Membership Renewal** p 53-57
 15. **POLICY**
 16. **TRUSTEE ITEMS**
 17. **NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 18. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**
 19. **ADJOURNMENT**



School District No. 69 (Qualicum)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015

7:00 PM

THE FORUM

PARKSVILLE CIVIC & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

ATTENDEES

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chair
Barry Kurland	Vice Chair
Julie Austin	Trustee
Jacob Gair	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Rollie Koop	Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Gillian Wilson	Assistant Superintendent
Ryan Hung	Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Dino Stiglich	General Manager of Operations
Karin Hergt	Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Education Partners

Qualicum District Principals/Vice Principals Association (QDPVPA)
District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2015/16 school year.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Flynn acknowledged that the Board was meeting on traditional territory of the Coast Salish people and thanked the Qualicum and Nanoose First Nations for sharing their shared territories with the District.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

15-56R

Moved Trustee Gair *Seconded* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 23, 2015.
- b. **THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) adopt the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on June 9, 2015.
- c. **THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) ratify the minutes of the In Camera Board Meeting held on June 16, 2015.
- d. **THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) ratify the minutes of the Special In Camera Board Meeting held on June 26, 2015.
- e. **THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) ratify Voucher No. 15-06 in the amount of \$2,520,733.74 for the month of June 2015.
- f. **THAT** the Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) ratify Voucher No. 15-07 in the amount of \$2,671,410.89 for the month of July 2015.
- g. Ministry News Releases
 - Statement from Premier Christy Clark on Cabinet responsibilities
 - New funding supports school upgrades

15-57R

Moved Trustee Kurland *Seconded* Trustee Young

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve the consent agenda items of the Regular Board Meeting of August 25, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS (10 MINUTES)

None

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Trustee Young stated that an organization of which she is a member had sponsored a Ballenas student for a summer trip to France. She had the pleasure of hearing a speech made by the student who shared his experiences on that trip.

8. MOUNT ARROWSMITH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (MATA)

No Report

9. CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (LOCAL 3570)

No Report

10. DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

Jalyn Sort, Co-Chair, advised that the first DPAC meeting of the 2015/16 school year will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30 and will begin with a meet and greet and a presentation by the Superintendent. She invited all trustees to attend

11. PUBLIC QUESTION (WRITTEN) AND COMMENT PERIOD (10 MINUTES)

None

12. ACTION ITEMS**a. District Staff Flu Vaccinations****15-58R**

Moved Trustee Gair *Seconded* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) approve flu vaccinations to be made available free of charge to employees in School District No. 69 (Qualicum) for the 2015-16 School year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. INFORMATION ITEMS**a. Educational Programs Update**

Assistant Superintendent Wilson reported on the following District activities/initiatives:

- Acknowledgement of the work done by Operations & Maintenance staff over the summer
- The Teaching & Learning Team met to plan two half day sessions for teachers which will be held during the week of August 31 to September 4. The first session will focus on the new Numeracy curriculum, assessment tools and resources available at the Teaching and Learning Centre and the second session will focus on the new Social Studies curriculum. Teachers are also being encouraged to explore the new K-9 curriculum for implementation in 2016. Aboriginal Education will be integrated into the curriculum and the support teacher for First Nations will be providing opportunities as to how to integrate First Nations teachings into the curriculum.
- An In-Service was held on August 24th on the Fresh Grade program. This will provide a way for teachers to communicate student learning to parents and will be piloted by a number of teachers throughout the district.
- MyEdBC BC training is in progress for clerical and administrative staff.

b. Achievement Contract/Education Planning Update

Superintendent Koop reminded the Board that Districts were not required to produce and submit an Achievement Contract this past year due to legislative changes. The Ministry has advised that there will be a planning process to report on student achievement the details of which have not yet been confirmed. It is expected that there will be an expectation of annual reports on student learning at the school and District levels and the Ministry will be providing broad parameters for that reporting.

The focus for the upcoming year will be to reenergize, refocus and reinvigorate the District's Strategic Planning and focus attention on personalizing, social/emotional learning for students as well as to ensure that the use of technology and other tools are in the hands of teachers and students to broaden and deepen learning. Staff will continue to explore the flex structure to engage students and allow them to pursue their passions.

The community engagement of the Thoughtexchange process has been completed, which will give the Board a sense of the impact on staff, parents and students on school closure and reconfiguration, as well as what is being done well and areas requiring improvement. Trustees and administrative staff will now analyze the data and information will continue to be shared on the district website for parents to explore from the school and district level.

c. Operations Department Summer Work

Secretary Treasurer Amos reviewed a list of projects completed by the staff in the Operations & Maintenance department over the summer months and reported that replacement buses had been purchased for the Transportation Department.

14. CORRESPONDENCE ATTACHED

None

15. POLICY

a. Board Bylaw 7: Bylaw and Policy Development and Review

15-59R

Moved Trustee Flynn *Seconded* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) give third and final reading to adopt the revisions to Board Bylaw 7: *Bylaw and Policy Development and Review*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Foundational Principles

15-60R

Moved Trustee Flynn *Seconded* Trustee Kurland

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) give third and final reading to adopt Board Policy: *Foundational Principles*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. TRUSTEE ITEMS

a. BCSTA Representative on BCPSEA Advisory Committee

Chair Flynn advised her fellow trustees of her intention to submit her name to be considered as a representative of the BCPSEA Advisory Committee. Trustee supported her decision.

b. District 69 Recreation Commission – Ballenas Track Proposal

Trustee Austin reported that the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is unclear as to where the District stands in regards to the regional district's exploration of partnerships to determine the level of interest in funding and operating an

outdoor multi-sports complex in District 69. The Commission has asked Trustee Austin to take a past report completed in 2009 to the Board for review and to provide direction on its opinion.

Trustees and Senior Staff discussed the history of the proposal to have the Ballenas track and field considered as an option and the lack of understanding as to what information the recreation commission now requires of the Board since nothing has changed since it was determined that the Ballenas would not work for a full multi-sports complex.

After further discussion, it was decided that Trustee Austin would contact the Recreation Commission to advise that the Board is looking for a more formal request which articulates what the RDN requires from the Board to assist them in moving forward in planning for a multi-sports complex in District 69.

17. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

18. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Trustees and senior administrators received comments and/or answered questions on the following topics:

- Status of ridership on the Corcan route and cross-boundary requests that have not been approved. *Staff advised that, in the absence of the General Manager of Operations, that information was not readily available. A staff member will contact the DPAC Co-Chair with information on the status of bus applications.*

19. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The Special Board Meeting followed for the annual election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015

Post Regular Board Meeting

THE FORUM

PARKSVILLE CIVIC AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chair
Barry Kurland	Vice-Chair
Julie Austin	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee
Jacob Gair	Trustee

Administration

Rollie Koop	Superintendent of Schools
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Gillian Wilson	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Karin Hergt	Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Education Partners

Qualicum District Principals and Vice-Principals Association
District Parents Advisory Council

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

In accordance with School District No. 69 (Qualicum) Bylaw 2, the Secretary Treasurer, Ron Amos, chaired the meeting, which he called to order at 8:01 p.m.

2. **ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

Ballots were distributed for Nominations for Chairperson of the Board as per Board Bylaw 2.

Trustees Flynn and Young were nominated.

Trustee Flynn accepted the nomination.

Trustee Young declined the nomination.

Trustee Flynn was acclaimed as Chairperson of the Board effective September 1.

15-61R

Moved Trustee Gair *Seconded* Trustee Young

THAT the nomination ballots for Chairperson be destroyed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Flynn assumed the Chair.

3. ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

Ballots were distributed for Nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Board.

Trustees Kurland and Young were nominated.
Trustees Kurland and Young both accepted the nomination.

Ballots were distributed for Nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Board.

Trustee Young was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Board.

15-62R

Moved Trustee Gair *Seconded* Trustee Austin

THAT the nomination ballots for Vice Chairperson be destroyed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. BANKING RESOLUTION

15-63R

Moved Trustee Young *Seconded* Trustee Gair

THAT the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Treasurer for the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) be authorized to sign the banking resolution, in accordance with Bylaw 4 : *Banking*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Trustees will contact the Chair with their preferences and any changes will be announced at the September Regular Board Meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Gair moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY TREASURER



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

IN-CAMERA MEETING

SECTION 72 REPORT
August 25, 2015

ATTENDEES:

Trustees

Eve Flynn	Chair
Barry Kurland	Vice-Chair
Julie Austin	Trustee
Jacob Gair	Trustee
Elaine Young	Trustee

Administration

Rollie Koop	Superintendent
Ron Amos	Secretary Treasurer
Gillian Wilson	Assistant Superintendent
JoAnne Shepherd	Director of Human Resources
Karin Hergt	Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

The Board of Education discussed the following matter:

- Personnel
- Land
- Legal

The Board of Education passed a motion regarding the following matter:

- Land

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 69 (QUALICUM)

Month of August 2015

Voucher No. 15-08

CHEQUE LISTING ATTACHED in the amount of \$1,535,972.35

Submitted on September 22, 2015 to the Board of Education for the approval of payment.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER

Approved for payment by the Board of Education

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY-TREASURER

FILE: 1880-01



KWALIKUM SECONDARY SCHOOL

Working together to realize our full potential

Principal: Lori Marshall, lmarshall@sd69.bc.ca
Vice-Principal: Lesley Rowan, lrowan@sd69.bc.ca

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2015

September 8, 2015

School District 69 (Qualicum)
PO Box 430, 100 Jensen Avenue East
Parksville, BC
V9P 2G5

Board of Education – School District 69 (Qualicum)

This letter will stand as my support for the proposed Kwalikum Secondary School Student Field Trip to Costa Rica in March 2017. We will be away approximately 9 days, – the last two weeks of March 2017 which we expect to be spring break. The final dates will be decided on once the school calendar for the 2016/2017 school year has been decided. This trip has been planned by teacher, Ms. Anne Crossley.

Please see attached itinerary for details.

We would ask that the Board grant approval in principle for this exciting trip.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Lori Marshall
Principal, Kwalikum Secondary School

Copy: Ms. Anne Crossley, Sponsoring Teacher



KWALIKUM SECONDARY SCHOOL

Working together to realize our full potential

Principal: Lori Marshall, lmarshall@sd69.bc.ca

Vice-Principal: Lesley Rowan, lrowan@sd69.bc.ca

September 8, 2015

School District 69 (Qualicum)
PO Box 430, 100 Jansen Avenue East
Parksville, BC
V9P 2G5

Board of Education – School District 69 (Qualicum)

It is my intent, along with my colleague, Laurie Mitchell, to offer students at KSS an opportunity to travel to Costa Rica during the March break of 2017. Students will be able to experience the diverse ecosystems and learn of the flora and fauna of the region. During their travels, they will also be immersed in the local eco-tourism and adventures such as whitewater rafting, a canopy tour, hot springs, hiking, kayaking and snorkeling.

Students will be exposed to learning opportunities while on the trip that will compliment such curricular areas as earth science, biology, geography, social studies and physical education. A follow up power point presentation of the trip can be developed by the students and presented to both the KSS student body and the district.

This is an exciting opportunity for our students to experience travel in a country with a very different culture, climate and ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Anne Crossley
Biology Teacher
KSS



Educational Tours

Watch videos, read
reviews and enrol on your
teacher's Tour Website

eftours.ca/

This is also your tour number

DISCOVER COSTA RICA

8 or 11 days | Costa Rica | Extension to Nicaragua

Watch our planet's endless geological drama in action, from the Arenal Volcano to the thunderous La Fortuna Waterfall. Enjoy a chocolate tasting as you learn how cocoa is harvested at Tirimbina Biological Reserve, and experience the thrill of whitewater rafting on the Sarapiquí River. Over on the Pacific Coast, discover raw natural beauty in Rincón de la Vieja and Palo Verde national parks.

EVERYTHING YOU GET:

-  Full-time Tour Director
-  Sightseeing: Comprehensive sightseeing of natural attractions
-  Entrances: Coffee tour; Poás Volcano; Tirimbina Biological Reserve chocolate tour; Sarapiquí River whitewater rafting; Hot springs; Lake Arenal kayaking; La Fortuna Waterfall; Arenal Volcano National Park; Rincón de la Vieja National Park; Palo Verde boat tour; Snorkeling; *With extension: Convento San Francisco; Las Isletas boat tour; Crater viewpoint and museum*
-  weShare, our online platform that taps into each student's interests for a more engaging learning experience
-    All of the details are covered: Round-trip flights on major carriers; Comfortable motor coach; 7 overnight stays in hotels (10 with extension); 3 meals daily (Days 2-7 and Days 8-10 on extension); Dinner on arrival day; Breakfast on departure day



Anyone can see the world.

YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE IT.

As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

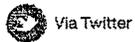
And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your **Tour Director** in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travellers on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our online learning platform, **weShare**, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. **Expert local guides** will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views of history, art, architecture or anything you may have a question about.

When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday

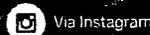
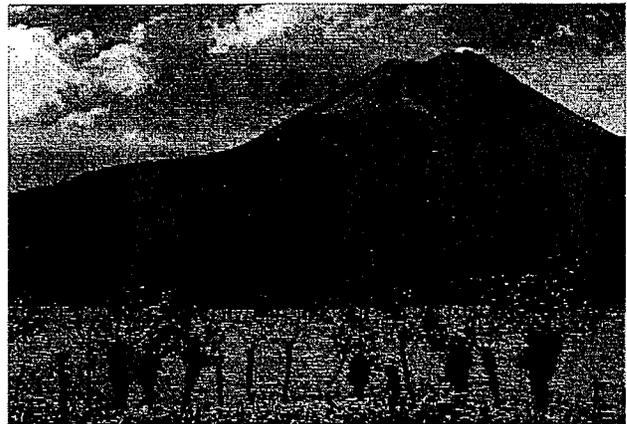
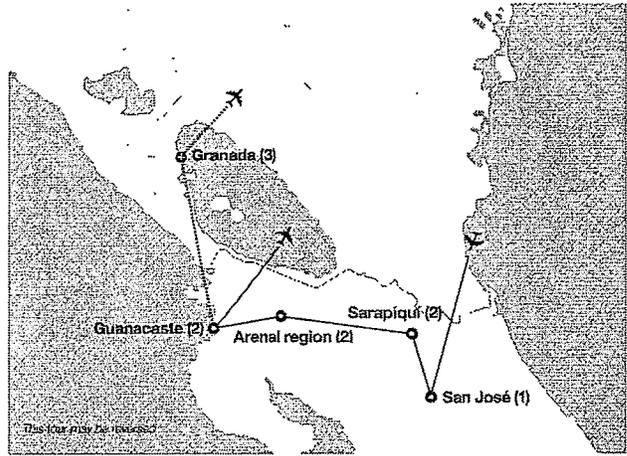
— MELISSA, TRAVELLER



CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT

Watch the videos at eftours.ca/

Your teacher's Tour Website



What you'll experience on your tour

Day 1: Fly to Costa Rica

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport

Day 2: San José | Sarapiquí

- Start the day with a coffee tour and learn how Costa Rica's plantations produce some of the world's best beans. Explore the entire supply chain of the famous Costa Rican coffee bean, from the fields where it's grown to the cafes where it's brewed, and discover the essential role coffee plays in the country's agriculture and economy.
- Visit Poás Volcano
- Travel to Sarapiquí

Day 3: Sarapiquí

- Take a chocolate tour at the Tirimbina Biological Reserve
- Enjoy a whitewater rafting excursion on the Sarapiquí River

Day 4: Sarapiquí | Arenal region

- Time to see more of Sarapiquí or
 - Enjoy a canopy tour
- Travel to the Arenal region
- Enjoy the hot springs

Day 5: Arenal region

- Take a kayaking trip along Lake Arenal and behold the perfect conical shape that emerges from the green hills of Alajuela: this is the fascinating Arenal Volcano. Overlooking the San Carlos plain and the Pacific lowlands, this mile-high volcano has been active for the past 7,000 years. You'll see the volcano from a different angle on your kayaking excursion. Not only does the volcano serve as a watershed for the lake, but it also provides thermal energy for the nearby hot springs.
- Visit Arenal Volcano National Park

Day 6: Guanacaste

- Travel to Guanacaste, where you'll feel the sand between your toes as you become immersed in this natural wonderland. The emerald Pacific glimmers alongside miles of beaches—an ideal setting for divers, surfers and boaters. Take in the craggy bluffs cloaked in forests stretching tall above you and encounter local cattle ranchers driving oxen carts farther inland. Learn about Guanacaste's remarkable array of plant and animal life when you explore Rincón de la Vieja National Park. Located high in the mountains, this rain/cloud forest boasts numerous geothermal hot springs.
- Visit La Fortuna Waterfall
- Visit Rincón de la Vieja National Park

Day 7: Guanacaste

- Travel to Palo Verde National Park
- Take a boat tour of Palo Verde
- Spend the afternoon snorkeling in the crystal blue waters

Day 8: Depart for home

- Travel to Liberia and board your flight home

• 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 8: Granada

- Travel to Granada, Nicaragua

Day 9: Granada

- Take an expertly guided walking tour of Granada: Cathedral and Parque Colon; La Plazuela de los Leones; Calle la Calzada
- Visit Convento San Francisco
- Take a boat tour of Las Isletas

Day 10: Granada

- Travel to Volcan Masaya
- Visit Crater viewpoint and museum
- Make a photo stop at Catarina Mirador
- Visit Masaya craft market

Day 11: Depart for home

- Travel to Managua and board your flight home

I recently returned from Costa Rica and it was awesome! EF is a great support for teachers who want to take students abroad. The Costa Rica tour included an excellent mix of excursions that were adventurous, fun, and educational! A great trip!

—JENNA, GROUP LEADER



Via Facebook

Costa Rica was absolutely amazing! It truly was a great adventure. Our tour director was fantastic beyond words. She was so personable, and her knowledge of Costa Rica's history, culture, and flora and fauna was incredibly remarkable.

—KRISTEN, TRAVELLER



Via Facebook

TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY OR EXPLORE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

— The easiest ways to —
ENROL TODAY



Enrol on our website
eftours.ca/enrol



Enrol by phone
1-800-263-2806

Enrol by fax
1-800-556-6046



Mail your Enrolment Form to:
EF Educational Tours
60 Bloor Street West, Suite 501
Toronto, ON M4W 3B8

EF Educational Tours
407 McGill Street, Suite 400
Montréal, QC H2Y 2G3
(for Québec residents)

My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan and knowledgeable tour guides.

—CHARLOTTE, DAUGHTER TRAVELLED JUNE 2014



Tour review

THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched experience and worldwide presence, as well as our commitment to providing students with life-changing travel opportunities that are immersive and affordable. For 50 years, we've worked with educators across the globe to help millions of people become citizens of the world by breaking down barriers of language, culture and geography.

- **We offer the lowest prices.** As the World Leader in International Education, we make culturally immersive educational travel a reality for more students by offering the guaranteed lowest price. When you enrol early, you secure the lowest price for your tour.
- **All of our educational itineraries feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety.** We have 500 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director** is with your group every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.





SCHOOL DISTRICT 69 [QUALICUM]
District Field Trip - Request Form

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2015

POLICY 5020
Co-Curricular & Extra-Curricular Activities

SCHOOL Kwaiikum Secondary School DATE [of application] Sept. 8/15

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY Discover Costa Rica (pls. see attached)

DATE[S] OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY Last 2 weeks for March, 2017

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY Student exposure to Central American's flora + fauna, culture, eco-tourism.

TEACHER[S] Anne Crossley, Laurie Mitchell

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBSTITUTE DAYS REQUIRED TBD (likely none)

OTHER ADULTS Possibly some parents

GRADE[S] 10-12

SUPERVISION: No. of Students: 30 ; No. of Teachers: 2 ; No. of Parents: 3 (Max)

TRANSPORTATION

TRAVEL ITINERARY: [Include departure and return times; for extended trips, please attach details of each stop.] TBD. See itinerary attachment

PROJECTED COST \$3,000.00 [attach statement of details] DIRECT COST PER STUDENT \$3,000.00

SOURCE[S] OF FUNDING student (family) + fund raising.

ACCOMMODATION/MEALS [type of] See attached.

INDICATE THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 5020 WILL BE FOLLOWED WITH REGARD TO:
[a] Parental Permission [checked] [b] Use of Private Car[s]
[c] No Student is being excluded through inability to pay expenses

- NOTE: 1. Applications should be submitted well in advance, particularly for out-of-district or out-of-province trips, per Policy 5020 Regulation 4, 6, and 8.
2. Approvals in principle are to be requested for major and extended trips BEFORE expectations are raised among students.
3. Approvals are required as follows:
a) Minor field trips - one day - Principal
b) Major field trips - overnight or longer OR if substitute required... - Superintendent
c) Extended field trips - out-of-province/international - Board of School Trustees
4. This form is NOT REQUIRED for regular inter-school competitions.

APPROVED BY PRINCIPAL: J Marshall DATE: Sept. 8, 2015

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED ONLY IF APPLICATION FALLS INTO CATEGORY 3 [b] or [c]

APPROVED BY: [Superintendent of Schools] DATE:

OR: APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES AT MEETING OF: [date]

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0052-001355
Aug. 26, 2015

Ministry of Education

Scholarships revamp recognizes diversity of student success

VICTORIA – Helping students to succeed in a rapidly changing world is front and centre in the redesigned Provincial Scholarships Program launching this fall.

The revised program provides more flexibility to recognize well-rounded students who excel beyond the classroom, supports a broad range of student achievement and reflects the different pathways students follow to earning their Dogwood Diplomas.

It also better aligns with the objectives of BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint to connect students with skills for in-demand careers and the increasing focus on harnessing students' individual interests and passions in the classroom.

The revised program also increases the dollar value of scholarships to further support students in their transition beyond high school.

The program now consists of four major scholarships:

- BC Excellence Scholarship – commitment to a particular career path and a demonstration of community involvement/leadership skills;
- Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship – academic achievement and commitment to a teaching career;
- BC Achievement Scholarship – achievement in grades 10, 11 and 12 courses required for graduation and top elective courses; and
- District/Authority Scholarship – criteria determined by local districts to celebrate achievement in a variety of areas including technical and trades training, fine arts, physical activity, applied skills, international languages, community service and indigenous languages and culture.

The changes follow months of consultation with students, parents, educators, school districts, independent school authorities, stakeholders and the general public. Key themes government heard were the need to eliminate scholarships solely based on exam scores and ensuring the program continues to encourage students to pursue post-secondary education.

The new program will be phased in beginning this fall with full implementation expected in the 2016-17 school year.

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“Parents are proud of their children’s accomplishments and our scholarship program shows the

Province shares that pride. For nearly 30 years B.C.'s scholarship program has helped countless British Columbians take the next step towards meaningful, rewarding careers.

“Our revamped scholarship program is going to better recognize the diversity of our students and their successes – in the classroom, on the field, on the stage and in the community.”

Quick Facts:

- B.C.'s scholarship program has been in place since 1987. Once the revised program is fully implemented it will provide more than \$15 million to students each year.
- Under the revised program, all scholarships will be in the form of a voucher to be used upon registration and payment of tuition at a designated post-secondary institution.
- Consultation on the program took place between February and May 2015 and consisted of an online survey, a telephone survey, written responses from school districts, independent school authorities and partner organizations, a stakeholder forum, a student forum, a working group of school district representatives and group sessions with ministry staff.

Learn More:

For more information on the revised Provincial Scholarships Program, or to read the Provincial Awards Program Review Report: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards

Feedback to guide direction of scholarships and awards program, Feb. 2015:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/feedback-to-guide-direction-of-scholarships-and-awards-program>

BC's Education Plan: <http://www.bcedplan.ca/>

BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint: <https://www.workbc.ca/blueprintaction>

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public
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BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0052-001355
Aug. 26, 2015

Ministry of Education

Provincial Scholarships Program: What does it look like?

The revised Provincial Scholarships Program is made up of four scholarships

1. BC Excellence Scholarship –

55 scholarships at \$5,000

The award recognizes well-rounded students who demonstrate community service and leadership as well as a commitment and aptitude to a particular career path.

What is it replacing?

This is a new award to the program.

What is the rationale?

Feedback was largely in favour of a scholarship that supports students who are committed to pursuing a multitude of career paths, not just teaching. This award is similar to the Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship, but allows a broader range of students to apply.

2. Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship –

20 scholarships at \$5,000

The award is based on academic achievement, resume and references and the commitment and aptitude for a teaching career.

What is it replacing?

The award is a carryover from the current program.

What is the rationale?

The award continues to support students who are committed to entering a teacher education program in an approved faculty of education at a B.C.-designated post-secondary institution.

3. BC Achievement Scholarship –

3,000 scholarships at \$1,250 in 2015-16; 8,000 scholarships at \$1,250 beginning in 2016-17

The award recognizes academic achievement beyond exam scores. Students must perform well on required graduation courses (including those that are provincially-examinable) and top elective courses.

What is it replacing?

Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship: based on academic achievement on provincial exams in grades 10-12.

*This award will be phased out following the 2015-16 school year.

Passport to Education: based on two-thirds academic achievement, one-third school-specific criteria (student effort, work habits, community involvement).

*This award was already being phased out prior to the program revision. Final allocations were presented to students who graduated in June 2015.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/revisions-to-the-provincial-awards-program>

What is the rationale?

Feedback suggested eliminating scholarships based solely on exam scores, instead providing students more flexibility to demonstrate their learning.

4. District/Authority Scholarship –

5,500 scholarships at \$1,250

The award is allocated by Grade 12 enrolment and determined by criteria set by local District Scholarship Committee/Independent School Authority.

What is it replacing?

The award is a carryover from the current program.

What is the rationale?

Districts continue to have discretion over this award based on local needs and criteria, however, indigenous languages and culture is an additional area of achievement that can be recognized.

*Students are still eligible for the Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) award, but it is no longer being administered under the Provincial Scholarships Program. Ministry staff are currently working with the Industry Training Authority to ensure the SSA award aligns with the goals and objectives of the SSA program.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0049-001327
Aug. 27, 2015

Ministry of Education

New guide a plan for safer schools

VICTORIA – Earthquakes. Power failures. Forest fires. Emergencies are unpredictable and can happen anywhere but the Ministry of Education is helping your child’s school prepare for the unexpected with its new Emergency Management Planning Guide.

The guide will help schools, students and teachers be prepared for any emergency. The guide maps out standards for schools, districts and authorities to support public, independent and First Nations schools during an emergency, disaster or tragic event.

Developed in collaboration with educators, parents, Emergency Management BC and police, the guide is the first comprehensive document for dealing with natural disasters, human-caused events and technological and biological hazards. It will help schools develop plans while ensuring consistency with emergency terminology, processes and procedures.

The guide takes an all-hazards approach, focusing on a small number of responses that can be used in a variety of situations. Five basic responses are covered: drop-cover-hold on, evacuate, lockdown, lockout, and shelter in place.

Roles and responsibilities for public and independent school teachers, students, parents, principals and superintendents are also defined in the guide. As well, a 10-step process to develop a school emergency management plan is clearly laid out. Customizable templates for release forms, letters and emergency checklists are included in the guide and will be available for download on the Ministry of Education website.

School emergencies can be small scale and confined to one site, or on a larger scale potentially impacting an entire school district or even multiple districts. The guide provides protocols for both schools and districts as they plan for emergencies.

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“The guide ensures all students and teachers will have the necessary measures in place in the event an emergency strikes. School safety continues to be a priority for not only government, but for all educators, school districts and parents. I feel confident the planning guide is a strong step towards protecting us all.”

Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness –

“It’s up to everybody – individuals, businesses, governments – to be prepared for emergencies and disasters. This also means making sure children and their teachers and support staff are

ready in B.C.'s schools. With this new guide, we are not only improving community preparedness but also taking another important and critical step toward ensuring the public safety of British Columbians.”

Quick Facts:

- All districts have safe school co-ordinators who help ensure best practices are followed provincewide.
- Since 2001, government has spent or committed \$2.2 billion to seismically upgrade or replace 213 high-risk schools.
- As of May 2015, 145 schools in B.C. have been upgraded and replaced, 11 schools are currently under construction and nine schools are moving toward construction.

Learn More:

To view the Emergency Management Planning Guide, visit:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-and-orderly-schools/emergency-management-planning-guide>

To help with household or neighbourhood emergency preparedness, visit:

www.gov.bc.ca/preparedbc

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0054-001388
Aug. 28, 2015

Ministry of Education

K-12 International Homestay Guidelines officially launched

SURREY – Taking in an international student is a great way parents can connect their kids to the world and new experiences, and help students from other countries come to B.C. and Canada to take advantage of one of the best education systems in the world.

That message came through loud and clear at the release of new guidelines – the first comprehensive ones in Canada – for families who open their homes to international students during their stay.

The new guidelines were launched at the Surrey school district office today, where longstanding homestay families in attendance shared personal stories from their experiences. They talked about how having international students in their homes was an enriching cultural experience for their entire family.

On behalf of education Minister Mike Bernier, current host families from Surrey were presented with recognition certificates by Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, and Surrey-Fleetwood MLA.

In 2014-15, there were nearly 17,000 international students in B.C.'s K-12 system – more than 13,100 in 50 school districts and more than 3,800 in 101 independent schools – contributing an estimated \$400 million annually to the provincial economy.

The new homestay guidelines will also benefit school districts by clearly outlining responsibilities for homestay organizers and international student programs. To further support international students and their families, the guidelines will be translated into six languages in the near future (Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, German and Portuguese).

Schools districts and independent schools had previously developed their own homestay policies, but the provincial guidelines ensure consistency across the sector. The guidelines were developed by the Provincial K-12 Homestay Guidelines Working Group, comprised of school district, independent school, and Ministry of Education representatives.

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“The launch of the K-12 International Student Homestay Guidelines continues B.C.’s commitment to international education. I am confident school districts will use the guidelines to positively improve their homestay programs.”

Peter Fassbender, MLA Surrey-Fleetwood –

“I’m thrilled that British Columbia is the first province to introduce comprehensive guidelines for the homestay industry. Our world-class education system continues to attract students from around the globe and these guidelines make the decision to study here even easier.”

Shawn Wilson, chair, Surrey Board of Education –

“It’s a very big step for families to take in pursuing education abroad for their child and we want our clients’ experience to be the best it can, not just academically, but the life experience. Having thoughtful guidelines for homestays supports that goal and I hope may also encourage families to consider being a host.”

Dency Pelegrin, homestay parent in the Surrey school district –

“I have had a wonderful experience hosting Surrey international students from many countries, including China, Austria and Mongolia over the past 10 years. It has been an incredible learning opportunity for my family as well as the students and I think the guidelines will be great for all homestays and students. I strongly encourage others to consider becoming a host family.”

Quick Facts:

- A homestay is a formal arrangement by an international student program, or its delegates, to house an international student with an approved family during the course of study.
- In B.C., school districts and independent schools offer homestay using three different administrative models:
 - School districts and independent schools run their own homestay programs;
 - School districts contract the administration of their homestay programs out to other homestay program providers; or
 - School districts and independent schools keep lists of homestay program providers for international parents and students.

Learn More:

K-12 International Student Homestay Guidelines:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/international_education/home_stay_guidelines.pdf

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0051-001334
Aug. 31, 2015

Ministry of Education

Education by the numbers

VICTORIA – The following facts provide a snapshot of British Columbia’s education system, which has 1,581 public schools and 350 independent schools:

Funding

- This coming fiscal year (2015-16), total funding to school districts will reach \$5.06 billion – up 31% since 2001.
- The average per-pupil funding is now an estimated \$8,902, an increase of 42% since 2000-01.
- Last school year, total funding for all students (public and independent) with special needs was approximately \$920 million.
- This year, school districts will receive \$51.7 million through CommunityLINK, which help them fund programs to support vulnerable children and youth. Districts use this funding to fund breakfast and lunch programs, inner-city and community school programs, school-based support workers and counselling.
- Government has increased the Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) allocation to school districts by more than 66% since 2013-14 – to \$100 million in 2015-16. The LIF was established to address complex classroom needs and ensure learning conditions are appropriate for all students.
- Under the new agreement with teachers, LIF will be maintained at \$100 million in each of the next three years, and will rise to more than \$106 million in 2018-19.
- This past school year (2014-15), districts told the Ministry they intended to use the LIF to:
 - Hire 1,100 new teachers;
 - Hire 352 new support staff; and
 - Increase the hours of nearly 2,600 support staff and teachers from part-time to full-time.

Enrolment

- Estimated 521,038 full-time public school students this September.
- Since 2000-01, there has been a decrease of nearly 77,000 students.
- Estimated 58,513 English Language Learning (ELL) students – 640 fewer than last year.
- Estimated 55,414 Aboriginal students – 252 fewer than last year.
- Estimated 25,337 students with special needs (eligible for supplemental funding) – 277 fewer than in last year.
- Estimated 3,415 non-graduated adult students – 103 more than last year.
- Nearly 78,500 students took at least one online (distributed learning) course in 2014-15. That compares to approximately 33,000 students in 2006-07.

Achievement

- The provincial six-year completion rate has increased by more than 10% since 2001 and was at 84.2% in 2013-14 (public and independent schools). Over that same period:
- The six-year completion rate for Aboriginal students has increased by 45.6% and now is at 61.6%;
- The six-year completion rate for ELL students has increased by 12.5% and now is at 86.6%;
- The six-year completion rate for students with special needs has increased by 86.2% and now is at 62.2%.

Capital

- Budget 2015 provides \$1.4 billion over three years to replace aging facilities, build more student spaces in growing communities and improve school seismic safety where needed.
- Since 2001, government has committed more than \$4.2 billion in new and improved schools, including \$2.2 billion in seismic upgrades.
- To date, government funding has built 42 new schools, replaced 70 aging schools, added space through 186 schools additions and seismically upgraded 146 schools.
- New schools that have recently opened include the:
 - \$7.4-million NorKam Trades and Technology Centre in Kamloops;
 - \$23.8-million École Qayqayt Elementary in New Westminster;
 - \$26-million Yorkson Creek Middle school in Langley;
 - \$51.6-million Oak Bay High in Victoria;
 - \$56-million Chilliwack Secondary.

Healthy Schools

- The BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional program provides snacks of fruits and vegetables right in the classroom to children, allowing them to sample B.C. produce such as plums, blueberries, apples, tomatoes and carrots. The Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority have provided combined funding of \$21.5 million to the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation since 2010-11 to support the program.
- In May 2015, government announced \$3.5 million in new funding for the program to ensure it continues to bring fruits, vegetables and milk to more than 489,000 children in 1,463 public and First Nations schools.
- The Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools are to be used in every school district to maximize students' access to healthier options and fully eliminate the sale of unhealthy foods and beverages in B.C. schools.
- Through the Daily Physical Activity requirements, students in all school districts are required to achieve daily activity targets:
 - Students in kindergarten to Grade 7 will engage in 30 minutes of daily physical activity at school;
 - Students in Grades 8 and 9 will engage in 30 minutes of daily physical activity or 150 minutes of physical activity per week;
 - Students in Grades 10 to 12 will engage in 150 minutes of physical activity per week as part of their Graduation Transition program.

Class Size

- Class sizes in B.C. remain low and stable. The average number of students per class was near historical lows last school year (2014-15) and well below the maximum size allowed in provincial legislation.
- Of the 66,596 K-12 classes in B.C. public schools last year:
 - 41% had fewer than 24 students;
 - 57% have between 24 and 30 students;
 - Only 1.6% of classes had more than 30 students and the majority of these are classes such as band, drama and gym where it is appropriate and beneficial to have a larger number of students.
- Average class sizes:
 - 19.5 students for Kindergarten;
 - 21.5 students for grades 1-3;
 - 25.6 students for grades 4-7;
 - 23.2 students for grades 8-12.
- There were nearly 9,400 full-time educational assistants working in schools in 2014-15, an increase of 42% compared to 2000-01. Approximately one-in-three classes in B.C. have an assigned educational assistant.

Independent schools

- Independent schools enrol nearly 81,000 students, which is approximately 13% of B.C.'s K-12 population.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0055-001390
Sept. 1, 2015

Ministry of Education

Curriculum revisions prep students to succeed in changing world

VICTORIA – The world is changing. Technology and innovation are reshaping society. Today's students need the right skills to succeed in tomorrow's world.

That is why this fall the B.C. government is kicking off a three-year transition to a new curriculum in B.C. schools that will ensure students learn the basics like reading, writing and arithmetic in a way that connects them to the collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills they need to thrive in college, university and the work force.

Curriculum is the game plan for teaching – it maps out what teachers teach, and what students are expected to learn. In the first phase of the transition, Kindergarten to Grade 9 teachers will have the chance to use the new curriculum in their classrooms.

Flexible learning is at the heart of the refined approach and it will help teachers tap into the passions and interests of individual students. Students can learn about core subjects while doing projects related to their interests, such as music, hockey, or dinosaurs. There are also more hands-on learning opportunities so students can see how classroom knowledge applies in real life situations.

The curriculum also includes:

- renewed emphasis on environmental sciences;
- Aboriginal perspectives integrated throughout all grade levels;
- the history and ongoing legacy of the residential school system; and
- new content regarding historical experiences of East and South Asian immigrants.

The plan was developed in collaboration with more than 100 B.C. teachers over the past three years, and for the first time, all subject areas have been developed at one time – by teachers.

Starting this fall, the government begins the three-year process of transitioning to the new curriculum, starting with Kindergarten to Grade 9. Teachers in those grades will have the option to use the new curriculum this school year, before it is fully implemented in all schools in fall 2016. The entire K-12 curriculum will be phased in by the 2017-18 school year and will continue to be presented by subject areas and grade levels, ensuring consistent province-wide learning standards for all B.C. students.

The new curriculum fits in with the key goals of B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint to re-engineer education to ensure young people have the skills they need to qualify for in demand careers and is part of the larger transformation efforts outlined in B.C.'s Education Plan.

Quote:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“Parents, teachers, educators all share the same goal – student success. With five years of labour peace, we can focus together on connecting students with the skills they will need tomorrow. The new curriculum will help ensure students have the skills they need to turn their dreams into reality in our constantly changing world.”

Quick Facts:

- More than 500,000 B.C. students head back to school Sept. 8, 2015.
- The teams of teachers that developed curriculum were formed in collaboration with the BC Teachers Federation, the Federation of Independent School Associations and the First Nations Schools Association.
- Draft K-9 curriculum was posted online for review in October 2013 and garnered more than eight million views and more than 1,200 pieces of feedback from teachers, experts, parents and the general public.
- Draft curriculum for Grades 10-12 has been developed and will be finalized this school year.
- The provincial six-year completion rate has increased by more than 10% since 2001 and was at 84.2% in 2013-14 (public and independent schools).

Learn More:

New curriculum: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

B.C.'s Education Plan: <http://www.bcedplan.ca/>

Explore B.C. school profiles: www.discoveryourschool.gov.bc.ca

B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: <https://www.workbc.ca/skills>

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0058-001433
Sept. 3, 2015

Ministry of Education

Government helps future grads plan for in-demand careers

VICTORIA – High-school students throughout B.C. can get a jump start on their career plans for the jobs of tomorrow with today's release of the 2015-16 Grad Planner.

This year's updated edition helps point students toward jobs that will be in demand in B.C. by the time they graduate. Carpenters, accountants and early childhood educators top the list of jobs in need by 2022. The 2015-16 Grad Planner can be found on the Ministry of Education website.

Launched in 2004, this easy-to-use planner also provides students with guidance and tools to help choose courses, credits and electives to successfully graduate high-school.

Key information offered in the guide:

- A list of in demand jobs from 2012-22.
- Required courses and elective credits needed for successful graduation and acceptance into post-secondary and apprentice programs.
- Exams, awards and scholarships available to students.
- Links to websites with information to help with distance education, earning external credits, and preparing for post-secondary and career programs.

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

"Parents expect us to make sure their kids are ready to succeed. We've updated this planner to help fill the upcoming need for skilled workers across the province over the next decade. Future grads will play a key role in helping create jobs, build businesses and grow B.C.'s economy for decades to come."

Quick Facts:

- The 2015-16 Grad Planner can be viewed in both English and French.

Learn More:

2015-16 Grad Planner: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/grad_planner.pdf

Link to French version of the Grad Planner:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/f_grad_planner.pdf

For more information on the revised Provincial Scholarships Program, or to read the Provincial Awards Program Review Report: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/provincial-scholarships>

BC's Education Plan: <http://www.bcedplan.ca/>

B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: <https://www.workbc.ca/blueprintaction>

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015SDSI0045-001445
Sept. 4, 2015

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

Government supports families as kids go back to school

VICTORIA – As students throughout B.C. get ready to head back to school on Tuesday, government is providing a number of supports to families, including low-income families, to help them with everything from school supplies to funding for food programs.

This is an investment of nearly \$1 billion each year, in addition to funding to school districts that will reach more than \$5 billion this year.

Each year, the Province provides \$3.4 million for a School Start-up Supplement to help families on income and disability assistance with the costs associated with going back to school, such as school supplies and clothing. This supplement benefits nearly 15,000 families, including 24,000 children.

Through the CommunityLINK program, B.C. also provides more than \$51 million annually to give every student in B.C., including vulnerable children and youth, the best chance to achieve their best in school. CommunityLINK helps every district in the province fund programs to support vulnerable students to provide breakfast and lunch programs, inner-city and community school programs, school-based support workers and counselling for vulnerable children and youth.

Early learning programs throughout the province are provided through StrongStart BC. Government provides \$10.4 million in annual funding to school districts to operate 326 StrongStart BC programs, which support more than 385 communities throughout the province. StrongStart BC is designed for early learning development, including language, physical, cognitive, social and emotional areas, led by qualified early childhood educators. In addition, there are now 26 BC Early Years Centres throughout the province, offering one-stop, convenient access to information, services and referrals for families with young children.

Students with special needs are also a priority. During the last school year (2014-15), the total funding for all students (public and independent) with special needs was approximately \$920 million. As well, the Ministry of Children and Family Development spends more than \$200 million a year to support students with special needs.

B.C.'s Child Care Subsidy Program provides funding to eligible low-income families to help cover the cost of care, including before- and after-school care. The program supports about 24,500 children each month in B.C., with subsidies ranging up to \$750 per month.

Quotes:

Michelle Stilwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation –

“Going back to school is always an exciting time for students but it can be expensive for families. That’s where the School Start-up Supplement comes in, providing extra funds for families on income and disability assistance, to help them buy the school supplies that they need.”

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“With this kind of support for low-income families this school year, parents and students can focus on achievement in the classroom. All parents want their children to be ready for the back to school season and this funding makes sure finances aren’t a barrier to academic success.”

Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Children and Family Development –

“With kids going back to school, we know that parents are looking for quality before- and after-school care. That’s why we provide child care subsidies up to \$750 per month to help low-income families obtain the best possible care for their children.”

Quick Facts:

- Traditionally, parents have provided the basic school supplies to help their child learn in school.
- However, the School Start-up Supplement is provided to families receiving income assistance to help with things like school supplies. Anything above this is up to individual schools or parent advisory councils.
- In July 2012, government increased the School Start-up Supplement so children between the ages of five and 11 receive \$100 per child and children 12 and over receive \$175.
- To make child care more affordable for families, government introduced the B.C. Early Childhood Tax Benefit in April 2015. The benefit will provide \$146 million annually to approximately 180,000 families with children under the age of six years (up to \$660 a year per child). To apply for the benefit, parents must keep their income tax filing up to date, even if they have no income to report.

Learn More:

For more information on the School Start-up Supplement:

www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online_resource/general_supplements/schoolsupp/

2015-16 CommunityLINK funding allocations links:

- Main page: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/community-partnerships/communitylink
- School District allocations: www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/community-partnerships/communitylink/communitylink_vss_funding_1516.pdf

For more information on StrongStart BC: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/learn/strongstart-bc

To find the BC Early Years Centre closest to you, please visit:

www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_years/centres.htm

For more information on the Child Care Subsidy Program eligibility and how to apply, contact the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre toll-free at 1 888 338-6622 or visit: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/subsidy/

Parents who need to find child care or before- and after-school care for their children can find their local Child Care Resource and Referral program by visiting: www.ccr.bc.ca

For more information on B.C.'s range of programs and services designed to ensure children get the best possible start in life, visit: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood

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STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2015AVED0054-001449
Sept. 8, 2015

Ministry of Advanced Education
Ministry of Education

Statement on International Literacy Day

VICTORIA – Advanced Education Minister Andrew Wilkinson and Education Minister Mike Bernier have issued the following joint statement to mark International Literacy Day on Sept. 8, 2015:

“Early literacy is a great predictor of success in school and in life.

“Literacy skills help British Columbians to build vibrant social and cultural communities, and are essential for success in our diverse, strong and growing economy.

“Parents and educators share the same goal of making sure that children are ready to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Our new K-9 curriculum, B.C.’s Early Learning Framework and BC’s Education Plan maintain our high standards of literacy. Childhood literacy is encouraged through a variety of programs such as StrongStart BC, full-day kindergarten and many other community literacy programs.

“Exchanging ideas online, building growing global businesses and enjoying the thriving cultural diversity of the province all begins with literacy. Government is committed to supporting literacy for all British Columbians from the early years through to the post-secondary education system to the workplace.

“Reading and writing skills are the starting point for many adults looking to upgrade their education. The Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) funds non-profit organizations as well as community and native friendship centres throughout B.C. to provide literacy training to adults. This year alone, CALP will help more than 9,000 adult learners to gain the know-how and confidence they need to pursue their dreams and to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities.

“To help celebrate International Literacy Day, you can read to a child, enjoy a book by a talented B.C. author or visit one of the many libraries and community centres in B.C. These are just a few ways to encourage literacy so that British Columbians can become life-long learners and earners.”

Media Contacts:

Ministry of Advanced Education:
Richelle Funk
250 356-7876

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



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0057-001418
Sept. 8, 2015

Ministry of Education

Students head back to school today

VICTORIA – It's an exciting time for parents and students as more than half-a-million students head back to school today throughout B.C.

The world is changing and parents expect their children to learn the skills they need to succeed in the face of this change. As we phase in a new curriculum over the next three years, the B.C. government is taking steps to make sure students learn the basics while they develop complex skills like critical thinking and communications needed for college, university and the workforce.

With five years of labour peace in schools, the B.C. government is focussing on what matters most: helping every K-12 student learn and succeed.

Planning resources for parents:

- **New this year:** curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 9 is being phased in starting this fall to make sure B.C. students are ready to succeed in our rapidly-changing world. Find out more: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>
- **BC Training and Education Savings Grant:** A one-time \$1,200 grant is being made available this fall to help parents plan and save for their child's education after high school: www.gov.bc.ca/BCTESG
- **Revised provincial scholarship program:** Is there a scholar in your family or in your future? The revised scholarship program recognizes great students in the classroom, on the field, on the stage and in the community: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards
- **Earthquakes. Power failures. Forest Fires.** The new Emergency Management Planning Guide can show you how to help your child's school prepare for the unexpected: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015EDUC0049-001327>
- **Learn about your local schools:** What makes the schools in your community unique and which ones best match your child's interests? www.discoveryourschool.gov.bc.ca
- **Erase Bullying:** Did you know almost 40% of students report that someone has said or done something mean or cruel to them online? Help kids earn respect and a safe education: <http://www.erasebullying.ca/>
- **Get involved:** Find out how you can get involved and have a voice in your child's education. The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils is made up of parents, elected by parents: <http://bccpac.bc.ca/>
- **Seismic Mitigation Program:** Get the latest updates and information about the B.C. government's seismic upgrading program here: <http://ow.ly/PKPs5>

Quote:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“Students and parents are excited about the first day of school. As a parent – and the new minister of education – I’m excited too. With a family of my own, I know how important it is to know your child is getting the right skills to be successful in school now, and later in life. This year, with stability in the classroom, it’s a great opportunity for the B.C. government to focus 100% on students. We are working in partnership with teachers, school boards, administrators and other educators from every corner of the province to move forward with plans that help all students thrive.”

Quick Facts:

- The provincial six-year completion rate (2013-14) is nearly 85%, that’s up more than 10% since 2001.
- To date, government funding has built 42 new schools, replaced 70 aging schools, added space through 186 school additions and seismically upgraded 146 schools.
- Class sizes in B.C. remain low and stable. The average number of students per class was near historical lows last school year (2014-15).
- Of the 66,596 K-12 classes in B.C. public schools last year, 41% had fewer than 24 students.
- Total funding to school districts for 2015/16 will reach \$5.06 billion this year – up 31% since 2001.
- The average per-pupil funding is now an estimated \$8,902, up 42% since 2000-01.
- In May 2015, government announced \$3.5 million in new funding for the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional program to provide snacks of B.C. fruits and vegetables right in the classroom to more than 489,000 children in 1,463 schools.

Learn More:

B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: <https://www.workbc.ca/skills>

Ministry of Education’s Capital Planning: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/resource-management/capital-planning>

Ministry of Education’s Seismic Mitigation Program:
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/resource-management/capital-planning/seismic-mitigation-program>

Media Contact:

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

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



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015EDUC0059-001458
Sept. 9, 2015

Ministry of Education

New education guide will help teachers connect students to Aboriginal perspectives

VANCOUVER – Teachers have a new resource to help bring Aboriginal culture, history and perspectives into their classrooms and into the lives of students - the ‘Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom: Moving Forward’ resource booklet.

Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad announced the new resource on behalf of Minister of Education Mike Bernier today at the annual B.C. Cabinet First Nations Leaders’ Gathering in Vancouver.

‘Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom’ provides teachers with new ways to incorporate Aboriginal content into schools in every subject and in every grade.

The booklet is based on key themes, including: Relationships; Language and Culture; Community Engagement; Engagement with the Land, Nature, the Outdoors; History; Local Focus; Emphasis on Identity; Power of Story; Experiential Education; and Traditional Teaching.

‘Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom’ supports the revised curriculum being introduced into B.C. schools over the next three years. The new curriculum provides a flexible and innovative plan to help B.C. students gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

From January to March of this year, the ministry met with First Nations, Métis and school district leaders, teachers, support staff, students, post-secondary institutes and agency partners during public gatherings in five communities throughout the province.

‘Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom’ will be used alongside the ‘Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation Teacher Resource Guides’, developed by the First Nations Schools Association and the First Nations Education Steering Committee for teachers in grades 5, 10, 11 and 12 to make the most of the curriculum in those grades. The grade-specific Residential School guides aim to help students of all cultural backgrounds gain an understanding of the history of the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal People over Canada’s history.

B.C.’s Aboriginal curriculum and these two resources were under development before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made its recommendations in June of this year and deliver on the recommendations on many of the education requirements.

Aboriginal student learning will also be the focus of the ministry-designated non-structural development day this year. This is the first time Aboriginal education will be the sole focus for this day throughout the province, which will help educators incorporate Aboriginal content and perspectives into their classrooms.

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“Teaching our kids about Aboriginal history and culture is critical to strengthening our relationships, communities and province. This new resource provides teachers with the framework they need to ensure that Aboriginal content is being taught in the classroom to help our children appreciate, understand and value the importance of Aboriginal culture and history.”

John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation –

“It is vital that Aboriginal history is included in our school curriculum to educate our youth on Aboriginal culture and ensure the legacy of residential schools is not forgotten. This guide is not only an important step toward helping our children understand the Aboriginal perspective but also a step towards reconciliation.”

Scott Benwell, superintendent, school district of Vancouver Island North –

“The themes that emerged across territories and communities inspire a call to action. New constructs for leadership, Indigenous pedagogical practices, Aboriginal perspectives and content, and a vision for decolonizing mind-sets were among the wealth of ideas expressed as to how we move forward both individually and collectively. It is our responsibility to sustain this conversation and to make commitments to ensure that we are successful.”

Kaleb Child, director of instruction for First Nations programs, school district of Vancouver Island North –

“The inspiration for this project was to support and build upon a regional dialogue that would lead to further strategies and clear commitments from all educators as we work to serve each learner, families and communities.”

Quick Facts:

- The resource will be available on the Ministry of Education’s new curriculum and the Aboriginal Education website. It will also be provided to school districts across the province.
- The resource aligns with the education recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; and supports British Columbia's ongoing work to improve the success of Aboriginal students and education of Aboriginal People in B.C. and Canada.
- B.C. increased the amount of targeted funding, in 2014-15 to help school districts provide improved services to Aboriginal students.
- In June 2015, B.C. signed a relationship protocol with the First Nations Education Steering Committee to ensure continued ongoing collaboration.
- For 2015-16, B.C. is investing \$66.2 million into Aboriginal education.

Learn More:

‘Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom’ resource booklet:
https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/awp_moving_forward.pdf

Aboriginal education, Ministry of Education: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/>

Tripartite Education Framework Agreement: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1327671439967/1327674065864>

FNESC: <http://www.fnesc.ca/>

Media Contact:

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

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015MIT0040-001487
Sept. 11, 2015

Ministry of International Trade
and Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and
Multiculturalism

New lesson plans shed light on B.C.'s dark past

VANCOUVER – Grade 5 and 10 students can now learn more about an important chapter in B.C.'s history with a new curriculum supplement - Bamboo Shoots: Chinese Canadian Legacies in BC - launched today by Multiculturalism Minister Teresa Wat.

The supplement is focused on historical wrongs and the contributions of Chinese Canadians to B.C.'s cultural and economic foundation. It is intended to guide classroom discussions about the past and in doing so, prevent future discrimination.

Bamboo Shoots is a comprehensive, one-stop information resource that teachers and the public can access from any computer or mobile device. The supplement includes learning resources, tools and lesson plans for teachers to engage students in the issue of racial discrimination within a broad historical context.

Grade 5 students will learn about Chinese immigration to Canada – why they came, the challenges they faced and their contributions to B.C. and Canada. For Grade 10 students, these lessons will shift to Chinese railway workers and the status of ethnic minorities in Canada in general.

Inspiration for the project came from a provincewide consultation where British Columbians expressed a desire for a more comprehensive educational component focused on historical discrimination in B.C. Bamboo Shoots was developed with input from teachers and historians and can be adapted to any existing lesson plan. Teachers are able to introduce these important topics in a way that suits their classroom.

The completion of the curriculum supplement fulfils one of the major commitments made by government following a formal apology in 2014 by all members of the B.C. legislature to Chinese Canadians for historical wrongs.

Quotes:

Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism and Asia Pacific Strategy –

“Education is the most important tool we have to fight against racism. British Columbia has an international reputation for its celebration of diversity, but it also has a dark history of discrimination that is often ignored. Bamboo Shoots will ensure students understand the many cultural and economic contributions early Chinese Canadians made to B.C., shedding light on that dark chapter to ensure it never happens again in our province.”

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“Educating young people about the history of the Chinese Canadian community in B.C. is a significant step towards reconciliation. We have enhanced the provincewide curriculum so students learn about the harmful decisions and policies of the past, and also hear about the positive contributions of the Chinese community. The Bamboo Shoots supplement can help teachers bring these historical topics to life.”

Quick Facts:

- Bamboo Shoots is the result of the Chinese Legacy Initiative to acknowledge the contributions of Chinese Canadians and the historical injustices they faced.
- The curriculum supplement material was developed in partnership with B.C. teachers, Open Schools BC, The Royal B.C. Museum and the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council.
- The Writing on the Wall, an interactive outreach kit containing historical documents, poetry archives and a brief video, was developed by the Royal BC Museum and can be shared with classrooms throughout the province by request.
- Bamboo Shoots adds an important dimension to the history of B.C. for students, including historical wrongs against Chinese Canadians and the contributions of the Chinese community to the development of B.C.

Chinese Legacy Initiative

- The Chinese Legacy Initiative projects are the result of the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultations, where many participants advocated for the preservation of Chinese Canadian cultural history.
- The legacy projects stem from the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report and Recommendations, which also led to the formal apology to Chinese Canadians for historical wrongs in the legislature on May 15, 2014.
- The B.C. government’s implementation of recommendations in The Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report and Recommendations is guided with advice from the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC).
- LIAC works with Chinese Canadian communities and other key partners to ensure that the projects are known and communicated throughout the province.

Learn More:

For more information, please see the curriculum supplement website:

www.openschool.bc.ca/bambooshoots/

To see photos from the Royal BC Museum’s outreach kit, The Writing on the Wall, go to:

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/36463010@N05/4Ug0a0>

For more information about the legacy projects and the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/our-history/chinese-legacy-bc>

View the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report and Recommendations:

www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/downloads/Chinese_Consultation.pdf

Embrace BC – Province of B.C. multiculturalism site: www.embracebc.ca



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015CSCD0039-001498
Sept. 12, 2015

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Province gives \$400,000 so all kids get the chance to play

BURNABY – The B.C. Government is providing \$400,000 to KidSport BC in order to help children and teens play sports, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Sport Gordon Hogg announced today on behalf of Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

The announcement took place at the annual KidSport BC Corporate Challenge in Burnaby hosted by Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers and held during KidSport BC Week, officially proclaimed by the Province as Sept. 7-13.

KidSport's philosophy is that all kids should have the opportunity to participate in organized sport, regardless of any financial barriers that may exist. Money will be distributed in the form of grants for children aged 18 and under to participate in one season of play in the organized sport of their choice.

Quotes:

Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development–

"Sport is a large part of life for many children and teens. It's where they learn about comradery, hard work, discipline and the ability to work with others towards a common goal. It also builds an important foundation that leads to a healthy and active lifestyle for the future. Every child should have a chance to participate in sport, and I'm pleased that we continue to fund this worthwhile program."

Gordon Hogg, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Sport–

"Through my own involvement with sport, I've seen first-hand how sport participation can impact the lives of young people in positive ways. It not only provides many immediate benefits but it can put kids on the path to future success as adults. By supporting KidSport, the Province is showing its commitment to helping kids from all walks of life experience the many benefits sport has to offer."

Pete Quevillon, director KidSport BC–

"The incredible support that the Province of B.C provides to KidSport allows thousands of B.C. children to participate in organized sport every year. These kids would not otherwise have the opportunity to realize the many benefits of participating in sport including improved health, enhanced academic performance, and increased confidence. Through this generous contribution, the 41 community KidSport chapters across the province are able to leverage additional support locally and to ensure that no child is left on the sidelines."

Quick Facts:

- Since 2006-07, the Province has contributed more than \$3.4 million to KidSport BC – including today's announcement.
- Over 7,000 kids were assisted by KidSport BC last year, an increase of ten per cent over 2013.
- Established in 1993, KidSport BC operates 41 community chapters around the province and has helped tens of thousands of kids stay active and follow their dreams.
- This year over 20 corporate teams took part in the KidSport BC Corporate Challenge, along with a number of high-profile Canadian Olympic athletes competing as team captains.

Learn More:

KidSport BC is an organization that helps address the challenges facing many families, and their mission remains the same – to remove the financial barriers that prevent some children from playing organized sport: <http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/>

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/community-sport-and-cultural-development>

Media Contact:

Ministry of Community, Sport and
Cultural Development
250 356-6334

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



Board and Trustee Representative Committee Report

Trustee Representative: Jacob Gair
Committee Name: French Advisory Committee
Meeting Location: Oceanside Elementary School
Meeting Time: 6:00pm Wednesday September 16th
Committee Report:

Appointment of Chair and Secretary

Chair-Francine Frisson

Secretary-Greer, (for September 16th meeting only.)

School Up-dates

Ballenas: Total number of students enrolled in the BC Quebec Exchange Free 3-month Federal Program is 17. There is no school credit for the program so the student must work ahead of schedule to fit it in.

Ballenas grade 8's are semestered. School would prefer to use linear system but is unable to do so due to scheduling.

Oceanside Elementary: Have qualified French speaking teachers. 268 French Immersion students, 43 in kindergarten, 41 in grade 1, 44 in grade 2, 34 in grade 3, 28 in grade 4, 23 in grade 5, 22 in grade 6, 33 in grade 7.

Many European students attend the classes of the French Immersion programs but most do not stay in said classes.

Discussed whether the high school and elementary school should hold meetings together to discuss French Immersion.

Strategic Priorities

- a. Program Quality-Questions around what programs are being offered at secondary schools. Many children arriving want to do everything. BC Ed Plan has helped to create more choice for students. Students may drop French upon entering high school but will then reengage with it in grades 11 and 12. Focus on ensuring that students are capable of communications in French, not so important for them to learn math in French. Work to find a way to incorporate French dual credit program with VIU, similar to the 2+2+2 program that existed a decade ago.
- b. Late Immersion-has been long discussed in our district. Nothing has ever been formalized and little to no research has been done. Committee will Francine will explore whether there is a desire for Late Immersion in the community. If there is a desire then a presentation to the board will be organized. Process usually takes two years. A report exists about the pedagogy of the program but no study exists on its feasibility in our community. If program is not passed in two years due to lack of interest we can continue research to see if population and desire for the program changes in the future.

c. How can parents support/enhance student experience

Next meetings

Focus on what can be done in the short, medium and long term to encourage interest in French Immersion. How to balance the high level academic courses with French, do students need to work ahead to be fluent French speakers? Main issue for next meeting-develop a plan for late immersion.

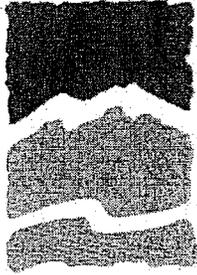
Miscellaneous

Meetings will be held at least 3 times a year, more if necessary.

The Committee will look at attrition and the impact of new elective programs and extracurricular programs on French Immersion enrolment. Attempt to incorporate specialist programs with French Immersion, i.e. find shop teachers that speak French.

Attempt to find a place in the community where French Immersion students can use their communication skills in a work environment.

Next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th at 6pm.



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

September 15, 2015

Mr. Rollie Koop, Superintendent
School District 69 Qualicum
PO Box 430, 100 E. Jensen Ave. Parksville, BC
SENT VIA EMAIL : rkoop@sd69.bc.ca

Dear Superintendent Koop,

RE: Partnership Opportunities - Outdoor Multi-Sports Complex in District #69

At the June 23, 2015 regular board meeting of the Regional District of Nanaimo the resolutions as shown below were approved.

"That in 2015, staff explore partnerships with the Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, School District 69, local sports associations, community service organizations and businesses to determine the interest level in funding and operating an outdoor multi-sports complex in District 69."

"That as part of the 2016 District 69 Recreation Services Master Plan development, a needs assessment for an outdoor multi-sport complex be conducted prior to further development of a track complex."

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Regional District of Nanaimo for participation from School District #69 Qualicum in exploring possible partnership opportunities in the funding and operation of an outdoor multi-sport complex within School District #69 catchment area. Participation will involve a small number of meetings at which an appointee(s) from the school district would attend and provide representation.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Regards,

Dean Banman, MBA
Manager of Recreation Services

cc: T. Osborne, General Manager of Recreation and Parks Services
District 69 Recreation Commission

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

HEAD OFFICE:
Oceanside Place
830 West Island Highway
Parksville, BC
V9P 2X4
(250) 248-3252
Fax: (250) 248-3159
Toll Free: 1-888-828-2069

Ravensong Aquatic Centre
737 Jones Street
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1S4
(250) 752-5014
Fax: (250) 752-5019

RDN Website: www.rdn.bc.ca

Memo

To: Board of Education
cc: Rollie Koop, Superintendent
Date: September 22, 2015
Re: Aboriginal Education – Target funding

Issue:

The District is carrying forward a surplus in funding for Aboriginal Education and must seek Ministry approval to bring forward that surplus.

Background:

Funding for Aboriginal Education is a targeted amount under the funding allocation system. The funding is based on total enrollment and Districts must spend the full amount on Aboriginal Education programs. The target is a minimum – District expenditures may exceed that amount, but must not fall below the funded amount.

In 2013/14, the District closed with a surplus in its Aboriginal Education program area. This surplus was anticipated and the amount has been incorporated into the 2014/15 budget. The details are as follows:

2013/14 surplus brought forward	\$ 58,983
2014/15 funding	460,520
2014/15 actual expenditures	<u>(459,998)</u>
Surplus, June 30, 2015	<u>59,505</u>

To complete its year end and to conform to Ministry requirements, the Board must approve the year end surplus and confirm that the funds will be used in the following year for Aboriginal Education programs.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) request approval from the Ministry of Education to underspend the targeted Aboriginal Education funding for the 2014/15 school year in an amount of \$59,505; and,

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) confirms that the surplus has been allocated and will be spent on Aboriginal Education programs in the 2015/16 fiscal year.



August 28, 2015

Ref: 183825

Dear Parents:

Our world is changing, and parents like you know it is essential to prepare students for success. This means connecting every single child with the basics like reading, writing and arithmetic while ensuring they learn the collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills needed in university, college, the workforce, and the broader community.

Your goal is our goal – ensuring your child gets the education they need to be successful, now and in the future. That’s why this fall we will start our three-year plan to transition to a new curriculum – the plan that maps out what teachers teach and what students are expected to learn.

We have been working together with more than 100 BC teachers over the past three years to refine BC’s curriculum. Our work has been based on world-leading research and successful classroom programs from across the globe.

At the heart of the change is personalized learning, which gives students the opportunity to learn the basics while pursuing their own interests and passions. This could mean exploring nature close to the school to learn about the survival needs of plants and animals for biology, a project on the history of hockey, or building furniture in math class to learn about angles.

Starting this fall, we will begin the three-year process of transitioning to the new curriculum. We’re starting with Kindergarten to Grade 9. Teachers in those grades will have the ability to use the new curriculum this coming year before it is fully implemented in all schools in September 2016. Your school will know how much your child’s teachers will be using the new K-9 curriculum this fall, and will be able to work with you through the transition.

Your child’s success is our top priority. That’s why teachers, school administrators and my Ministry are committed to working together to make sure our education system and our students are ready to succeed in our changing world.

We’re building on one of the world’s most successful school systems, with student performance currently making BC one of the top three education systems in the world. We are able to do this thanks to the ongoing collaboration with teachers from all corners of our province, and the efforts teachers make in classroom each and every day.

.../2

We will provide regular updates as this exciting transition continues. You play a key role in your child's learning journey, and we look forward to the road ahead. For more information, please visit: www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca or email us at curriculum@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier", written in a cursive style.

Mike Bernier
Minister



August 28, 2015

Ref: 183850

Dear Teachers:

As many of you are likely aware, there are a number of curriculum changes underway in the province. Since 2013, BC teachers and the Ministry of Education have been working together on revisions to the current curriculum. The goals of the revisions have included ensuring our students get the skills they need to succeed in our changing world, and making sure that teachers can deliver the curriculum efficiently and effectively. The number of learning outcomes has been reduced, providing more time and flexibility for students to explore topics in depth.

We are beginning a three-year plan to implement the refreshed curriculum in public and independent schools throughout the province. Teachers may voluntarily use the K-9 draft curriculum, in full or in part, in the 2015/16 school year. Full transition to the K-9 curriculum will take place in all public and independent schools in BC in September 2016.

The strength of the new curriculum will be continuously improved based on your experience and feedback with it. Your feedback will also assist us with developing or enhancing areas of support for the curriculum, such as instructional examples.

All K-9 revised curricula are now posted, in English and French, at www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca. Curriculum drafts for Grades 10-12 are now available for review and feedback. Information on how to provide feedback can be found on the curriculum website. We will also be adding a number of support documents in the coming weeks.

There are a number of support documents currently posted and available to you. These include:

- Curriculum Search Tool: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/search>
- Introduction to BC's Redesigned Curriculum:
https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/curriculum_intro.pdf

Starting next week, introductions and "What's New" pages will begin to be posted for each subject area. In September, additional resources will be made available, including a planning guide for the new curriculum, Q&A documents, a teacher's guide for historical wrongs, and instructional videos on curriculum. Curriculum teams will be developing instructional examples, which will be posted on an ongoing basis, so check back regularly!

.../2

This work would not be possible without the ongoing collaboration with teachers from all corners of our province. We look forward to continuing our work together, and providing regular updates, as we begin the transition to the new curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Byng". The signature is somewhat stylized and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

JUL 14 2015

July 9, 2015

Phil Turin
Interim Secretary-Treasurer
SD69 (Qualicum)
Box 430
Parksville, BC V9P 2G5

Dear Phil Turin,

On behalf of the BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA) Board of Directors, I write to thank your Board for renewing its membership in BCSTA for 2015-2016. The BCSTA Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and staff take the stewardship of member funds very seriously. Through ongoing monitoring and quality improvement, we ensure that the Association's operations provide the best value possible to members.

In April 2015, the BCSTA Provincial Council approved a budget for 2015-2016 that assured no member fees increase this year. The Board of Directors felt it appropriate to maintain our fees at the same level reflecting the financial realities faced by Boards of Education across the province. Additionally, we are doing everything possible to ensure direct services to member Boards are maintained (or even expanded when possible) at a high level. Please find attached an overview of current BCSTA services and programs. We invite your Board to contact either the Directors or staff at any time to discuss ways in which we can support your efforts.

As previously announced, BCSTA has also initiated changes to our staffing assignments and levels to fit within the fiscal constraints that the Association and its members currently face. These changes help to make possible the continued services to member Boards. Our commitment is that through these changes members will continue to receive excellent representation and services while ensuring careful stewardship of membership fees.

Once again, on behalf of the BCSTA Board of Directors and staff, I thank you for your ongoing support and membership. If you have any questions about BCSTA fees or services please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Teresa Rezansoff
President
BC School Trustees Association

Cc: **Eve Flynn, Board Chair, SD69 (Qualicum)**
Attachments enclosed



Benefits of BCSTA Membership

The mission of BCSTA is to provide support to, and advocate on behalf of BC's member Boards of Education. BCSTA is recognized by government, education partners and media as the provincial voice of locally-elected Boards of Education. BCSTA plays a substantive role in helping to shape and respond to matters that impact all Boards of Education. It is through this collective voice that we are able to influence educational governance and policy.

Examples of our advocacy work include:

- **BCSTA advocates strongly at the provincial and national levels** (including the CSBA) on many areas of concern. Recent examples include improvements to the delivery and funding of Aboriginal education, poverty reduction, meaningful consultation with Boards of Education, school planning councils, international students, teacher training, settlement workers, BC Hydro rates, and BC Ferry scheduling to name a few.
- **BCSTA continuing to be a strident voice for improved education funding.** Through submissions to government Standing Committees, Government and Opposition Caucuses, Ministry meetings, media interviews and close collaboration with education partners, BCSTA continuously advocates to protect and increase public education funding. Full government funding of recent union contract settlements is an example of our success in this regard.
- **In response to government plans to change the structure of BCPSEA, BCSTA** conducted a province-wide consultation process with trustees and **struck a Bargaining Structure Task Force** to ensure that the voice of Boards of Education remained part of the bargaining process. BCSTA members also approved a Unified Association model that would preserve the vital services provided by BCPSEA should the government decide not to reconstitute the BCPSEA Board.
- **A vigorous response to the recent changes to how the government funds capital and seismic projects.** Meetings are regularly scheduled with the Minister of Education and Finance Department staff to rectify issues such as their misunderstanding of district surpluses, and to preserve local decision-making on budget allocations. This advocacy will include coordinating local Board responses and a provincial media campaign.
- Our **Stability for Students Action Plan** was developed in response to the recent BC Supreme Court ruling on class size and composition. The action plan advocates for stability for students, resolution of class size and composition matters through bargaining, and full funding for any related implementation costs.

- **BCSTA's Core Review submission and resources** were developed in response to the government's ongoing examination of services including the governance of school districts. BCSTA mounted an extensive campaign that provided resources to Boards and all MLAs on the importance of local governance, the co-governance relationship between Boards and the Ministry of Education, and the economic fallacy of amalgamating Boards of Education. In response to our submission and direct advocacy efforts, the Minister of Education stated publicly at our February 2014 Provincial Council meeting that there would be no amalgamation of Boards of Education.
- **BCSTA participation in a variety of government and partner group committees and initiatives**, where trustee input has significantly shaped the final outcome.

The Ministry of Education, as well as government as a whole, most often seek the input of Boards through the voice of BCSTA. On numerous occasions, BCSTA is asked to provide either representatives and/or input to processes established to gather information, develop procedures or refine policy regarding issues affecting K-12 education. These opportunities have most recently included input on Aboriginal education, ELL programs, capital construction, school district accountability, the funding distribution formula and shared services implementation. Boards who are not members of BCSTA will, on most occasions, not be considered for participation in these processes and will lose the opportunity to provide input.

BCSTA membership provides Boards of Education with the only direct option for consultation, input and change of Ministry of Education and government policy, procedures and programs.

*In addition to its vital advocacy role **BCSTA also provides a suite of support services to members including communications, legal services and professional development.***

- Through our website, e-Alerts, daily media monitoring, and direct communications from the President, BCSTA keeps trustees informed of important and breaking educational matters. This often includes insights not found in usual media releases.
- BCSTA's Board Chair discussion forum provides a mechanism for Boards to exchange ideas and information on emergent issues – a forum in which almost all Chairs have been active participants. Boards have benefited greatly from this communication tool.
- Involvement in BCSTA's regional Branch associations provides opportunities to share resources, learn from other Boards, and influence regional issues. We believe strongly that Boards cannot be effective locally if they are isolated provincially.
- BCSTA's Legal Services provides a first point of contact for Boards seeking guidance in legal, policy and governance matters. Requests for summary legal advice are dealt with directly through BCSTA's in-house lawyer at no cost to members. In addition to providing legal and policy advice of provincial consequence to all member Boards of Education, BCSTA's legal counsel often supports defendant Boards through litigation.

These services often significantly reduce a Board's legal fees.

- Participation in the joint BCSTA/BCTF Group Life Insurance Plan, which results in significant financial savings for districts, is available only to BCSTA member Boards. There may be significant cost implications for Boards who are not BCSTA members.
- BCSTA regularly distributes legal and policy-related publications to member Boards, including updates on legislation, bargaining bulletins, election advice and support, templates for Board policies and bylaws, FOIPPA, and property disposition. Many of these are statutorily required and would be very time consuming for district staff to independently produce, representing substantial savings of administrative time and external legal costs. As an example, BCSTA spent approximately \$11,000 on external counsel to develop a child abuse policy, procedures and protocols. In the absence of BCSTA membership, district staff would be at a considerable disadvantage in developing these required policies and recommendations for their Board.
- Our professional development services help to prepare Boards to carry out their governance and accountability responsibilities. Educational governance is a complex blend of legal, financial and political skills. Our trustee Academies, AGMs, facilitations provided to Boards and Branches, in-district training sessions, online learning opportunities, and Governance Manual have helped numerous trustees over the years. In 2013/2014, we provided over 12,000 total hours of learning to trustees. We believe that educational governance and leadership are skills that cannot and should not be learned solely on the job. This will be particularly important following recent trustee elections and the move to a four-year term.
- BCSTA maintains a database of Board of Education policies. This valuable resource enables Boards of Education to go to one central location to review Board policies from around the province.
- BCSTA often provides Boards with opportunities to meet with Ministry of Education representatives during BCSTA events such as our Annual General Meetings.
- BCSTA events are frequently attended by the Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Education and other government representatives. Government often presents to members about current issues in the education sector. Non-members may not have access to these opportunities.
- BCSTA maintains significant standing committees including:
 - Aboriginal Education Committee: Represents Boards' interests in Aboriginal education – at the same time, developing ideas and recommendations for the vital work of improving Aboriginal student achievement. As well, the committee continually seeks to heighten knowledge, awareness and understanding of Aboriginal issues. The committee stays alert to potential problems with provincial policy and implementation, and keeps members up to date. It develops recommendations on Aboriginal education matters for action by BCSTA.

- Education Committee: At the heart of education is student achievement, and that's the focus of BCSTA's Education Committee. With its pulse on BC public education, the committee identifies educational issues of interest and concern to membership. Members then recommend action on these issues for consideration by the Board of Directors, Provincial Council and AGM. The Education Committee helps create the AGM program, as well as topics for other pro-d.

Through a wide variety of communication tools, BCSTA does considerable work to ensure member Boards are kept up-to-date on current issues of interest to Boards of Education as well as raising the profile of both public education and our advocacy efforts through the media and public.

In addition to the general benefits of being part of a Provincial Association that advocates on behalf of its members, support and assistance is provided to all member Boards on a wide range of issues as well as to individual member trustees requesting support or assistance specific to their needs.