

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, October 14, 2014

The Education Committee met on Monday, October 6th at 4:35pm. In attendance were Trustees Harman Pandher (Chair) and Ron Burton, BTA President Rae Figursky, DPAC representative Jennifer Mezei and Assistant Superintendents Roberto Bombelli and Heather Hart.

1. Aboriginal Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program

District Vice Principal, Aboriginal Education, Brandon Curr presented a proposed new partnership initiative with Outward Bound Canada and the Burnaby School District. Outward Bound Canada is planning to deliver an Aboriginal Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program in Burnaby Schools. The yearlong program will be focussed on Aboriginal students who are District Student Advisory Council members (DSAC), as well as emerging Aboriginal youth leaders from each secondary school. The goal of the program is to develop student self-esteem and self-confidence through shared group experiences, while working collaboratively to give something back to their schools and community.

Aboriginal student leaders in the program will be engaged in monthly leadership sessions that will range from wilderness expeditions to leadership sessions in Burnaby Schools. Outward Bound will be facilitating all wilderness expeditions and leadership development. The Burnaby School District will ensure that content of the expeditions and leadership sessions are culturally relevant for students, while at the same time, ensuring that students are able to access credits for the work completed through an Independent Directed Studies program. The program will culminate with the creation of a student led collaborative project that will provide the community with a celebration for National Aboriginal Day in June 2015.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive and approve the partnership between SD41 and Outward Bound Canada.

2. Youth Innovation Lab

Manager of Youth Services, Sue Dorey introduced Alison Grauer from St. Leonard's Society as well as Colin Ford from the Youth Innovation Lab.

The Youth Innovation Lab is a one year pilot project designed to provide at risk youth access to the skills needed to work in the technology industry. Through a partnership with St. Leonard's society, students in the pilot project will be taught aspects of coding, with access to a state of the art computer lab and guides and mentors from technology industry leaders.

Students would be recruited into the program through a series of workshops and referrals from Burnaby secondary school teachers, counsellors and administrators. The first cohort would involve 5-8 students with a focus on increasing numbers in the second cohort.

The McCreary Centre Research Society will be conducting research on the program to determine that success of the program, leading to the potential for program expansion. Students who are successful in completing this program will receive Independent Directed Studies credits towards graduation.

Recommendation: THAT the board receive and approve the implementation of the Youth Innovation Pilot Project.

3. Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 3rd, 2014 at 4:30 pm.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, October 14, 2014

The Youth and Community Services Committee (YCSC) met on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Trustee committee members Larry Hayes (chair), Meiling Chia, Harman Pandher; Gina Niccoli-Moen, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Kristin Schnider, DPAC, and Manager Youth Services, Sue Dorey and child Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Katie Rapson-Stecula for items 2, 3, 4 and 6(a).

1. Reports from Community Committees

Trustees who represent the Board on community committees updated the YCSC on items that would be of interest to the Board.

Parks and Recreation

At its September 17, 2014 meeting the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission received and approved a \$4,000 2014 Playground Development Grant to Chaffey-Burke Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee.

The committee would like to acknowledge and thank the City of Burnaby for their ongoing support of Burnaby schools.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

City of Burnaby's Task Force on the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth

It was reported to the committee that The City of Burnaby's Task Force on the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth will be hosting a workshop regarding staying current and aware of online practices and trends for youth. The *Safe Online Education Society* will present a professional development and networking event for service providers working with youth. The event will take place on Tuesday, November 4 at Burnaby Neighbourhood House.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Youth Restorative Justice Program

Sue Dorey, Manager—Youth Services, outlined the renewal processes regarding the Youth Restorative Justice Program (YRJP) partnership with the Burnaby RCMP. The school district received a summary report of the program for the 2013-14 school year which included the number of students supported and schools serviced. In addition to intervention services, the program provided professional development and training to school staff for utilizing restorative action in schools.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. FORCE Society for Kids' Mental Health

Sue Dorey, Manager—Youth Services, updated the committee regarding the work of the FORCE Society for Kids' Mental Health (FORCE), a provincial non-profit society that supports families of kids with mental health challenges and the recent closure of its parent support program in Burnaby and New Westminister. The FORCE has supported a Parent in Residence program which assisted parents in advocating for their children who struggle with mental health issues and navigating the child and youth mental health system. Due to lack of sustainable funding, the local Burnaby/New Westminister program is no longer available to families.

Burnaby parents can still access a Parent in Residence program. The Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre is located at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver. The committee discussed concerns regarding additional barriers to families dealing with mental health issues due to lack of support in their local community.

The committee discussed writing a letter in support of the FORCE's Parent in Resident program in Burnaby/New Westminister and request that funding be reinstated to continue local support to families dealing with the challenges of mental health. The letter's recipients will include the Premier, local MLAs, Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC's Representative for Children and Youth, the City of Burnaby, and the FORCE Society.

Recommendation: That the Board receive this information and approve the aforementioned letter of support and request for reinstatement of funding.

4. Valley Youth Partnership for Engagement and Respect

Katie Rapson-Stecula, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator, reported on the Valley Youth Partnership for Engagement and Respect (VYPER), a Health Canada funded youth adult collaborative project running across the Fraser Health region. VYPER has three main goals: to support youth resilience by strengthening and expanding collaborative, respectful relationships with peers and adults; to build supportive environments that open space for youth to explore and re-evaluate their social and personal identities; and to co-create a range of meaningful youth roles and responsibilities and support the development of a sense of self-efficacy and sense of control over one's own decisions.

Grants are available from the project until August 2016. An application to support a youth advisory group at the YOUth Hub will be forthcoming.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

5. Eye See-Eye Learn

The Burnaby School District and the British Columbia Association of Optometrists (BCAO) have partnered to provide an eye examination and free prescription eyeglass

program for all kindergarten children. The program, which began last year in Burnaby, has provided support to date for 131 families whose kindergarten children required glasses. Children are encouraged to get their vision examined and will receive one free pair of eyeglasses under the program by accessing one of the participating Doctors of Optometry. The program will be available again this school year and families can access this benefit until August 31, 2015.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

6. New Business

a) Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative Congress

The Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative Congress was held in Kelowna at the end of September. Sue Dorey, Manager – Youth Services, attended the Congress with participants from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Education, Doctors of BC, Kelty Mental Health, The FORCE and Community Service Agencies. The focus of the Congress was to highlight the work of the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative. The Collaborative has facilitated the creation of local action teams to identify system barriers which inhibit the number of children, youth and their families from receiving timely access to integrated mental health and substance use services and supports.

The Congress provided the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Collaborative to date and to showcase newly engaged regions and partners. Discussion and planning with all participants will continue with the next Congress to take place in the lower mainland in February 2015.

b) Do What U Luv

The committee received information on the *Do What U Luv* initiative. The organization is interested in providing free creative programs to students between the ages of 5-24, including fine arts, dance, music and fitness. Programs would run after school several times per week.

The committee requested additional information about the initiative and its sponsorship which will be brought to a future Youth and Community Services meeting.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

6. Next Meeting

The meeting of the Youth and Community Services Committee is Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.