

Education Committee Meeting—Agenda

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Location: *Navigate* Powered by NIDES

Address: 2505 Smith Road, Courtenay, BC

Tsolum Campus, Main Bldg. Room #104

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Members:

Committee Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay	✓
Board Chair, Tom Weber, Lazo North	✓
Trustee, Paula Selby, Puntledge, Black Creek	✓
Trustee, Sheila McDonnell, Baynes Sound (Denman/Hornby Islands)	☐
Trustee, Donna Gambacorta, City of Courtenay	✓
Trustee, Rick Grinham, Village of Cumberland	✓
Trustee, Peter Coleman, Town of Comox	✓
Superintendent, Sherry Elwood	☐
Assistant Superintendent, Tom Demeo	✓
Director of Instruction (Elementary Curriculum) Allan Douglas	✓
Director of Instruction (Student Services) Esther Shatz	✓

AGENDA

In Attendance:

Jeff Stewart, Principal, *Navigate*; Alissa Pratt, Vice-Principal, *Navigate*; Colleen Clarke, PAC Chair *Navigate*; Rob Moore, District Principal, Education Technology /International Education; Steve Knight, District Vice-Principal, International Education

Introductions

1. International Education – Rob Moore, Steve Knight

Rob gave an overview of the external review that was recently conducted. The information that came from the report will assist in the development of the program goals and vision. The following are some highlights of the report:

The key objects of the plan are to:

- identify the vision and mission
- solidify the 5-year and development goals

Goal 1:

- increase ISP enrolment to 175-200
- develop a marketing strategy with communications focused at Valley ISP
- 60% of 140 are long-term grad program, our goal is to get to 70% long term

Goal 2:

- Strengthen the organization to manage this growth
- Each school has a support teacher and VP as liaison
- Continue to enhance homestay support activities – right now 1.35 homestay coordinators
- Continue to offer the extra-curricular activities twice monthly
- S.O.S. advisory committee is chaired by ISP principal
- Academics and enriched programs can be accessed by ISP, need to be marketed more

Goal 3:

- Provide Canadians exchange opportunities
- Provide financial support to assist staff on exchanges
- Continue the exchange of in-district students with international families
- To develop offshore school partnerships; the BC government rules need to be researched thoroughly; there is an option of using NIDES *Navigate* to support on-line educational programs
- Post-secondary success rates 2006-2012 – 100% of students who stay and graduate go on to post-secondary institutions – the majority stay in Canada

2. **Navigate – Jeff Stewart**

Jeff presented an overview of *Navigate* as well as other distance learning programs. He took time to explain the current state of distance learning from not only a local but also a provincial perspective. The following represent some key points as outlined in his presentation:

- Distance learning growing 500% in the last few years; about choice, dynamism, and a response to independent school growth; primarily about flexibility; 60 public/independent schools now in BC
- 1988 started NIDES/*Navigate*; 5th largest in the province; one of the original; 940 student FTE; 40-45% are from the Valley; 40-50 graduates per year; needs to exist for some types of students
- Cross-enrolled 150 schools across BC use *Navigate* to offer courses for their students
- Main and international; largest international language program in Western Canada and Pacific Northwest
- Blended learning for a long time – I-Class, 3 days a week as well, unique
- Lowest enhancement funds of the province; we offer other services in-house
- Highly original leadership group of students
- The presence of the students in the building brings a positive energy
- NUKO in Nanaimo for special needs students on a farm
- I-Class in Nanaimo, Parksville/Qualicum, Matrix and ILC very positive
- Working with Denman and Hornby Islands to support them as their numbers decrease
- Rosetta Stone – explore, 1 of 4 languages learned at the elementary level

- PAC is unique, active, engaged, connects parents, resources and supports parent-driven activities, want to share their sparks; parents are actively engaged

Following the presentation, a Tour of the facility was provided.

Jeff also took some time to update us on the work he has been involved with around Youth Mental Health. Below are some highlights.

3. **Mental Health Day May 7, 2013 – Youth Mental Health**

- PIR: Parents in Residence – Colleen Clarke, Force Organization, works with parents to reduce stigma and to listen and connect parents together
- Youth Mental Health Services here; Elizabeth
- Kim Shonert Rachel, co-hosting with DPAC in February
- Lynn Adams – 3rd speaker

Thank you to Rob and Jeff for their wonderful presentations and for all their work in these great programs.

Next Education Committee Meeting:



DATE: February 12, 2013

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: TBA