

# COMMITTEE MEETING

## COMMITTEE III – EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, 2012 JANUARY 11

### Committee Report to the Board, 2012 January 16

The Committee met to discuss the following items:

1. Annual Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement Report

The Chairperson of the Committee welcomed S. Agabob, Acting District Principal, Aboriginal Education, Learning Services. S. Agabob commended D. Martel for her work on the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA). He referred to the document entitled, **Aboriginal Education Enhancement: Second Annual Report – 2010/2011** and briefly commented on the report.

The following information was provided:

- o the AEEA is in its second year of a five year agreement and its purpose is to ensure we are all working together for the success of Aboriginal students;
- o the following goal areas were identified: Belonging, Mastery and Culture and Community;
- o the Grade 12 graduation rate increased this year to 31%, but with small numbers this does fluctuate;
- o absenteeism rates are almost seven times as high if students are not connected to a school and we are hoping to create more inviting learning environments for students;
- o the “Connections Tool” creates an opportunity for educators to share in dialogue about student engagement and connectedness;
- o two important initiatives in secondary schools through the Paul Martin Aboriginal Education Foundation are showing great promise in motivating students and linking them to work options. One focuses on Aboriginal Entrepreneurship and the other on mentorship with accountants from Ernst Young; and
- o the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement Monitoring and Implementation Committee oversees the work of the agreement.

In answer to questions from the Committee, S. Agabob noted:

- o it would be a good idea to disaggregate data separating out students with special needs designations;
- o demographics do shift as identification methods and definitions change; there is no clear

- o explanation for the expanded number of students identified in 2002 and 2003; and there is a great interest in expanding the Paul Martin initiatives across other schools, but it is important to ensure early success with the first locations.

In answer to a request from a Trustee, S. Cardwell commented that briefing sessions will be held for new Trustees and that the Aboriginal Education Connections Tool will be discussed.

S. Agabob commented that he has learned a great deal and would like to thank the Learning Services team for their support. The trustees thanked him for his excellent work.

This item was received for information.

## 2. Aboriginal Focused School Update

V. Overgaard introduced and welcomed L. Johns, Aboriginal Community Liaison. L. Johns has been supporting the Steering Committee and the Aboriginal Caucus for the new Aboriginal-focused school. V. Overgaard commented that a larger report is being prepared and that it will more clearly note the role of the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) in naming representatives to the Aboriginal Caucus, which is taking the lead role in the decision-making.

A Work Plan has been developed by the Steering Committee with tentative dates to meet the goals. The work is not quite meeting the timeline suggested. For example, no decision has been made regarding the location of the school. The decision is a complex one requiring community consultation and committee deliberation around a great deal of information which has been forwarded to the Caucus. A Parent and Caregiver Survey is under development and will be distributed shortly. Other areas the Caucus and the Steering Committee will consider over the next months are student recruitment, staff recruitment and governance. The plan is still to begin with some grade levels in September 2012.

In answer to a trustee's question, V. Overgaard explained that L. Johns has been gathering research about other schools in other jurisdictions and lessons learned from the other schools are being incorporated into the planning of this school.

This item was received for information.

## 3. Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement

S. Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools thanked S. Agabob for his work as interim District Principal of Aboriginal Education. The District is appreciative of the tremendous job he has accomplished in this role. He announced the appointment of D. Fiddler to the role of District Principal, Aboriginal Education, who will begin in mid-February.

S. Cardwell referred to the memorandum dated 2012 January 6 entitled **Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement – 2011-2012** and commented that this report is mandated by the

School Act and is required to be submitted annually to the Ministry of Education. The report is presented at Committee III for Board approval and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education prior to 2011 January 31.

The following information was highlighted:

- o students success in our District has increased, from a 80.7% Completion Rate 6 year Dogwood to 82.5% Completion Rate 6 year Dogwood; 2% is outstanding gain in a District of our size and it reflects the great work in our schools; and
- o Aboriginal students in our District have gone from a 25.4% Completion Rate in 2010 to 32.1% Completion Rate in 2011 and this is a positive trend; and
- o the Early Intervention work is making a great difference in the 31 schools where it is being implemented.

In answer to a trustee question, V. Overgaard noted that the loss of the Ministry grant for literacy has been felt in schools where there had been a Literacy Coach and support for teachers in their literacy practice, but we do not have data so cannot show a difference in student outcomes. Learning Services staff are preparing a three to five year plan for further implementation of the Early Intervention model which would require targeting of staff resources.

In answer to a trustee question, S. Cardwell noted that there is no requirement for School Districts to have the same goals and targets as the Ministry outlines in its Service Plan.

S. Cardwell thanked Learning Services staff for the work undertaken to complete this document.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT** the Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement, January 2011-2012 be approved by the Board and submitted to the Ministry of Education prior to January 31, 2012.

4. New Business

- a) Trustee Woo commented that there has been a recent outbreak of the whooping cough in the Lower Mainland. She asked if there were data about the percentage of those children who have had shots and asked if we work with the Vancouver Coastal Health to prevent the spread of the disease. V. Overgaard commented that there is a meeting scheduled next week with Vancouver Coastal Health staff and she will speak to them regarding this matter.

Clarification provided in Section V.A.1 of the January 16, 2012 Board Minutes.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, 2012 February 15 at

17:30 hours.

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Ken Clement, Chairperson

Committee III Members Present:

Patti Bacchus  
Fraser Ballantyne  
Ken Clement  
Ken Denike  
Mike Lombardi  
Allan Wong  
Sophia Woo  
Rob Wynen

District Management Present:

Steve Cardwell  
Valerie Overgaard  
Jordan Tinney  
Maureen Ciarniello  
Catherine Remedios

Association Representatives Present:

Anna Maria Niccoli-Mullet, VEPVPA  
Ivy Leung, DPAC  
Shannon Sorochan, VASSA  
Cathy Hasley, PASA  
Samantha Truong, VDSC