

January 19, 2022

ITEM 1.3

TO: Student Learning and Well-Being Committee

FROM: Chris Stanger, Director of Instruction

RE: Music Engagement for Implementing Recommendation #1 of the 2019 Music Review

Reference to Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Engage our learners through innovative teaching and learning practices

Objective 5: Provide Increased opportunities to connect students to their learning

Goal 4: Provide effective leadership, governance, and stewardship

Objective 3: Effectively utilize school district resources and facilities

INTRODUCTION:

This communication is presented as information regarding the stakeholder engagement process activated to develop a shared vision and mission that will inform the strategic direction planning for implementation of a K-7 Music Program and subsequent recommendations contained within the 2019 Music Review.

BACKGROUND:

At the April 20th, 2021 Student Learning and Well-Being (SLWB) committee meeting, members approved a recommendation from District staff to develop an engagement plan designed to guide implementation of the first recommendation of the 2019 Fine Arts Review, which is: to develop a "...shared mission, vision and strategic direction for the Visual and Performing Arts", beginning with Music.

At the June 9th, 2021 SLWB committee meeting, members supported implementing the proposed engagement plan presented by District staff. This plan consisted of:

1. Educational Services staff forming an ad hoc stakeholder working group that would formulate a vision and mission statement for K-7 Music.
2. Educational Services and Employee Services staff consulting with representatives from VESTA and VEPVPA to discuss key operational aspects required to implement a K-7 Music program over time.
3. Educational Services staff setting out timelines for reporting updates to the SLWB committee about and for completing this work on Recommendation #1.

INFORMATION UPDATE:

Vision and Mission Development: October – December 2021

In October of 2021, District staff invited Indigenous Education Department, VESTA, DPAC and VEPVPA to provide representation for an ad hoc committee with the purpose of creating a vision and mission statement for a K-7 Music program.

On October 28th, ad hoc committee representatives met to review stakeholder feedback that had been gathered through the Fine Arts Review process and through the SLWB committee from 2019-2021. The representatives identified common themes and priorities surfacing within this feedback. These emerging themes and priorities formed the content which representatives drew upon to formulate a draft vision statement regarding why a dedicated music program is important to include in the education of K-7 students within VSB. At the closing of this session, representatives were tasked with consulting their constituents' perspective, and with sharing feedback prior to the next session.

On November 18th, the ad hoc committee met, and reviewed stakeholders' input arising from the first session and revised the draft vision statement, which is below:

The VSB aims to provide an equitable, comprehensive K-7 Music program because:

- *We believe that music is a universal language which honours diversity while allowing students to explore their creativity, express who they are, and connect to each other and their communities.*
- *We believe that music is a fundamental human experience, and we have a responsibility to ensure students have access to music education that allows them to thrive regardless of cultural and economic background, or geographical location within the district.*
- *We believe that music brings richness to learning, enhances life-long learning experiences and contributes to the holistic development of people.*

Additionally, during the November 18th meeting, representatives heard about key design features of the BC Fine Arts Education curriculum, viewed examples of what K-7 music looks like within VSB schools and developed broad descriptors of an equitable, comprehensive music program. This work formed the content from which the group began to develop a mission statement regarding what a K-7 Music Program could consist of.

The ad hoc committee met a third time on December 9th to continue distilling their description of what the district could aim to provide within its K-7 Music Program and collaboratively generated the following draft Mission statement:

The VSB K-7 Music program's mission is to provide all students with:

A consistent, robust, inclusive, experiential music program based on active music making including Indigenous musical opportunities which respect cultural protocols and nurture the unique and diverse culture of each school community.

On January 13th, 2022 the ad hoc committee met for a final time to review the draft vision and mission statements in preparation for sharing these with the SLWB committee on January 19th, 2022.

Subsequent Steps: January 2022 – Spring 2022

As outlined in the June 9th, 2021 engagement plan, during February through March 2022 staff from Educational Services and Employee Services will work with representatives from VESTA and VEPVPA to develop strategic plans that support implementation of a K-7 Music program over time. This will include considering such aspects as space and staffing considerations, delivery models, resources/supplies, professional learning, curriculum development, implementation timelines and budget implications through years 2 to 10.

In the Spring of 2022, District staff will provide a summative update on work completed on the first recommendation of the Music Review to the SLWB committee.

CONCLUSION:

A subsequent summary of progress is scheduled to be reported to the SLWB committee in the Spring of 2022.

This report is provided for information.