



Official Trustee

Mike McKay

Senior Leadership Team

Peter Jory
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Nicole Bittante
Secretary-Treasurer

Carl Cooper
Director of Instruction, Curric. & Innovation

Dianne Ballance
Director of Instruction, Student Learning

North Okanagan-Shuswap Synopsis

Highlights of the March 13, 2018 School District No. 83 Board Meeting

District Calendar

The calendar for the 2018-19 school year was approved by Official Trustee Mike McKay at the regular meeting of the board on Tuesday at the DESC.

At the meeting McKay approved the calendar, which remained the same as the draft except for a change on January 28. This date was to be a semester turnaround day, however the decision was made to take it off the district calendar and have it later determined by secondary schools (which are the only ones affected).

Mindful of the March 30th deadline to have the calendar to the ministry, McKay noted that although the full 30 days of consultation are not quite over, he didn't feel an extra-ordinary meeting needed to be called. "I will pass it tonight. I am requesting that the Superintendent and Director of Instruction alert me if there is anything of substance which would cause us to make an amendment. We have the ability to make adjustments if necessary but the 'big bits' of the calendar won't change."

The first day of schools will be September 4, 2018. Winter break will be December 24 to January 4 with students back in session on Monday, January 7, 2019. Spring Break is March 18 to March 29 with students back in session on April 1. The final day of school for students is Thursday, June 27, 2019.

Jory said the district received comments on the survey from 129 parents, 43 employees and four students. He noted some parents and some employees questioned the placement of winter break, but that is actually one of the dates set by the Ministry.

He noted both parents and employees had comments for and against having professional development days tied in with long weekends (clustering), to give a slightly longer time off. There were also some suggestions on various placements.

He added there were several comments about the number of professional development days. He noted many years ago the school year was expanded so the professional development days could be included during the year with no loss of instructional time.

There is an exception this year as the Ministry added one extra professional development day for curriculum implementation.

Selling excess property

McKay also gave approval to initiate a 30-day public consultation period to dispose of 4.7 acres of property (with one permanent structure and three modular buildings) located below Shuswap Middle School, off of Okanagan Ave.

Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Bittante noted that the original intent of subdividing the property off of SMS was to declare the excess property surplus to the educational needs of the district and to sell it. "As enrolment is increasing and many of the downtown Salmon Arm schools are at or near capacity, it is prudent to ensure that this property would not have any educational value before disposing of it."

Bittante and McKay both noted that due to the topographical nature of the property (steep north west slope, four prominent benches and a trail system) it would not be conducive to expansion of SMS or educational purposes.

With McKay's approval the district will now follow the steps set out by the Ministry for disposal of excess property. This includes the 30 day consultation period, adopting

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a Board Bylaw declaring the property surplus to the needs of the district, consulting local government, getting approval from the Ministry and then listing the property for sale at fair market value.

A tentative date of April 10th has been set for the public meeting.

During question period North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Association President Brenda O'Dell questioned if any thought had been given to how the disposal of this property would impact traffic flow at the school.

McKay responded they had looked at it. "The patterns and congestion at Shuswap Middle School is bad now and when some of the bus route adjustments are made it will likely get worse. My request to Nicole (Bittante) and Trevor (Bettcher) is that they meet with the city to make something better and different."

Transportation Changes

McKay reported that a transportation working group meeting was held yesterday and discussed some of the pressures on the district's transportation system and the recommendations coming from the transportation department to deal with the pressures. He noted over the years routes have been extended, accommodations have been made, and now there are eligible riders who can't get on the bus because courtesy riders have filled it.

"One of the concerning things that I heard is that in one instance the bus routes is 45 additional minutes each way because of add-ons."

He stated that work is now being done to "resize and re-adjust" routes and make recommendations on reshaping transportation. These recommendations will be presented and discussed at the April 11 meeting of DPAC. The recommendations will then come forward to the board for consideration.

"When we 'right size' this, there will be some advantages and some costs. Some people will not be happy. But we just can't afford to do it anymore," McKay added.

National Day of Mourning

Schools will be asked to include some type of announcement or activity to raise awareness around worker safety to mark the National Day of Mourning on April 28. Because the 28th is a Saturday, and the 27th is a professional development day it was decided that some type of activity or announcement should take place in schools on the 26th.

Tammie Koroluk, CUPE representative and a member of the district's Occupational Health and Safety Committee, spoke passionately about embedding some form of annual learning/educational activity in schools and at the district level in recognition of the day.

She said her family has personally been affected by this as her aunt, who was a flagger, was killed on the job. "We are asking that some time be set aside on the Thursday (April 26) to talk to our students, the future workers, about this important topic and provide them with information on work safety."

McKay agreed this is important and proposed that principals be asked for a commitment to do something at their schools on the 26th and to ensure teachers have access to resources on this subject. He added that information should also be put on the district and school websites.

Education Performance

A comprehensive program to track student achievement, and interventions which will be put into place if students are not keeping up or are drifting away, will be a district focus reported Jory at the meeting.

Jory showed the six year graduation rates of overall students and of Indigenous students for B.C. as well as for Central Okanagan, Greater Victoria, Sea to Sky and Kootenay-Columbia school districts. In just over a ten year period these districts have substantially improved their six year graduation rates for all students and for Indigenous students, as well as closed or in one case even eliminated, the graduation rate gap between all students compared to Indigenous students.

"These districts have one thing in common, a comprehensive program to track students."

Jory then showed SD83 results which over the years have been above provincial averages but have "softened a bit". He said the drop is a concern and he wants to focus on it.

"I'm putting it out there. Our intention to improve our six year graduation rate and to close or eliminate the gap for Indigenous students. I think it is very do-able."

"I appreciate the fact that we are having this conversation publicly," stated McKay. "We need to get a focus and do good work. Those school districts have achieved those good results because they have a culture that focuses on relentless improvement. We need to do that as well."

This data can be found at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/systemperformance>

Healthy Schools initiatives

Building relationships with community partners, offering programs for students and resources for teachers are just of the few of the things that keep Laura Paiement, the school district's healthy schools and self regulation co-ordinator, busy.

Paiement, who's position is funded by Interior Health Maternal Child and Youth Programs and the school district, updated McKay about the program at the board meeting on Tuesday.

One of the focuses of the district is healthy eating, physical activity and social-emotional wellness. She highlighted a couple of the activities going on in those areas including updating policies on nutritional and sexual health education, organizing activities for schools such as Move and Groove Challenge, G.O. 30:30, and The Zones of Regulation.

She discussed a popular program which was piloted at Sorrento Elementary last year, dubbed Cook it, try it, like it! "This is a five week cooking program developed by Interior Health Dieticians along with the revisions made by Sorrento Elementary teachers when they piloted it last year," explained Paiement. "It's been a huge hit and the bins are booked until the end of the school year. Kids want to learn how to cook."

Paiement talked about the ongoing efforts for the district's composting and recycling program as well as Outdoor Awesome (a program facilitated by outdoor learning teachers which has travelled to every area except for two, Falkland and M.V. Beattie, which will happen this spring).

She is also doing a physical literacy series and in-class professional development for interested teachers on Teaching Dance for Understanding, and self-regulation.

Paiement stressed the importance of community partners and how these partnerships have benefitted students. Partnerships include Shuswap Local Action Team-CYMHSU collaborative (parent education sessions, the now opening Wellness Centre at Sullivan Campus, professional development for SD83 staff), the bike club (bringing back Bike to School), grant writing with numerous community agencies (for potential \$100,000 for at-risk youth and preventing violence against women), SASCU rec centre (family snow show night and professional development for teachers for physical literacy), public health nurses (health fairs and healthy schools activities, DASH school readiness, healthy living days), and Service Clubs such as Sorrento Lions and Shuswap Rotary, who have made substantial donations.

Paiement commented Shuswap Rotary donated 13 brain bikes to SD83 students and have now committed to another \$20,000 to \$40,000 for brain bikes by September 2018.

McKay thanked Paiement for her inspiration and enthusiasm and for helping the district create an organic, dynamic learning environment where kids can thrive. "Your excitement and passion is contagious."

Policy update

McKay approved 11 new policy initiations, all in preparation for a new board of trustees to be elected this fall. The policies will set out the Role of the Board, Board Delegation of Authority, Monitoring Board Performance, Trustee Code of Conduct, Trustee Conflict of Interest, Trustee Remuneration and Expenses, Trustee Professional Development, and Trustee Attendance.

Bittante, in initiating these policies, noted the district's current policy manual does not include a lot of policies that she, and other associations, feel should be in place to guide trustees in their role.

She added the next three policy initiations are being required by the Ministry and need to be in place by the end of June, these are Budget Reporting and Monitoring, Accumulated Operating Surplus (Reserve), and an Audit Committee.

McKay said he was happy to see the Ministry putting some of these things in place. "You will remember that it was my suggestion as I looked at the Watson recommendations that some could be handled at the Ministry level, in the absence of that we need to address these others ourselves."

McKay also gave first reading to a policy on student suspensions. The policy sets out that the district's philosophical statement around student suspension. The policy, in part, states The Board recognizes that, from time to time, it may be necessary to suspend students from educational programs as part of a progressive discipline model and relies on its Superintendent, or designate, to administer this discipline in accordance with Regulation 1030.01 Student Suspensions. It is expected that other strategies will be used whenever possible, and that suspensions will be issued for only the most serious behavior infractions.

First reading was given to a policy on Employee Hiring Practices. This policy sets out the philosophical piece, with regulations being developed for each employee group, Jory explained to McKay.

A policy on Field Trips and Travel also received first reading. The Board of Education of School District No. 83

(North Okanagan-Shuswap) recognizes that student field trips and travel can be beneficial in enhancing curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs and provide opportunities for students to develop their intellectual, social, and physical capabilities. The Board recognizes its responsibility in ensuring that students and staff travel in a manner that is safe in accordance with the administrative regulation (8030.06R) on field trips.

Again, Jory noted, the district has a regulation but no philosophical policy to attach with it.

February Operating Fund Projections

Bittante updated McKay on the year end projections for the operating budget, or the so called "burn rate".

She noted that as year end approaches, the projections will be more accurate, but at the moment she is projecting a \$1.4 million surplus. "Hopefully we won't have to spend any more in the snow removal budget," joked McKay.

Announcements

To start off the meeting Jory reported that district student Natalie Wilkie, who is competing at the Paralympics in Korea finished sixth in her first race and won a bronze medal in her second! He added a race viewing party is being held at the SASCU rec centre on Friday for another of her races and everyone is invited to come out and show their support for Natalie.

He also noted that A.L. Fortune's Grade 8 Concert Band received a coveted invitation to MusicFest Canada, an invitation only event. "Unfortunately it is in Toronto and they are unable to attend this year but it is good for two years so perhaps they will be able to attend next year."

Jory mentioned that another successful district elementary art fair, the 24th wrapped up last week. He added on the Wednesday over 300 students had the opportunity to take part in workshops with local artists. He expressed his thanks to the artists and to organizers Corrinne Langston and Jeff Abbott for all the work that goes into providing this great opportunity for students.

Jory was also happy to announce that the Student Wellness Centre at the Sullivan Campus of Salmon Arm Secondary is opening Thursday from noon to 3:30 p.m. He added the official opening is planned for April 5.

Next meeting

The final day of school before Spring Break is March 16. Students head back to school on Tuesday, April 3.

A public budget consultation meeting will be held Monday, April 16th at 6 p.m. at the DESC.

The next regular meeting of the board will be on April 17 at 6 p.m. at Eagle River Secondary in Sicamous.