



The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Official Trustee, Mike McKay **DATE:** 11 October 2018
FROM: Reid Findlay
RE: Proposal for Offering Online Performing & Athletic Arts Courses through EOP

Issue

The Education Outreach Program has been addressing the local need for community-based performing arts courses for over a decade, and expanded to include students from around BC last year. This was done through Independent Directed Study (IDS.) We have an opportunity to partner this year with Coilean Arts Inc. to offer 23 performing arts courses, which meet the new curriculum. These courses were created by Will Cullen - a 2008 grad who earned the top performing arts student award at PVSS - and in consultation with a retired EOP teacher. After graduating from PVSS, Will went on to do a Musical Theatre Degree in Toronto followed by an MA in Classical and Contemporary Theatre in Glasgow before returning to the Okanagan, where he is now eager to share his knowledge with students.

The following online courses have been developed by Coilean Arts Inc. and would be available for our exclusive use through licensing options similar to what we currently use with our e-Dynamic Learning course offerings at EOP:

Studio/Club Supported On-Line Courses

- Dance Foundations 10
- Dance Technique & Performance 10
- Dance Company 10
- Dance Foundations 11
- Dance Technique & Performance 11
- Dance Company 11
- Dance Foundations 12
- Dance Technique & Performance 12
- Dance Company 12

Fully-Contained Online Courses

- Dance Choreography 10 *
- Dance Choreography 11 *
- Dance Choreography 12 *
- Dance Conditioning 11 *
- Dance Conditioning 12 *
- Drama 10
- Drama 11
- Drama 12

Studio/Club Supported On-Line Courses (continued)

- Theatre Company 10 **
- Theatre Company 11 **
- Theatre Company 12 **
- Musical Theatre 10
- Musical Theatre 11
- Musical Theatre 12

* denotes courses that are under development and projected to be released in November 2018

** denotes courses that are projected to be released in January 2019.

Background

Many students across British Columbia are involved in a community program in the performing and athletic arts: dance, skating, gymnastics, theatre. In addition, there are students living in remote communities in BC, who would like to develop performing arts skills and knowledge, but they simply are not available within their community. This provides two distinct opportunities for an on-line performing arts program at the grades 10-12 level:

* those who have some support in their local community for training, and;

* those looking for full instruction in a particular art form.

Most performing arts teachers, studios, skating clubs, etc. are unaware that the students they are working with could be receiving high school credit for their work. Probably most students are unaware also. There are currently very few, if any, self-contained online performing arts courses available across the province.

There is a great opportunity for School District No. 83 to meet that need, especially given the BC Ministry of Education has added several new performing arts courses to the curriculum (see attached.) Our retired teacher from EOP has worked for more than a decade in offering IDS courses for performing artists and athletes and is very proficient in the development of the plans and management of the process, but it won't be necessary to use IDS courses with this licensing option moving forward.

Options

The online courses that have been developed are aligned with the BC Renewed Curriculum. As such, any of the Grade 10 course offerings are eligible for use this school year. The Grade 11 and 12 course offerings are also aligned with the Renewed Curriculum in our province, but course codes will not be

available for these courses until July, 2019. As such, we are engaged in conversations with the Curriculum Branch around using Board Authorized/Authority courses (if necessary this year) for what will *become* provincially authorized curriculum starting in September, 2019. While we recognize and support that BAA course offerings should not significantly overlap provincially authorized curriculum, this curriculum does not yet exist. In this regard, we are very much ahead of the curve with the changes that are being planned provincially with the performing arts curriculum and we are looking for some creative license for innovation from the Ministry. We await their response.

Option B would be to phase these courses in as they become available for use. If that was what the Curriculum Branch requests, we will only offer the full slate of Grade 10 courses this year, and those Grade 11 and 12 courses that have a course code equivalent in the “old” curriculum. This would include Dance Technique and Performance, Dance Choreography, Drama, and Musical Theatre. In the 2019-20 school year, we would offer the full range of courses outlined above.

Analysis

Our retired EOP teacher has been working with studios and dancers for over a decade. In recent years she added students working with community theatre organizations and BC skating clubs affiliated with Skate Canada. The numbers have increased dramatically year after year, having started with 1 studio and 5 students, last year our Education Outreach Program ended up with over 200 course incidences between approximately 60 dancers, 2 actors and about 10 figure skaters. She worked with about 8 studios and 3 skating clubs. There is no reason to expect there would be fewer course incidences with this program. All of the growth occurred through word of mouth.

There are over 100 dance studios in BC alone. We are committed to informing students in BC of this program, so numbers should increase this year as well. It is also important to note that students who registered with EOP for dance, also often registered for PE 10 and Careers 10. There were even some dancers who chose to become full-time DL students with EOP in order to facilitate their dance training.

It is my opinion that a partnership with Coilean Arts would position the Education Outreach Program to be the DL Performing Arts School for the province.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this briefing note be received by the Official Trustee as we are seeking approval to enter into a partnership with Coilean Arts to be our distributed learning curriculum provider for offering these Provincially Authorized Performing Arts courses, subject to the conditions outlined above.

Respectfully submitted,

Reid Findlay

District Principal
Careers & Distributed Learning