

COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE III – EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012

Committee Report to the Board, December 3, 2012

The Committee met to discuss the following items:

1. YouthCO – World AIDS Day

The Chairperson began the meeting by acknowledging World AIDS Day is December 1, 2012 and proceeded to welcome and introduce C. O’Gorman, Peer Education Manager, YouthCO. She gave a brief presentation about YouthCO.

YouthCO runs a variety of peer education programs and offers workshops that are youth driven involving youth providing support and prevention/education to other youth. YouthCO can customize workshops for educators and service providers who work with youth. They provide sexual health, harm reduction, and Aboriginal youth focused education workshops for schools, alternative programs and various youth events, creating an informative, fun, learning environment.

YouthCO can help schools determine what program and workshop is best suited to their group. If budget is a barrier for a school or organization, they will offer workshops at a reduced cost or for free.

C. O’Gorman invited committee members to attend a performance by the Forum Theatre Troupe called “Movement” at an open house on December 1, 2012.

This item was received for information.

2. 2011 CommunityLINK Activity Report

The Chairperson welcomed R. Bergeron, District Principal, Alternative Programs, Community Schools Team, Inner City School and J. Land, Supervisor CommunityLINK & Alternative Programs, Learning Services.

R. Bergeron referred to the memorandum dated November 22, 2012 entitled CommunityLINK Report 2011-12 and along with J. Land presented the CommunityLINK report to Committee members.

2. **2011 CommunityLINK Activity Report (continued)**

The CommunityLINK report is submitted annually to the Ministry of Education in order to provide a full account of the use of CommunityLINK funding. The grant to the district for 2011-2012 was \$8.761 million. Additional funding comes from outside agencies, including the United Way of the Lower Mainland, and parent contributions under the school meals program.

R. Bergeron thanked J. Land for her support in finalizing this report. He also thanked M. Evans, G. Clark, Community School Coordinators and A. Yiu, Teacher for attending the meeting and for their incredible and valuable hard work.

In answer to questions from Committee members, the following information was provided:

- o CommunityLINK funding mainly provides lunch programs and breakfast is occasionally provided;
- o the Logic Model helps to refocus the work, identify gaps, and align resources;
- o collaborating with inner city schools, community partners and principals gives opportunities to identify those gaps where individual schools need additional funding;
- o additional one time grants will be provided this year to support the fourteen Inner City Schools, and to other schools that do not usually receive grants from the program, to support vulnerable students. Funds will also be used to provide each of West 1 and West 2 an additional programmer, to provide programming support to students during school closure, to support staffing for the SACY program as other grants come to an end, and to provide bus passes to students;
- o the Restorative Justice Program is offered in four Vancouver high schools; and
- o a draft definition of vulnerability has been developed and is being used at Governance tables to guide the work of CommunityLINK staff to identify students who require additional support services. Further work is to be done in this area.

The Chairperson commended R. Bergeron and J. Land for their presentation.

This item was received for information.

3. **Suicide Prevention and Awareness Initiatives**

The Chairperson welcomed L. Pedrini, Social Responsibility and Diversity Manager, Learning Services. Referring to the memorandum entitled *Update on VSB Initiatives Related to Suicide Prevention and Intervention*, L. Pedrini updated the committee on current and planned VSB initiatives related to suicide prevention and intervention. She emphasized a strategy of developing positive relationships with students by focusing upon, addressing, and building resiliency in students.

The VSDC representative noted that the Peer Counselling Program at Hamber Secondary School is an initiative that is working well within the school. Many students find it easier and more comfortable speaking to peers regarding sensitive issues. L. Pedrini acknowledged that these peer program activities are recognized as being of value to students.

3. Suicide Prevention and Awareness Initiatives (continued)

Trustee Woo spoke to the motion which had been referred from the November 5, 2012 public meeting of the Board to Committee III, which read:

“Moved by S. Woo, seconded by K. Denike, that the Vancouver Board of Education request the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the Ministry of Health to work with trustees to:

- standardize best practice approach in schools to suicide risk management;
- adopt curriculum to build resiliency in students, social connectedness and recognition by students of potential risk for self-harm; and
- increase teacher's knowledge/skills so they have confidence in identifying suicide risk.”

She presented background information in support of the motion, outlining current existing best practices including collaboration with outside agencies, and referred to recommendations in the BC Coroners Services 2008 report. Trustee Bacchus presented two further recommendations for consideration in place of the original motion.

Following further discussion, the Chairperson requested an indication from trustees as to whether there was agreement to bring the original motion forward to the Board for consideration. A majority of trustees did not agree to bring the original motion forward. The Chairperson then requested an indication from trustees as to whether there was consensus to bring two replacement recommendations forward to the Board for consideration. A majority of trustees did agree to bring the two replacement recommendations forward to the Board for consideration.

1. **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT** the Notice of Motion presented to the Board on November 5, 2012 regarding suicide risk be replaced by the following two recommendations and that the following recommendations be approved:

3. **Suicide Prevention and Awareness Initiatives (continued)**

- i. **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT** the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) write to the Premier, Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Ministry of Health (MoH) to request:
 - Increased school and community resources to address the social and mental health needs of children and youth;
 - Increased support for improved integration of MCFD, MoH and MoE services to support children and youth, particularly in school settings;
 - Increased targeted resources and funding restoration for programs that support student resiliency, social connectedness and student awareness of potential risk of self harm. Examples of these programs include Roots of Empathy, FRIENDs for Life, MindUP, Second Step, SACY;
 - Increased support to fund release time to enable increased in-service training of school-based staff to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence in identifying children at risk of self harm; and
 - Specific funding to restore the VSB's Social Emotional Learning Consultant position (eliminated in June 2010 due to funding shortfall).

- ii. **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT** the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) write to the BC Press Council, the BC Association of Broadcasters and Canadian Association of Broadcasters asking them to adopt and ensure province-wide adherence to best practices for media coverage of suicide deaths, as outlined in currently available guidelines, such as the Canadian Psychiatric Association, the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention and the US Centres for Disease Control and that the board issue a news release calling on BC media outlets to comply with the guidelines published by the above agencies.

4. **New Business**

a. **World AIDS Day – December 1, 2012**

The Chairperson commented that there was consensus to support World AIDS Day on December 1, 2012 and this item will be forwarded to the next Board meeting.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Ken Clement, Chairperson

Committee III Members Present:

Ken Clement, Patti Bacchus, Fraser Ballantyne,
Ken Denike, Cherie Payne, Allan Wong, Sophia Woo,
Rob Wynen

District Management Present:

Steve Cardwell, Maureen Ciarniello, Rick Krowchuk,
Jody Langlois

Association Representatives Present:

Magdalena Kassis, VEPVPA
Ivy Leung, DPAC
Sylvia Metzner, VSTA
Doug Matear, VASSA
Ron Bergeron, PASA
Jody Polukoshko, VESTA
Dan Graves, VESTA
Nick Miliun, VDSC
Warren Williams, CUPE