

EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS STANDING COMMITTEE

NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting Notes: Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Meeting Attendance: Four trustees and five District staff members attended the meeting. Representatives of the North Vancouver Teachers' Association, and the Elementary and Secondary Administrators groups were also in attendance, as were interested members of the public and students participating in the initial presentation.

Meeting Notes:

The First Nations Website at Carson Graham School

Teacher, Chris Miller of the ITC Department at Carson Graham Secondary School, was accompanied by three students as he presented the work they had done to create a website at Carson Graham featuring First Nations themes and information. The website features course offerings, an events page, a gallery, useful links, a podcasting feature, and audio examples of the Squamish language in use. Though the website was originally developed by a number of female ITC students as an entry in a competition, the First Nations students at Carson Graham are now participating in the use and expansion of the website.

Updates on the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

Bea Silver, District Coordinator of Aboriginal Programs, gave a presentation on the composition and the activities of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee. Originally founded during the 2005-2006 school year to work on the development of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, this committee has been revitalized with a new sense that its task is to advise on, and further, the implementation of the Enhancement Agreement. The committee has identified relationships between the First Nations communities and the school district as well as the students' sense of belonging in our schools as the most important foundations for meaningful change. The committee has chosen a variety of strategies and is busy planning community events to advance these foundations.

Updates on the Special Education Service Delivery Model

Sue Altman, District Principal for Student Services, provided a presentation on current trends in Special Education, both in the province and in the school district, including Ministry of Education funding and numbers of students in the various fundable categories. She then touched on the four levels of services addressed in the school district's Special Education Service Delivery Model. She explained the composition of the School Based Resource Team and its role in the delivery of appropriate services to students with special needs. Ms. Altman concluded with information on the process of allocating Special Education Aide time to schools. A lively discussion ensued regarding the philosophy of Inclusion.

Threat Assessment

Ken Neale, District Administrator for Safe and Caring Schools, made a presentation upon the theme of students who make threats of violence, and the policies and procedures that must be established at school and district levels to deal responsively with such threats. Mr. Neale spoke of plans for establishing a district response team, which will liaise with the RCMP and Mental Health Services. He also gave details of the plan to deliver threat assessment training to all administrators and counsellors on October 16 and 23, 2007. Mr. Neale is currently assembling materials from other lower mainland school districts on policies and procedures regarding threat assessment and response, with a view to drafting similar documents for North Vancouver School District. Though there is currently an administrator's manual in use in the district, called *Managing Violent Incidents*, there is a need for further clarification and procedural detail.