

Program Diversity

Responses:

- ***Specialty academies***

- Maintain diversity to keep students in our school district; we have outstanding art, music, band and strings, and outdoor school programs that are of high importance to families
- If new programs or academies are created, they should be unique to all of North Shore (i.e. build program like Langley School of Fine Arts, Music)
- Keep current academies and do not start any more at this time.
- Have more trades academies and generate revenue by charging for their services (i.e. hairdressing; culinary program).
- Charge a realistic fee for specialty academies (i.e. Hockey Academy) to ensure that they 'break even', or generate additional revenue for the school district.
- These could be jointly funded with West Vancouver, if possible.

- ***Outdoor School***

- Outdoor School is a very worthwhile program that makes us unique. It is for everyone and needs to be protected. This provides the most memorable experience for our students.
- Promote Outdoor School (ODS) among other schools/districts and run it like a business to recover 100% of costs; charge more to outside groups, have better marketing, use for International summer camps, etc.
- Ensure minimum capacity (i.e. 90) for ODS when NVSD classes participate – use Family of Schools (FOS) model. Schools must be combined to support the operation.
- Consider an alternating schedule – 09/10 NVSD; 10/11 other districts
- Consider merging the Grade 3 and 4 programs into a single, 'multi-purpose' experience
- Increase the profile and mandate of the Outdoor School Alumni group to increase the financial support provided through bursaries and sponsorships.
- Outdoor School could be closed for a year to enable building/construction and could then be re-opened with a new business model
- Outdoor School is way too costly and should be closed. There are alternative means to achieve a similar experience without this high cost to the district. Put the operations (non-teaching aspects) out to tender; build a business plan
- Secure corporate sponsorship for the Outdoor School (i.e. Steve Nash Foundation, Jimmy Pattison)

- ***International Baccalaureate***

- Maintain current IB programs and don't expand at this time.
- The district needs to continue its commitment to support the introduction of the IB program. Make use of investment by sharing methods with other NV schools and other districts
- IB is a large cost and should be break even; money could be better spent on direct student services.
- IB is expensive; maintain current IB programs, but don't expand at this time
- Consider charging co-payments for IB fees.
- Offer IB certification to all teachers on Pro Day
- Increase marketing of IB to broader community

Program Diversity (continued)

- **French Immersion**

- Maintain current French Immersion programs as the program is a big draw for parents and students in our district
- French Immersion seems inaccessible; French Immersion needs to be reviewed.
- Consider the consolidation of French Immersion into a single track, or single track schools to strengthen the program and achieve cost efficiencies.
- How are the French Immersion programs resourced? Does French Immersion cost more than the English program?
- If Late Immersion will increase costs, perhaps hold off any expansion for now.
- Would a single track French Immersion program be more cost efficient and desirable?
- Continue with developing strategies to make French Immersion more viable and cost effective.

- **Alternate Programs**

- Alternate programs are essential as they provide supports necessary to keep 'at risk' and vulnerable students in school; they should be treated like other schools in terms of funding needs. Other districts don't have alternate programs, so our programs can be promoted in other districts and can become a source of revenue.
- Alternate programs are critical for at-risk children. We need to be smart about how we are meeting their needs; look at co-habitation, where appropriate to be cost effective.
- If we close an alternate program we might lose students to another school district.
- Alternate Programs should be consolidated with support from other school districts.
- We should re-evaluate the alternate programs (Third Step, YLC, KLASS, Windsor House, Therapeutic Day program, Distributed Learning; EsLha7an) to determine which should continue and which can be placed in schools that have space available.
- Consolidate the small alternate programs into existing programs or redesign the programs to support the needs of students within fewer programs offered in one location
- Keith Lynn and Windsor House should be retained, but look at options of reducing their numbers and consolidating them into other schools. Windsor House elementary students could be accommodated in an elementary school that has space.
- I believe we cannot afford some alternate programs; alternate programs should only be provided where there is sufficient enrolment and where they are cost effective; alternate programs should not be subsidized by reductions to the regular program.
- Discontinue the use of Lucas Centre, cancel Continuing Education programs (that are not profitable), and place the remaining programs and services provided into other buildings.

- **Other suggestions**

- Build on our current strengths, consolidate what we have and make sure the public and our parents know what programs we have to offer in our schools
- Some specialty programs (band and strings, outdoor school) are not sustainable with the current fee structures; increasing the fees to make them break even may make it impossible to support their continued operation
- Encourage all parents to get involved with their school and their PACs to support programs.
- Do not make Full Day Kindergarten mandatory (Ministry initiative) as not all parents want their child attending a full day of school at that age and it will cost the district more money.