



World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

**May 9, 2017**  
**Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer Report**  
*Presented at the Education Partnership Committee,  
 and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education*

My Education BC: Student Enrollment Numbers														
As of:	04-May-17													
Grade:	Gr.K	Gr.1	Gr.2	Gr.3	Gr.4	Gr.5	Gr.6	Gr.7	Gr.8	Gr.9	Gr.10	Gr.11	Gr.12	TOTALS
BAS														0
DL	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	0	3	5	2	2	9	39
EES	1	1	1	1	8	3	4	2						21
LESS	8	4	13	6	11	9	5	5	6	7	5	0	7	86
NES	15	23	20	18	27	23	17	33						176
NSS									29	28	24	25	38	144
<b>TOTAL Per Grade</b>	27	30	36	28	49	37	29	40	38	40	31	27	54	
<b>District Total</b>														466

### 1. Enrollment notes –

- There are three more new students since last month.  
 In sum, we are **up 20 students overall** since our September 30<sup>th</sup> 1701 count of 446 – an almost 5% increase in enrolment from the start of the year

### 2. New Vice-Principal for Edgewood and Nakusp Elementary Schools

- It is with great pleasure we announce that Mr. Brent Cook, will be joining the district as our new teaching Vice-Principal at Edgewood School 3 days per week, and Nakusp Elementary 2 days per week in the 2017-18 school year.
- A committed teacher with lots of truly rural experience, Brent comes to us from Dease Lake in the Stikine district where he has taught since 2011. Brent also served as Acting Principal for 3 months, as the principal designate throughout his time in Dease Lake, and was a Governor General's Award finalist for Teaching Excellence.
- Brent is excited about being part of our district, and has articulated in meetings with parents, teachers and trustees that SD10's district vision and goals resonate with him. Along with his wife, Karlee, their three-year old daughter and a new little one due in September, Brent very much looks forward to putting down roots in our community.

### 3. Rural Engagement Process and Draft Recommendations

- This provincial process of conversations about rural schools has now concluded and draft findings and recommendations have been circulated by Ministry staff to Rural Working Group members and their partner organizations – BC School Trustees Association, BC Council for PAC, BC Principals and Vice-Principals PA and BC School Superintendents Association
- Some of the draft recommendations include a review of the funding formula for rural and remote schools and districts, examining e-learning and bandwidth opportunities to ensure equitable access to education regardless of where students live, exploring greater opportunities for shared services, and support of use of school facilities by community
- The final report is due to be released at the end of the school year

#### 4. Youth Trades Capital Equipment Grant Update

- The district has been successful in receiving a \$219,000 this year and \$368,000 over three years to purchase school woodwork, metalwork and automotive shops and foods lab equipment at NSS and Lucerne, ranging from table saws and routers, to energy efficient fridges and stoves
- There is a recommendation on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting agenda that the Board consider taking funds out of shareable capital for the \$95,000 Lucerne Foods room renovation. Ministry Capital Branch indicates that this is possible. This would release an additional \$65,000 in funds to go into school trades equipment purchases and \$30,000 for AFG spending.

#### 5. 2017-18 Budget By-law Passed May 2, 2017

- The Board approved the 2017-18 school year budget in a budget by-law in the amount of \$8,881,288 at its May 2, 2017 scheduled Special Regular Meeting
- Highlights of the budget include:
  - District will use funds in the amount of \$329,330 from its accumulated surplus to balance the budget
  - As the district continues to come out of Funding Protection, our annual operating budget is reduced an additional 1.5% each year; increased costs for salaries, benefits and supplies also put pressure on the district budget
  - These cumulative operating grant reductions and increased costs have resulted in the board again making reductions to staffing and the budget
  - This year budget reductions include:
    - 1.0 FTE Vice Principal not replaced
    - 2.0 FTE teachers reduced (Collaboration time, Music teacher position, and .3 FTE teacher counsellor position)
    - 25 hours Library Clerk position at NES/NSS reduced
    - 37% reduction in external consultants for professional learning and related release time for teachers, and reductions in professional learning budget for all exempt staff and trustees
    - Reductions in energy cost budget and in budget for illness and sick leave casual/TOC replacements
  - There are also increases in the budget in these areas:
    - A 25 hour/week Education Assistant to further assist students with special needs
    - Increased bus run costs of about \$3500 to allow transportation of 6-11 students in the Red Mountain Road/Enterprise Creek area
  - Despite 2017-18 budget reductions cited above, our staffing calculations still provide for low class sizes (19 students is the highest class size at NES with 9 elementary divisions – the same as the past decade); 15 students is the highest class size at EES which continues with two divisions and a primary class of 5 students; 4 elementary divisions at Lucerne School for the growing elementary classes will have projected maximum class sizes of 21 students, and lower than provincial average class sizes throughout the district). We hope for CEF funding to increase secondary staffing and deal with class size and complexities at that level.

#### 6. Classroom Enhancement Fund Application re MoA

- Further to previous reports of an abandoned Board Policy 4010 potentially having sway over determining the “restored language” of the 2002 Collective Agreement, the District has sought a legal opinion on the matter
- As a result of legal opinion, the District was advised that the former Board Policy 4010 was never bargained, and therefore does not constitute restored language under the SCC decision
- Board trustees and senior staff met May 1<sup>st</sup> and the Board reviewed a new draft policy, Policy 501 (in place of former Board Policy 4010). Newly drafted Policy 501 comes forward at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting of the Board as a Notice of Motion, and in accordance with the Board’s Policy on Policy Development, will be distributed to our partner groups for input as do all policies developed by the Board.

- Lorna Newman, Director of Learning, Susan Brenna-Smith, Director of Finance, and Superintendent Taylor have spent many hours working on application for CEF funding, which is based on restored language and the costs to restore. The final spreadsheets were submitted to the Ministry on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and we hope to hear by the end of the month on potential 2017-18 funding.
- Though the Ministry provided the district “notional” funding in the amount of \$332,000 in Classroom Enhancement Funding, it now appears that this amount may be lessened. The Ministry has just issued another report and spreadsheet for the overhead cost portion of the CEF funding with clear criteria that this funding must be actual costs for recruitment of new teachers hired through CEF funding and well may be reduced significantly. SD 10’s notional funding was \$75,000 in overhead for recruitment.
- We are hopeful that we will be approved for CEF funding, but the district has chosen to take the cautious approach and not hire new teachers until actual CEF funding amounts are confirmed.
- Final CEF funding is based on September 2017 FTE enrolment and will be allocated in Fall 2017
- \$115,000 of previous SD 10 LIF funding and \$72,000 of Priority Measures funding is supposed to be included in the CEF funding amount for our district in addition to restored language funding

#### **7. Agricultural Land Commission Site Visit**

- A small team from the ALC visited the Fauquier School site in late April and met with Manager of Operations and Transportation, Art Olson and Director of Finance Susan Brenna-Smith to discuss the Fauquier School property and the District’s application for exclusion from the ALR in order that the property be divided
- Once an exclusion is granted, the District will pursue the next phase of planning and work to divide the former Fauquier School building off, with plans to sell to the community of Fauquier for a modest sum, whilst retaining a second lot that will be offered up for sale at commercial rates
- We look forward to hearing from the Land Commission on next steps

#### **8. Upcoming District Pro-D Day – May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm at NES**

- May 19<sup>th</sup> is our biennial Celebration of Learning
- Teams of teachers, EAs and PVPs will share their work as we celebrate education and learning in small-is-amazing SD 10
- The Board of Education will host a Staff Appreciation lunch recognizing all our staff and particularly those with milestone experience in the district

#### **9. Wetland Project Proposal**

- NES teacher, Anita Vibe has put forward a proposal to create a wetland in the forest area behind Nakusp Elementary School
- The Board has been forwarded the more detailed draft proposal for consideration

#### **10. Design Thinking Project Growing Innovation Presentation**

- This past weekend, Sheena Delong, our Design Thinking Project Coordinator presented on the initiative at the annual Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning Symposium at UBC Vancouver
- Sheena shared a short film trailer of the project created by local filmmaker, Isaac Carter as an introduction to the project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9U2PJ3MwmU&feature=youtu.be>
- A short documentary will also be made showcasing the entire year-long project, funded by our ArtStarts grant
- Rural Education Advisory co-chairs, Pat Dooley and Leyton Schellert wrote about the Growing Innovation Symposium, “This year, we asked that links be made to the renewed curriculum and core competencies. All presentations were thoughtful, passionate and reflected work that is truly making a difference, and work that others can learn from.” Bravo, Sheena and all the teachers, students and artists in our community for their amazing work on this project!