



SDIO SCHOOL DISTRICT 10
ARROW LAKES

World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

**November 24, 2015
Regular Board Meeting
Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer Report**

1. Routine Capital Funding from Ministry of Education

- The District is thrilled to announce that our routine capital funding application to the Ministry has resulted in funding for several high priority capital projects in the district
- Routine Capital projects represent a new funding system in BC begun this year and with a three year commitment from the Ministry
- Routine Capital funding, in part, acknowledges that smaller rural districts are disadvantaged through the AFG or Annual Facility Grant process as this funding in small districts, is not sufficient to deal with more than routine maintenance of district facilities or, at best, patchwork response to capital replacement
- \$339,400 has been approved by the Ministry of Education for the replacement of the 24 year old boiler and heating system at Lucerne School. Replacing this boiler has been an area of concern for many years, given that the cost exceeds our AFG funding
- On November 16, the district received notification of an additional \$245,400 approved for the purposes of installing LED lighting upgrades at both Nakusp Elementary, Nakusp Secondary and the School Board Office and Maintenance Shops. This funding will be key in helping the district replace our lighting system with more efficient fixtures and bulbs, thereby reducing energy costs for the district.
- This LED lighting grant, in tandem with the Lucerne heating upgrade grant, will provide much-needed infrastructure for the district which would have been impossible with our Annual Facilities Grant
- Finally – more good news! The 2008 district propane bus which has not functioned for many years, has been approved for replacement this year. The District will purchase a 20-26 passenger bus in replacement for this propane bus. We are responding to the input from our community which has suggested that the 72 passenger busses are often not filled to capacity. Most likely, this new bus will be used on the Edgewood run, as this run requires a tighter turning radius in winter and is rarely used for field trips of more than 26 students.
- And – 12 year old bus 4101 will also be replaced this school year. Given the major issues we have had this year with bus breakdowns and rising costs of repairs on our fleet, these replacement busses are fantastic news.
- The District is very grateful to the Ministry and to Treasury Board for allowing Routine Capital funds to be released to support rural districts. This funding for the boiler, the busses and the LED lighting will allow us to use our AFG resources more efficiently

2. Growing Innovation Grant received

- SD 10 is happy to have received *Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning* funding from the Ministry through the Rural Education Advisory Council again this year in the amount of \$2000 for a new project we've entitled ***Design Thinking: "Making" a Difference in the World***
- ***Design Thinking*** is a hands-on learning project involving 13 artists, artisans, makers and tradespeople in our communities who will work in classroom residencies of 2 days to 2 weeks with teachers and students across the district

- 70% of these artists, artisans and makers graduated from SD 10 schools, have grown their artistic and trades careers, and chosen to move back to our communities – a focus on exploring careers in the arts and trades that can allow students to return to their home communities is also envisioned.
- We have also applied for a \$10,000 ArtStarts grant to fund this project and will find out in December if we have been successful in this application
- Previous ***Growing Innovation*** projects in our district have focused on our signature pedagogy – place conscious learning. These projects have included ***Telling the Stories of the Nikkei*** <https://tellingthestoriesofthenikkei.wordpress.com> ***The Values of Doukhobor Community: Then and Now*** <http://www.ruralteachers.com/gallery/gi-images/doukhobor-videos> , ***Reconciliation Through Art*** <http://sd10.bc.ca/reconciliation-through-art/> , ***A Place of Peace and Belonging***, and ***Rocking the Page*** <http://rockingthepage.sd10.bc.ca>

3. Post-Secondary Partnerships and Research Grants

- There is an increased interest from our post-secondary partners in BC to work in collaboration with the K-12 sector across the province and study educational practice
- SD 10 is participating in several applications to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) where our post-secondary colleagues will research district educational work
 1. UBC is applying for a 5 year major SSHRC grant which will study amongst other aspects, the impact of the ***Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning*** initiative. SD 10 has received funding and done these projects since the initiative began. Dr. Leyton Schnellert will be conducting this research which aligns with his current work with the district.
 2. Selkirk College, along with College of the Rockies and Okanagan College, is applying for a 3 year SSHRC grant with the aim of studying Workforce Development through the Columbia Basin Rural Development Initiative and has asked for our partnership to examine K-12 rural workforce development <http://www.cbrdi.ca/kootenay-workforce-development/>
 3. University of Victoria researcher Dr. Catherine McGregor is leading the SSHRC research of Inquiring Districts – a consortium of 15 districts across BC which use inquiry to impact student learning. The district will submit a case study overview on our district professional learning teams as one of our key inquiry practices.

4. SD 10-Healthy Community Partnership to Support Learning

- The District and the Healthy Community Society of the North Slokan Valley are working on a shared use partnership agreement
- The Society has been very proactive in applying for grants and providing infrastructure for students and community at the Lucerne School including the school garden, the school greenhouse and most recently, the joint Farm to School programs at Lucerne
- Many thanks to the Society for their leadership and vision in working side by side with the school and community to create powerful learning experiences around horticulture, sustainability, food security and nutrition

5. Minister of Auditor General Report on Aboriginal Education

- A report on Aboriginal Education in K-12 Education in BC was just published by the Office of the Auditor General
- Though results for Aboriginal learners in the province have improved, there is a need

- to continue the work to ensure that there is equity and access for Aboriginal learners
- The report also identifies that the Ministry of Education must work more closely in the future with Superintendents and Boards of Education in indigenous learning
- <http://www.bcauditor.com/pubs/2015/audit-education-aboriginal-students-bc-public-school-system>

6. Economic Stability Dividend for Teachers and Support Staff

- CUPE support staff and teachers will enjoy an additional .45% wage increase due to the government's payment of an ESD this year
- Economic Stability Dividends are paid as part of the negotiated Collective Agreements of both teacher and support staff unions by the government
- ESD is paid each year of the Collective Agreement if actual real GDP growth is one percentage point above forecast real GDP growth, then up to a 0.5 per cent wage increase would result beyond whatever wage increase had been negotiated in the contract and will be covered by the government rather than districts.

7. Exempt Staff Compensation Update

- The District has submitted to BCPSEA, a report on current and projected Principal and Vice Principal salary increases once the Exempt Compensation freeze is lifted
- Exempt staff have had no increases since 2009
- Up to 2% increases effective July 1, 2015 and 2% effective January 1, 2016 may be approved by PSEC (Public Sector Employer's Council) and if so, must be covered from within district budgets
- Increases for other exempt district staff may be considered by PSEC in the future

8. Education Transformation Update

- This 15 member committee with all our education partners meets next on December 3rd from 1 pm – 3:30 pm at the Board Office
- The Committee will recommend how our 10 hours of additional New Curriculum Support time will be allocated in this school year

9. Fauquier School Update

- December 1st we will hold an evening community meeting
- BC Hydro informs that they are not able to provide sewage hookups to any prospective lots in Fauquier
- As a result, a ROWP (Registered Onsite Waste Professional) will be engaged to assess potential lot layout based on septic regulations

10. November 23rd Pro-D day

- Carole Fullerton (Numeracy) and Leyton Schnellert (Engaging Diverse Learners and new Curriculum) worked with all district teachers and Education Assistants Nov 23rd
- Teacher comments ranged from "*The new curriculum is becoming more concrete for me*", and "*I learned about how important it is to create inquiry learning projects where students are asking the questions*", to "*Thank you for providing the opportunity to attend Carole's workshop ...it was as though I had just found my "math glasses", and put them on. I could see before, however, with the math glasses in place I could see even better...I was able to see how I could tweak certain aspects of my teaching to present some concepts in a slightly different way. The more tools we have in our toolboxes, the more likely we are to find ways to help those students who are building their own toolboxes.*"