

- Information on three Ministry grant opportunities were received September 19th
 - Superintendent has submitted applications for a \$5000 Skills Access grant and a Shoulder Tapper Grant
- A grant of \$29,563 is intended to provide coding curriculum support for teachers, and resources and support for teachers and students

Coding Curriculum Implementation

- All students between grades 6-9 are to be involved in 15 mandatory hours of learning about and doing computer coding beginning September 2018
- The \$29,563 grant is to enable districts to get teachers ready for teaching this new coding curriculum
- Plans to implement teacher professional learning about coding are to be collaboratively planned with the teacher's Union and submitted to the Ministry by mid-October
- Teacher Union President, Ric Bardati, and Superintendent have met a couple of times to discuss how best to provide this support and learning, and the matter was also discussed at last week's ALTA/Board Liaison meeting
- The Ministry provides two options: have two lead teachers attend regional two day fall and spring "Train the Trainer" coding learning events in Trail, or develop an in-district plan for building teacher capacity and support in teaching coding
- Student learning about coding is already taking place in a number of elementary schools in the district through learning about robotics using Arduino kits, school involvement with the GLOWS program and the Robo-Games, and also a new SET-BC Coding initiative in Grade 4 at Nakusp Elementary
- We look forward to growing opportunities for our students to learn relevant hands-on skills in coding and our teachers to grow their learning in teaching coding integrated into the Mathematics, Science and Applied Skills and Design Technology curricula

4. Transportation Funding

- Our recent application for Ministry funding to support student transportation has been approved for \$42,675
- Three initiatives will be supported by this funding:
 - 1) Transportation assistance for Kindergarten children attending part days as they transition to Kindergarten
 - 2) District Van Use for Curricular and Extra-Curricular Field Studies
 - 3) Enhancement of Curricular Field Studies Trips
- Examples of recent curricular field studies trips include:
 - NSS Environmental Studies trips to Cody Caves (geology) and Nakusp Hot Springs (water studies)
 - Burton Academy Outdoor Education and Entrepreneurship students Ground Search and Rescue helicopter training and overnight camping Swift Water Rescue training
 - All Lucerne Secondary students Rock-Climbing field studies at Skaha Bluffs near Penticton integrating mathematics, physics and Aboriginal learning
 - NES classes camping at Burton School as they study ethnobotany
 - Edgewood intermediate students studying forestry and silviculture in Arrow Park as they learn alongside NACFOR foresters
 - Arrow Lakes DL students learning team-building skills and physics as they rock-climbed at Slocan Bluffs

5. Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

- School and district leaders worked with Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser examining the new Ministry

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

- School Growth Plan conversations with staff using the Spiral of Inquiry will take place over the next few months given new school leaders at each school with Growth Plans presented to the Board for approval in the spring
- District Plan for Learning is in process – 2016 data is being analysed by the Director of Learning and Superintendent with the aim of presenting a draft report to the Board by November's Board meeting

6. SEP (School Enhancement Program) Funding

- We are delighted to have received confirmation from the Ministry that our \$140,000 heating and ventilation upgrades at Nakusp Elementary and \$146,000 heating and ventilation upgrades at Burton School have been approved under the SEP program
- This funding will make substantive improvements to energy efficiency in both schools!

7. Strong Start Review at Lucerne – October 6th and 7th

- The district has two Strong Start Centres – Nakusp (35 children) and New Denver (29 children) and one Outreach Strong Start which serves children in Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood (total of 28 children). Registrations usually increase over the first few months of the school year.
- A very successful review of the Lucerne Strong Start was held on October 6th and 7th
- Four researchers from the University of Toronto's Atkinson Foundation conducted the research using focus groups with parents, individual interviews with school and district leaders, ECE and Lucerne teachers and Strong Start parents
- Superintendent of Early Learning, Maureen Dockendorf and the researchers highly commended the district for excellent early learning practices in the Strong Start program
- Kudos to Charlene (Bean) Alexander for her leadership as an early childhood educator
- It was also noted by the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer in the review, that Strong Start funding is a major challenge: the Ministry grant has not increased in over ten years since Strong Start Centres began, whilst wage and benefit costs as well as utility costs have continued to grow each year
- In both SD 10 and other districts across BC, the funding provided by the Ministry, is now not adequate to provide for the level of service we are extending to parents and their young children for early learning
- The district will be examining options in regards to funding shortfalls

8. Casual Bus Driver Shortage

- Despite advertising for casual bus drivers, and interviewing and hiring three new drivers over the past month, the district is struggling to fill bus shifts for field trips due to lack of drivers
- Two of the new drivers have been unavailable for extended periods of time and the third has since resigned
- Professional drivers with Class 1 certification are being sought
- In the interim, as Manager of Transportation and Operations, Art Olson, and Executive Assistant, Michelle Grenier try to creatively fill the many fall field trip requests, the district would like to thank our Regular CUPE bus drivers for their flexibility, and thank CUPE for their understanding and support!

9. Ministerial Order re: SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) compliance

- The Minister of Education has advised all school districts that Board policies and School Codes of Conduct must comply with and have language citing that there will be no tolerance for bullying or

discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity

- Schools are reviewing and updating their Codes of Conduct and the Board Policy Committee is reviewing all relevant policy to ensure compliance by December 31st as mandated

10. LGBT2QA++ Policy and Protocol

- These documents have been shared with all Principals and Vice Principals to discuss with their staff regarding any feedback
- Will be distributed to SD 10-All for comments and feedback prior to November 8th Board Meeting
- Lunch hour sessions with interested secondary students will be held at NSS and Lucerne in early November to gather any feedback or input; DL students will be invited to NSS meeting