

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL OKANAGAN – SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23**

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT – December 12, 2012

With **21,300 students** and close to **3000 staff members** associated with our **42 schools**, the Central Okanagan School District is a large and complex organization. As the 5th largest School District in the province, we are proud of the many initiatives we have underway and the many successes we have enjoyed this past year.

A major accomplishment during this time was the increase of our **Graduation Rate to 86.5%**. This continues a trend line that has been on a positive upswing since we were stalled at 76% from 2002 until 2006. What is also encouraging is the increase in our **Aboriginal Graduation Rate** by **8%** over the previous year, taking us to **68.9%** for this group of students. We now have Graduation rates in all categories that are well above the Provincial averages.

The reporting of student achievement was provided to the Ministry of Education through the **Superintendent's Report on Student in Achievement** in January 2012 and in the **Achievement Contract** in June of 2012.

Each year the Chairperson of the Board of Education provides an **Annual Report** to the District and larger community on the accomplishments of the previous year. In this year's Report, the focus is placed on the actions taken by the Board of Education that have directly impacted students.

In May of 2012, the Board approved a **District One Goal Statement** to align with our Attributes. The overarching goal we established was that:

“Each Central Okanagan School District student (K-12) will provide evidence of being a learner, thinker, innovator, collaborator and contributor.”

Bringing this goal to life in our School District has already begun in our schools.

At our Public Board Meetings, Trustees **recognized many students** for their various accomplishments and successes in music, fine arts, athletics, technology, community service, applied skills and entrepreneurship.

Student Leadership continued to thrive in the Central Okanagan during the past year. In June the District Student Council provided a report to the Board on the initiatives they implemented in 2011/2012. In October 550 students and 49 chaperones participated in the **Free the Children – Me to We** event in Vancouver that was approved by the Board. As a result, great enthusiasm was generated amongst students and staff to raise funds toward local and global programs.

The Board of Education also gave strong approval in support of the District's intent to host the **Canadian Student Leadership Conference in 2014**. This has resulted in a large committee being formed to lead this initiative in our District.

Various **public consultation meetings** were conducted including:

- The Budget consultation process
- The Long-Term Facility Plan zonal meetings (5 in May and 3 in October)

Board members also **participated in various events** including the District Science Fair, Rotary Club/School District No. 23 Public Speaking Contest and the Graduation Requirements Dialogue Community Forum.

A number of **reports** were considered by the Board to enhance the learning of our students, including the Comprehensive Health Promoting Schools Annual Action Plan and the Early Learning Report looking at vulnerable children becoming thriving Primary Readers.

The Board also approved a modification to the existing **Soccer Academy** at Mount Boucherie Secondary School and a **Hockey Canada Skills Academy** at Kelowna Secondary School. Also approved were two **Board Authorized Courses – Yoga and Fitness 11** at Kelowna Secondary School and **Rugby 12** at Mount Boucherie Secondary School.

Support was provided to **students performing** in the 35th Annual BC Interior Jazz Festival and the outstanding middle and secondary student artwork on display for Art in Action at the Kelowna Art Gallery.

The Board passed several **new and amended Board Policies**. One that specifically focused on students was Board Policy 486 – Student Use of Electronic and Social Media Communication.

To enhance services to parents and students, the Board approved a 50% reduction in the **Student Transportation Charge** for all students using the School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) transportation system.

To provide support to our most vulnerable students, the Board approved allocations through **CommunityLINK** and the **Learning Improvement Fund** which included funding for the new Collaborative Model of Support to replace the former Achieving a Necessary Future Program.

The Board of Education also approved aspects of the **Long-Term Facility Plan** to attempt to meet the needs of each student and support the development of the whole child, academically, emotionally, socially and physically through a series of **educational recommendations** to help provide 21st century learning environments in our schools in the future. The recommendations included:

THAT: The District work towards the long term goal of phasing in a consistent grade configuration in all areas of the District with K – 5 elementary schools, Grade 6 – 8 middle schools and Grade 9 – 12 senior secondary schools.

THAT: When planning for construction of new schools, where appropriate, the enrolment capacities fall within the following sizes:

- Elementary schools – 350 to 500 students (optimum 400 students)
- Middle schools – 500 to 800 students (optimum 650 students)
- Secondary schools – 1,200 to 2,000 students (optimum 1,500 students)

THAT: The French Immersion middle school program be decentralized to provide greater accessibility to French Immersion middle school students in outlying areas of the District, provided that the program is sustainable in terms of enrolment, location, form and cost.

THAT: Early Learning Programs be provided at regionally located schools, and wherever possible, at those schools that have been identified through the Early Learning Development Indicator as those schools that have the greatest need. The location of any Early Learning Program must be sustainable in terms of capacity availability, enrolment, location, form and cost.

THAT: To serve the diverse educational needs of students, distinct schools, unique programs and specialty academies be supported, provided that the specific program is approved by the Board, the program operates within the parameters of the School Act, there is available space, qualified staff and evidence of student demand, and the program is financially feasible and sustainable.

Subsequently, the Board of Education passed a series of **zonal recommendations** in the Long-Term Facility Plan with the intent of supporting students for many years to come in the different regions of the School District.

I wish to thank our senior staff and all employees for the exceptional work they do on behalf of our students each and every day. Also, thank you to my fellow trustees for their commitment to the strategic guidance and oversight of our School District. You should be proud of your

efforts on behalf of the students, parents, staff and community members of the Central Okanagan. We will continue to lobby on behalf of public education in our district and province as we move into the second year of our term as trustees.

Rolli Cacchioni,
Chairperson
Board of Education – Central Okanagan School District No. 23