



Media Release

Highlights of October 10, 2017 Board Meeting

Gay Straight Alliance

Teacher Christine Danroth attended the meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, October 10 to describe the history and current activities of the Gay Straight Alliance at Charles Hays Secondary School and Pacific Coast School. These clubs, which are changing their name to GLOW (Gay, Lesbian or Whatever) provide a safe place for students with a variety of gender expressions and identities and other students who support them. A higher proportion of these students participate in risky behaviour and inflict self-harm, so the GSA has advocated to provide these students with a variety of supports. The designation of gender-neutral washrooms in all district facilities has helped these students to feel welcomed in their schools.

The students have participated in the rainbow pathway project and in fundraising endeavours that support the club's activities. The club is currently working towards "Safe Place" stickers for businesses in the city.

"The Board was very appreciative of the work of the staff who support the Gay Straight Alliance clubs" said Board Chair Tina Last. "We look forward to their ongoing efforts to ensure that all students can attend school free from any form of discrimination."

Implementation Day

On September 22, 2017 – the district's Implementation Day – all education staff spent half of the day in a workshop with Monique Gray Smith, an international speaker, consultant and award-winning author. Ms. Gray Smith provided a powerful session highlighting the importance of healing and resilience. For the other half of the day staff worked in their schools, with a focus on the new curriculum, assessment practices and the importance of a growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset.

New Employee Orientation

The district held a new employee orientation on October 5, 2017, with invitations out to 41 new employees in the district. For the first time this orientation included not just new teachers, but also new support staff and exempt staff. Senior staff welcomed everyone to the district, informed them of district services and through fun activities allowed people to get to know one another.



Teacher Mentoring

Utilizing funds approved by the Board in the 2017-18 budget, a teacher mentoring program is now underway in the district. Eight new teachers and eight mentoring teachers had their first meeting on Monday, October 2nd, clarifying the mentoring model & process. The district is hopeful that other new teachers will form a second mentoring cohort.

Enrolment

Preliminary enrolment at September 30, 2017 was 1,991 students. This compares to 1,999 students at September 30, 2016 and is slightly above the district's forecast of 1,981 students.

Included in total enrolment are 146 Kindergarten students at September 30, 2017.

NWCC Renaming

At the meeting on October 10, 2017 the Board of Education considered a request for a letter of support for the Northwest Community College for their proposed new name, Coast Mountain College. Trustees discussed the ongoing challenges the school district has been experiencing with the college and the apparent consolidation of service in the Terrace area. In the view of the Board, the choice of the new name does not adequately represent the Northwest region and it was noted that the new name directly aligns with the Coast Mountain School District. The Board moved to have the Chair write a letter in opposition to the proposed name change.

Policy Committee Work

1 policy was approved by the Board of Education to be sent to partner groups for feedback:

7410 Audit Services Policy

3 policies were approved by the Board of Education to be updated in the policy book:

3520 Disposal of Land and Improvements Policy

3530 Disposal of Surplus Assets Policy

6250 District Parent Advisory Council Policy



To ensure that approved policies will meet the needs of the district's students and staff, the Board welcomes feedback from partner groups on draft policies.

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