

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report March 15, 2023

Following are some highlights from the Board of Education meeting held on March 15, 2023.

Staff reported to the Board that District students had a very successful showing at the Skills Canada Regional Competition held at Okanagan College in Kelowna on February 24. There were 42 Jr. competitors and 5 Sr. competitors from OSS, 28 Jr. competitors from SESS, and 2 Sr. competitors in Culinary from SOSS. 1 team from OSS and 1 team from SESS will be attending Provincial Skills in Abbotsford in April with teachers Boyd Turnbull and Lukas Toth accompanying the students.

Staff also reported that the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program will be starting in September 2023 with a target of 5 students in our cohort. As mentioned previously, we will be partnering with Okanagan College to deliver a blended program of some online education, and some face-to-face instruction. Students will be working on classes online 2 days per week and will be attending face-to-face classes 1 or 2 Saturdays per month at the Okanagan College campus in Penticton. Students will be taking 3 courses towards the ECE program and will be granted ECE Assistant upon completion of these courses.

Additionally, there are currently 24 students enrolled in Dual Credit programs including Academic and Trade related Dual Credit programs. Trades training remains the program that has the highest enrollment with 19 students, and 4 in Business, and 1 Emergency Medical Responder through the Justice Institute. The District is looking to expand the program with seats in Medical Office Assistant, Nursing Unit Clerk, and Health Care Assistant.

The District Pow Wow is taking place once again this year in SD No. 53. It will be hosted by SOSS on April 21 and 22 in the main gym. On the 21st, all grade 4's from the District will be invited starting at 10:00 am for 2 hours. Invitations for this event are also being shared with Boundary School District, local Band schools, Penticton secondary schools, Princeton High School, and the PIB adult group. The Smoky Valley Drumming Group is joining us from Chehalis (Fraser Valley) to be the lead drum. The fundraisers for this event have been very successful and we would like to thank all who have come out to contribute.

The Board was presented with and approved the 2023-2033 District Strategic Plan. The creation of this plan over the past year was informed by over 30,000 data points and was facilitated by Stina Brown, an SOSS alum. Once the plan and graphic is finalized it will be distributed to schools and posted on the District website. Next steps will include for staff to establish short-term priorities, strategies and ways to measure and monitor progress. The Board would like to thank the students, parents, staff and public who participated in the consultation rounds for the plan.

Finally, the next Budget Consultation meeting for stakeholders/rightsholders will be on April 12, 2023 at 4:00 pm. This will be in-person taking place in the annex of the board office.

The Board would like to wish all students and staff a safe and enjoyable spring break!

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Zandee, Chairperson
School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)