

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report January 24, 2023

Following are some highlights from the Board of Education meeting held on January 24, 2023.

District staff reported that the Oliver SEY2K (Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Team) made its first visit to the Bhavsagar Sikh Temple. The purpose of the trip was to engage in early learning conversations with families. The team answered questions about StrongStart, pre-school, how to register for kindergarten and various activities available for families in our area. The team connected with over 60 families and 35 children and are already planning their next event at the Temple.

A second Pop Up Play event for Keremeos and surrounding communities was held on January 18. SESS students volunteered to help with the event where they served dinner for families, games, crafts for children, offered face painting, glow sticks and helped young children create a dance ribbon. Children were able to choose a book to take home with them. It is reported that by last count, 40 adults and 63 children participated in the activities. The next Pop Up Play is scheduled later in the spring in Cawston.

The career education programs such as Work Experience, Gateway to Technology, Train in Trades, and Professional Cook are all strongly subscribed programs and are very successful. In fact, through Train in Trades, in addition to Okanagan College we have students enrolled in Camosun College and 1 student travelling to Prince George for welding at the College of New Caledonia.

In addition to our trades programs, there are also 4 students enrolled in an Academic Dual Credit business program at Okanagan College. It is exciting and rewarding seeing our students succeeding at the next level while still in high school.

The Board would like to thank Nina Ruck and Jocelyn Burns for doing a wonderful job in the schools with the Work Experience program over these last few weeks in Rod Kitt's absence!

The Board discussed the 2023/2024 budget process and timeline and an initial meeting will be held February 16 to begin the process.

The Board received updated funding information for the 2022/2023 year and this information will be worked into the amended budget for this year.

Finally, the Board received draft Strategic Plan priorities from facilitator Stina Brown. The Board is pleased at the progress and process and looks forward to the next stages of development of the plan.

Respectfully submitted,

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