



## Month-End Report – September 2011

### Michael Strukoff

### Superintendent of Schools

#### EDUCATION

##### Bill 33

- The District is in compliance. School and District organization documents are attached. A separate motion will be required later in the agenda.

##### Professional Development (Staff)

- Several events around special education were organized in September. The Director of Instruction took the lead on these initiatives and her report will contain details.

##### District Initiatives

- Part of the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan was to investigate the implementation of video conferencing technology. This initiative could be used to reduce travel time for staff, trustees and the public in general. The technology could also be used to **leverage** course offerings in our secondary schools. A team of 4, (GFSS Vice-Principal, Shawn Lockhart, BCSS Principal, Louise Bayles, IT Manager, John Popoff and the Superintendent) traveled to Kamloops to meet with staff, observe a lesson and check out the hardware. I will add additional background at the meeting.
- Active Transportation: Our Healthy School Co-ordinator continues to pursue this initiative through discussions with the City of Grand Forks and the Department of Highways.
- The use of online courses in three of our schools is running into challenges – Walker, GFSS and BCSS all have an interest in using this program delivery. More teacher support is required. Different avenues are being explored.
- SD 51 has invested in one licence for a collaboration and engagement application – THOUGHTstream,

THOUGHTstream is the only collaboration application that combines the simplicity of email with the structure, accountability and engagement of a facilitated process. This Software by Subscription system provides leaders with the tools they need to gather ideas, make sense of the results and prioritize. Participants provide their input via a simple application ensuring independence, efficiency and high participation rates. Principals will be receiving their first training on the use of the software on October 28, 2011.

## Literacy

- The fall District assessments have not gone forward this year. LRB has specifically ruled that as part of their job action teachers are not required to do the assessment. Nevertheless, some teachers have made it part of their normal assessment practice. The assessment materials were made available to interested teachers.

## **Ministry Initiatives**

- Kindergarten Assessment – the Ministry is investigating with the hopes of developing initiatives around Early Learning such as assessment, intervention, professional development. Districts are being polled around their practices in this area.
- The Ministry held a meeting on September 6 for Superintendents to continue the ongoing dialogue about personalized learning. [Click here](#) for the support document. [Click here](#) to see video of the conference. It is broken up in sections so you do not have to view the whole conference,

## **Job Action**

- Job action has been in effect for 5 weeks.
- Open communications between the union and school and District administration has prevented the development of any serious disagreements.
- Early dismissal has been cancelled and secondary school open houses have been cancelled.
- We will be approaching the first report card cycle at the secondary level – this will not be happening
- There are a number of extracurricular sporting activities taking place in the District with teacher and principal involvement
- Grad fund raising at GFSS is being sponsored by the administration team along with parents and students
- Our school secretaries have taken on additional tasks as a result of the job action and I thank them.
- Our principals and vice-principals have filled the supervision gaps in our schools and have done a tremendous job maintaining relationships with the different employee groups on their staffs and keeping the schools operational.

## **Meetings out of District for the Superintendent**

- Monday, October 3, BCPSEA Meeting on Negotiations, Vancouver
- Friday, October 7, BCSSA Board Meeting, Vancouver



Video conferencing NorKam High

Play Dough is a go at BWCS

