

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 63 (SAANICH)

EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Chairperson: Trustee MaryLynne Rimer

Committee members:

Trustee Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Trustee Allan Collier
Tom Vickers (SAA) – elementary
Carly Hunter (SAA) – middle
Karen Flello (SAA) – secondary (regrets)
Barb Schultz (COPACS)
Sean Hayes (STA)

Administration: Marlene Dergousoff
Nancy Macdonald

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 3:00 pm

Other Attendees: Stu Rhodes, Career Counsellor, Stelly's
Wendy Walker, Career Counsellor, ILC
Mark Fraser, Principal, Parkland Secondary
Kevin White, acting SAA Representative (secondary)

A. PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

1. Overview of Trades Awareness, Skills and Knowledge (TASK) Program – Stu. Rhodes, Wendy Walker
2. Parkland update – Nancy Macdonald, Mark Fraser

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Education Directions Overview Calendar Review – Nancy Macdonald

C. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

No Items

D. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. The following research projects have been approved:
 - “S, OXHELI LE LTE E T IÁ ÁNEC (Our Sacred Teaching of the Past Today)”, submitted by Melissa Austin
 - “The Way I See It: Theatre Students’ Perception on a Performance Based Class” submitted by Laura Angrove

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Academy proposals (deferred to January 10, 2012)
2. BAA courses (deferred to January 10, 2012)
3. SIDES update (deferred to January 10, 2012)
4. Superintendent's Report on Achievement (January 10, 2012)
5. FSA Letter to Parents (January 10, 2012)
6. Green Team update (January 10, 2012)
7. Student Advocate update (deferred due to job action- future date to be determined)
8. Curriculum presentation (deferred due to job action – future date to be determined)
9. Enhancement Agreement update (deferred due to job action – future date to be determined)

NM/hg

Saanich Schools

BRIEFING NOTE



To: Education Directions Committee

Prepared By: Wendy Walker and Stu Rhodes
Career Counsellors

Subject: TASK Program Proposal

Date: November 8, 2011

TASK Program Proposal

TASK stands for Trade Awareness, Skills & Knowledge

Saanich School District has a well established practice of supporting students with a trade interest or focus as part of their personal education plan. We also do an excellent job of supporting traditional academic learners. However, there is a group of students whose needs are not being met within our Saanich communities. Many of these disengaged students have undiscovered potential and could benefit greatly from a tangible learning environment where they learn by doing; a place and a program where they can explore a variety of interactive learning activities through exposure to a host of trade areas. And, an opportunity to have their learning truly personalized since part of their program can be uniquely customized to suit their newly developed interest and needs through participation in a training practicum at a real work site in the community.

Saanich School District currently has comprehensive trade training programs for over a dozen different trade areas. We have been recognized around the province for our innovation and successes. One of the key factors in our approach is our 3-prong vision for any trade bound student. The components of the approach are:

1. the student successfully graduates
2. the student successfully completes level one technical training for his/her chosen trade
3. the student becomes indentured to a community based employer

This model sets a student up for success and for a seamless transition from school into the world of work, with an ongoing commitment to continuing education. They plan how and when to return to a technical training institution for successive levels of training in their craft.

The **TASK** program is a pre-trade training program that we plan to offer in partnership with Camosun College and the Pauquachin First Nation. The program will expose students to fundamental skills in at least 8 trade areas as well as preparing them for the culture of the work place and entry into that work place. The program is consistent with the 3-prong vision for trade bound students in that it still has graduation as the primary goal, some level of trade training as second goal, and entry into the work force as the third goal. It is also consistent with our other trade training partnership arrangements because there are clear benefits to all parties, especially to the student who will find him/herself positively launched in a fresh direction upon successful completion of the program.

What is Camosun offering?

- sampling of curriculum from modules with up to 12 different trade areas to choose from
- access to the CORE (Construction Orientation & Retention for Employment) curriculum and accompanying resources
- financial support for an instructor in the amount of \$37,000
- 4 dual credit courses which translates to 16 credits toward graduation upon successful completion of the program

Why is Camosun offering this program opportunity to us?

The ITA, various ITO's, and Camosun College all recognize there is going to be a significant shortage of skilled trade workers in the foreseeable future. In a proactive move they are taking steps to encourage exploration and sampling of trades by providing an opportunity for students to engage in experiential learning. Camosun would like to build capacity within their own organization and sees this as a means of reaching a more diverse and potentially non-traditional demographic of learners.

What's in it for Saanich School District and its learners?

Potential benefits to the Saanich School District will include an increase in our graduation rate as some disengaged learners will re-enter the school system and gain an opportunity to earn essential credits toward regular or adult graduation. This program promises to improve grad rates by also retaining some students who may be disenfranchised with school but become revitalized through participation in experiential and tactile learning activities that are more meaningful and relevant. Students will benefit by developing employability skills that will help them transition smoothly from school to work. A further advantage to students may be the discovery of a career area they can get excited about as well as the development of foundational skills to be employed in that trade area. Evidence suggests that this sort of excitement has a spill over effect which encourages students to be more successful in future scholastic endeavours. This will ideally include further engagement in trade specific training programs at Saanich schools or at the post secondary level.

Who are our partners?

Camosun College has been a long standing partner in numerous trade training programs and have offered us the curriculum, an instructor, access to other related resources, and a great deal of flexibility to pull the program together in a manner that meets the needs of the student participants and our school calendar. As we worked on developing the program we needed to identify a group of students who would benefit from this innovative educational opportunity. We also needed to house the program in a facility

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Walker and Stu Rhodes

November 2011 Education Directions Overview Calendar

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