

GOLD TRAIL
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Gold Trail News



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JANUARY 29, 2010

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Partners in Education,

In Gold Trail over the last few years we have worked to build our capacity as a system to create healthy social school environments by focusing on teaching and learning strategies that create cultures of belonging, such as the Learner Support Model and a focus on differentiated instruction. Recently, our focus on restorative practices has resulted in a common framework for promoting social responsibility through teacher, staff and student interactions that set clear boundaries for behavior by viewing every interaction as an opportunity for teaching healthy human interaction.

Gold Trail has adopted restorative practices as a way of dealing with discipline and improving school culture. Training in restorative practices was offered to all of our school staffs in the last year, and we are already experiencing positive results from changing our approach to dealing with challenging behaviors at school.

Instead of responding to behaviors in a punitive fashion or having zero tolerance responses to negative behaviors, restorative practices turns every situation into a learning one. This approach provides some control and some support to encourage positive behaviors and places the responsibility on the students themselves.

The district has tracked the number of days missed from school due to suspension and have found a dramatic decrease this fall since we have adopted this restorative approach. A focus on system-wide approaches to supporting the social development of every learner moves us closer to an authentic learning environment based on *care and appreciation for all students, their families, and communities.*

Pat Pearce, Superintendent

Board Highlights

The Board of Education, School District No.74, held their fourth meeting of the school year at Ashcroft Secondary School.

Highlights from the January 26th meeting of the Board of Education include:

- Brent Close, Ashcroft Secondary teacher and three students, Brandon Johannsson, Kristyn Dost and Richelle Rondquist provided a short presentation on the challenges and the successes of Shared Instruction and video conferencing.
- Trustee Casper spoke to the Director of Instruction's report on student achievement. The theme for this month is Social Responsibility. Social Responsibility is the ability of individuals and groups to respond within socially and culturally appropriate boundaries.
- Trustee Casper spoke to Gold Trail's 2010 full day Kindergarten implementation and the government's commitment to support 22 students.
- Trustee Ranta spoke to the 2010/11 Annual Budget consultation process. The board is planning opportunities to gather input from staff and communities about their priorities for student programming in preparation for the anticipated funding reductions.
- Trustee Rempel spoke to the School Closure Consultation Process. At the Special Open Board meeting on January 14, 2010, the Board passed a motion to consider the Superintendent's recommendation regarding Lytton Elementary School and the restructuring of Kumsheen Secondary School for 2010/11. This will now begin the Consultation Process as outlined in Policy No.9.10 "School Closure". The final decision regarding any school closures must then be made by Bylaw no later than April 30. Meetings with the Bands, school staff, the Village of Lytton, Lytton PAC, GTTA and CUPE have been arranged in the community of Lytton. The Public Forum is to be held on February 16th in Lytton Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.
- Elections for 2010 positions of BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Representatives were conducted. Congratulations to Trustee Ranta (BCPSEA) and Trustee Rempel (BCSTA) who will serve again in these positions.
- The following policies were given Notice of Motion to adopt: Policy 7.10 Code of Conduct—CARRIED, and Policy No.1.40 Trustee Remuneration—DEFEATED.

Quote from the Chair

" The Board of Education has been advocating a restorative approach to behavioral challenges for some time. We are pleased that fewer school days are being missed through out-of-school suspensions. We strongly believe in supporting our students at school so they can be successful. "

**~ M. Varcoe-Ryan,
Board Chair**

Our MISSION

is to create a dynamic and supportive learning community that inspires and enables all students to achieve their potential.

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