

Daryl@Shelley Clarke

From: "Clarke, Shelley" <SEClarke@summer.com>
To: "Lindsay, Lloyd" <LLindsay@summer.com>; "Bowles, Cathy" <CBowles@summer.com>; "Smitten, Miles" <MSmitten@summer.com>; "Holowaty, Roland" <RHolowaty@summer.com>; <dclarke@shaw.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 10:49 PM
Subject: Trustee Report
Good Evening Everyone

It has been a very long and busy month at the Board Office. Some highlights of the final budget are.

- Reducing school supply, equipment and travel budgets 10-12%
- Reduce funding for Roots of Empathy, cultural performances, Arts and Science in Harmony and Provincial Competitions.
- Reduce learning agenda, Flex Funds, Helping Teachers, and Interventions.
- Reduce one Director of Instruction, One VP Position.
- Downsize Custodial, Maintenance, one position each and .5 secretarial

The technology department in our school district has done a very good job developing income sources with other partners. They have contributed a large amount out of their upgrading and equipment fund. This is not something we can draw on every year as we would put that revenue source in jeopardy.

The Board has made a great effort, as much as possible, to leave the Special Needs Budget untouched, and services in the classroom unchanged

The provincial government has already announced that it will be freezing funding for next year, my fear is that if we face deep cuts next year we will be affecting our learning agenda greatly. Items on the table that may have to be considered for next year,

- Cuts to Special Needs programs
- Elementary School closure in Penticton
- Charging bus riders a fee

I was hoping parents would consider contacting their MLA in regards to funding for Education and Children's Services. What I know is the Government has enacted legislation to make it more difficult to fund education, sports and extra-curricular programs in our Province. The government has said all schools, including High Schools, must remove junk food from Vending Machines. The revenue from these machines funded sports programs to a great extent. Our sports programs may be in jeopardy if another source of revenue is not found.

The government also gave teachers a raise in their last contract, but they have refused to fund School Boards for these extra costs. That money comes directly out of our schools.

The Government has also not taken into account inflation or the escalation of children with Learning Disabilities

I truly believe the government listens to parents, case in point playgrounds: BCCPAC lobbied the government for playgrounds and shortly after funding became available.

Enough of budget, other items discussed where

- The superintendent gave a report on the influenza situation, we have no cases in the area but the Ministry has said we must close a school for a week if any cases show up. We are also using this as a teaching moment for hand washing.
- We have requested funding in our capital plan to rebuild Summerland Sec. Gym
- The contract for the Pen High parking lot has been awarded. The Buildings and Grounds Committee reconsidered alignment of the tennis courts to allow for a bubble. The tennis Club has approached the Board for a partnership.
- Guidelines for maintenance projects was provided to the committee for information*

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- Two Strong Start Centres have been awarded to Carmi and Columbia
- The Celebration of Student Achievement is Tuesday, June 2, 4pm
- Please register your child for kindergarten if they where born in 2004
- Our new Superintendent, Wendy Hier, will be touring our District May26 and 27th
- The Board was informed by the Minister that transportation was not mandatory, that if we chose we could supplement our budget by charging riders

I also attended the D-PAC Meeting on April 27th. Laura wanted to remind PAC' to think about getting their applications for gaming together soon. Also PAC' are being offered 2 packages each for the Summer Leadership Conference. The Chair or Principal should have the appropriate applications.

For all parents, teachers and administrators please feel free to contact me by e-mail seclarke@summer.com or phone 250-809-7779 if you have any questions, concerns or celebrations.

5/26/2009