

SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 (SAANICH)
EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Report to the Board of January 17, 2024

Committee Members:	Trustee Silzer, Chair Trustee Vandall Trustee VanWell
Staff Support:	Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovation - regrets Paul McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent
Partner Representatives:	Leila Sinclair-Wise, SAA - Elementary Don Peterson, STA Candace Whitney, CUPE - regrets COPACS - regrets
Other Attendees:	Chair Dunford, Trustee Elder, Trustee McMurphy, Jason Reid & Peter Westhaver

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
3:00 pm

A. PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

1. Beacon Community Services connections with the community and school district Elaine Venables and Tricia Gueulette shared a celebration of the strong and groundbreaking partnership between Beacon Community Services and the Saanich School District.
2. Literacy Feedback from student voice
Peter Westhaver, Paul McKenzie and Carly Hunter shared feedback from the latest student voice meetings.

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No Items.

C. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

No Items.

D. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Committee received a presentation and report for information on 2023/2024 School Plans from Paul McKenzie and Melissa Austin.

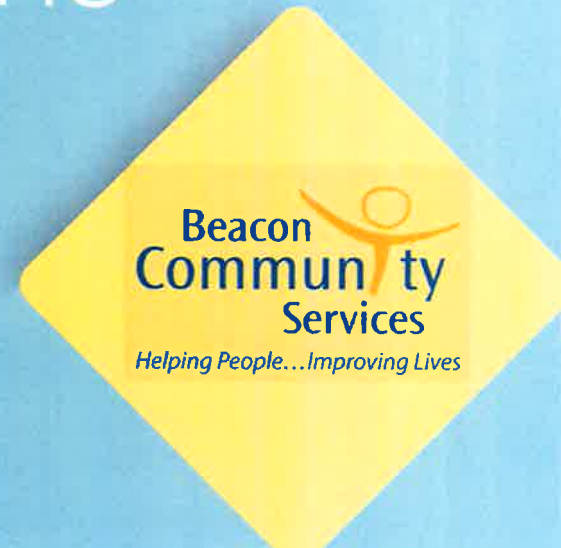
E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

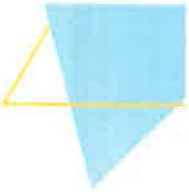
School Plans – February
Data sharing around strategic plan goals – ongoing
Student Voice Feedback – ongoing



School District #63
Education Directions

Committee





Land Acknowledgement

Beacon Community Services respectfully acknowledges that we live, work, and serve on the traditional and unceded territories of many Indigenous Nations, including the W̱SÁNEĆ people, and the ləkʷəŋən - speaking peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Beacon Community Services' longstanding commitment to those we serve, including our staff and volunteers, is to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples and cultures to better understand how we can strengthen relationships and move forward together with care, love and respect.

AGENDA

1. About Beacon
2. Partnership with SD#63
3. Partnership Success
4. Future Possibilities

About Beacon

- Established in 1974 – 2024 marks our 50th anniversary
- Initial creation focused on offering available counseling to Peninsula based individuals and families
- Has grown from a small group of volunteers to a team of over 280 employees and over 500 volunteers
- First agreement with SD#63 was 1990
- Committed to offer wrap around services to the Peninsula and Southern Vancouver Island
- Focus on strengthening partnerships throughout the CRD



About Beacon



A complex and diverse portfolio of community and social service programs



Annual revenue budget of approximately \$21.7 million



Approximately 280 employees and 500 volunteers



Revenue supplemented by Thrift Shop revenues and donations



Strong balance sheet



Solid relationship with funders

Partnership with SD#63



Services are designed to meet where the students and families are at and include:

- Licenced Child Care
- Young Parent Student Program
- Complex Behaviour/FASD Services
- Early Years Services Youth Outreach (MCFD)
- Parenting Programs
- Food Security



Partnership Success



- Strong information sharing to meet students and families where they are at
- Collaborative and collective approach to adapt to changing needs
 - i.e. impact of cell phones and social media
- Amazing leadership and staff at SD63
- Commitment to student and family success



Future Possibilities



- Beacon has a strong commitment to enhance, grow and continue to offer services on the Peninsula
- Real Estate development partnerships and development
 - Housing priority mixed affordable tenancy
 - Child & Family Resource Centre
- Enhanced partnership with SD#63 with expanded services
- Sustainable service model

Thank You



@beaconcommunityservices



Beacon Community Services

Beacon
Community
Services
Helping People... Improving Lives

Literacy Student Success Student Voice Feedback

Intention: Gather feedback from a diverse group of student leaders throughout the district to gain a deeper understanding of their needs and perspectives on each strategic goal



Literacy Goal

- Trustees and senior staff meet with groups of 6-10 students in every middle and secondary school in the district
- Meetings with Indigenous leadership students in each secondary school (except SIDES)
- Conversations are student led and fluid
- Begin with a short summary of the goal and then an opportunity to give written and oral feedback
- Themes established and shared

Observations

Students were engaged and passionate about the topic. Themes emerged from all schools that were cohesive



Themes

Student Needs:

- Clear guidelines/expectations
- Choice and flexibility
- Diversity in reading choice (BIPOC authors)
- Include different types of literacy (digital literacy)
- More agency in the support they receive
- Honest feedback

Staff Professional Learning:

- Work with teachers to more effectively support neurodivergent learners
- Help staff learn to offer more individualized programs for students because they learn at different rates
- Continue to support English First Peoples teachers to offer a diversity of resources including lighter options

Themes

Barriers

- Lack of Individual support
- Need to focus more support in early years when students are learning to read
- Need to listen to the voices of those who are struggling most
- Once you are behind, it can seem impossible to catch up

Authentic Community Engagement:

- Working with families to support literacy learning from an early age
- Connect with community supports to help with literacy