Strategic Priorities – Caring and Inclusive Learning Communities

Background Information for Question 4: Budget and Operations

Mandate of the B.C. School System

To enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.

The Educated Citizen

School districts must assist in the development of citizens who are:

- thoughtful, able to learn and to think critically, and who can communicate information from a broad knowledge base;
- creative, flexible, self-motivated and who have a positive self-image;
- capable of making independent decisions;
- skilled and who can contribute to society generally, including the world of work;
- productive, who gain satisfaction through achievement and who strive for physical well-being;
- cooperative, principled and respectful of others regardless of differences;
- aware of the rights and prepared to exercise the responsibilities of an individual within the family, the community, Canada, and the world.

Prime Goal of Public Education

- Intellectual Development
- Human and Social Development
- Career Development

Reconciliation Framework for Public Education

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This framework outlines the commitment for provincial government and public education on reconciliation.

Strategic Priorities – Caring and Inclusive Learning Commmunities

Responses to Question 4: Budget and Operations

The District must ensure that it is operationally sound and fiscally responsible while ensuring excellence for all students.

How could SD8 ensure this?

1. Focus on the support staff that keep the district operational sound, look at ways of decreasing the amount of administration in the board office
2. support inclusive education in lieu of the pull-put model
3. Keep our buildings up to date with more inviting spaces for students to learn (Trafalgar)
4. More financial support for Inclusion Support and district resources such as OT, SLP, and Psychologist (especially for Middle School and High School). More in school supports and work one-on-one with students with these specialists. The wait lists for our students are too long and prevent us giving the proper supports.
5. Technology and facilities are becoming outdated in schools and we need to budget for upgrades
6. To move back towards having Pro D face to face and not online. Connection is important amongst staff
7. Put money aside that could follow students with special needs who move school midway through the year.
8. more money for our most fragile kids!
9. More money needs to be spent on the adults who work directly with students. Have more EA's, ideally one for every primary classroom and have more adult support for students as they move forward.
10. Spend more money directly in classrooms: school and art supplies, TA's, field trips, sporting events and equipment. District is becoming too heavy with administrative roles.
11. Have enough maintenance staff in the schools so there is the time to properly address issues with prevention before they become major problems. Having maintenance staff that are well educated in ventilation, electrical, structural safety and maintenance and so on. Many of the structural issues over the past years have been the result of neglect or lack of inspection or maintenance bc there are so few maintenance workers. There isn't enough staff for there to be effective, proactive maintenance which in turn results in larger more costly problems. Issues that are needed because the quality of something is no longer good or needs improvement to benefit the students are left undone indefinitely bc more pressing things need to be addressed first

12. . Lead in pipes, asbestos in ceilings, heat that doesn't work, no air conditioning, toilets that plug, electric outlets that don't work, windows that don't open, no warm water in bathrooms, mold. Our government needs to provide more funding and administration needs to be more effective in reducing waste and overspending from expensive reactive decisions because of lack of organization and preventative maintenance because of lack of staff. So, more money more effectively managed. More awareness in administration of the everyday issues that end up being costly within each school. I've seen bussing cost twice what it could have if trips were better coordinated by the schools and district. I've seen flooding from toilets that then created moisture and mold issues in floors and walls when getting the toilet fixed with a$20 part that would have prevented the whole thing, but the few staff were too busy fixing more pressing issues. Not enough staff does not save money in the end. In any area of any of the schools.
13. More E.A support and funding
14. Move money from the top of the pyramid to the bottom, where the real help is needed. To the EA support staff that works with students one on one. How is it that they are paid so little and do the real work, while the members at the board level are paid five times more and rarely, if ever, interact with students???
15. Have the staff that is needed to support the learning outcomes and philosophy of the district
16. The student's education needs to be put first. They are the future of our society. We need to give the students what they need to succeed
17. Less senior management roles (specifically speaking to new roles in the last few years) and more EAs, Librarians, Counselors and on the ground support workers who directly work with students.
18. There has been a recent shift in EA support at schools. This has been a source of stress for parents and resentment to staff. Ensure all students have EA support EVERY DAY they are at school. Thx!!
19. More EA's!!! More teachers for overcrowded classrooms! More boots on the ground!!! Downsize the board office!!! There are way too many employees in that board office doing make work projects that are costly and deprive students of what they need which is more support via EA's and teachers. THIS IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN SD8!!! If you don't know how to run a district talk to SD20.
20. By having less staff in the Board Office, which would leave more of a budget for each school to hire more staff to provided enough supports to meet the learning, behavioural, and social emotional needs of each student.
21. Focus on early intervention and support for learners.
22. Make it a priority to have multiple adults in all elementary school classrooms at all times
23. Focus on mental health initiatives for all ages. This starts with self regulation for early learners

24. Increase support for teens through mental health professionals
25. Schools need to be a safe place for all learners. Other districts have policies in place that teams up each student with a safe adult (teacher or staff). That is the go-to adult the student can approach with any burden. The idea is that there is always someone a child can talk to.
26. Lower expenditures in other areas (such as district staff and trustees) and find tangible ways to support students directly.
27. The district could have less staff at the Managerial level and more support staff at the grass roots level, where the children are. Some priorities for spending you might consider: clean running water at Blewett Elementary, more EAs everywhere, the need is high, but especially at Redfish, high speed internet at Winlaw and Salmon and extra counseling services at Trafalgar where children struggle with bullying and peer pressure the most.
28. Increasing support staff, Educational Assistants and psychologists in particular. The students that have been diagnosed with a classification are losing the support meant for them to students that haven't been assessed.
29. I don't think that SD8 is ensuring excellence for students.
30. Psych ed assessments are a very long wait, EA support is almost nonexistent
31. Being honest about the needs of children rather than the funding that is available to them or provided to support.
32. Allow the school to apply for hardship funding on behalf of parents who are unwilling to do this themselves. Our lunch program is owed thousands of dollars for unpaid lunches. There is money available to pay for these lunches, but it can currently only be accessed if the parents themselves come forward to request it -- which many parents can't bring themselves to do.
33. Furthermore, please hire a secretary for Crawford Bay School! Ours has moved on to another position and the district has delayed hiring a new one, leaving us with no secretary despite multiple applicants from within the community. I believe that the secretary is an integral player in terms of ensuring excellence and fiscal responsibility, not to mention day to day operations of the school.
34. Ensure families with limited income are included in food and activity programs. Financial support for these families can come from other families and assistance fund.
35. Less management and more staff in schools. We need more people supporting students on a day-to-day basis.
36. Address students with unique learning needs. Inclusion support teachers and learning support teachers report that the higher their FTE, the closer they are to breaking in tears. Workload and the guilt they feel not to provide enough support to the student they're responsible for is wearing them down. One priority should be around inclusion support.