

# UBC research grant used to develop curriculum

BCSS teacher Linda

Dolezar recently gave a presentation to the school board about the Rural School Initiative that she has been working on. This UBC

research grant has been used to develop a curriculum that will include community partnerships to provide secondary school special needs students with opportunities to learn daily living skills and independence within the community.

Dolezar will be presenting at a UBC symposium in early May. An in-depth article on her project will be published soon in *The Times*.

BCSS science teacher Lisa Bata was also present at the board meeting, reporting on the newly offered Sustainable Resources 12. More coverage of this course will follow as well.

## SD 51 NOTES

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Boundary District Teachers' Association President Norm Sabourin took advantage of the pre-meeting comment period to make sure the board was aware of the union position on report cards. "The BCTF position is that the Labour Relations Board ruled last July that report cards did not have to happen under Phase One. Phase One lasted until spring break - so any reports normally due up until March 16 would be under Phase One job action ruling and the BCTF position is they would not have to make up those report cards."

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Under Superintendent Michael Stru-koff's report the board was told that the District Administration Team has decided to continue to use both PC and Apple based systems rather than switching to one

## or the other.

Regarding Bill 22, which legislated a cooling off period in the teachers' job action, Stru-koff reported things still in flux regarding report cards, extracurricular and other activities. "Conversations about report cards have taken place with the union and on April 5th teachers were sent a letter outlining the District's expectations regarding Spring Report cards," he said.

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The policy committee is busy, with a meeting held this past week to discuss employee guidelines for use of technology, more work on sexual orientation and field trip policies.

The board also directed the policy committee to develop policy outlining general directions for the district in regard to blended learning - using new teaching techniques and online technology.

## "Research shows that when you have

the two together - technology and the teacher - it's superior to either alone," said Trustee Vicki Gee.

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Under Bill 22 class size reporting requirements will change. Currently the superintendent reports at each board meeting if the district is in full compliance with class-size requirements.

At the end of this school year the Ministry of Education will no longer mandate those reports, though the minister will continue to report publically on provincial class sizes.

Instead the board will decide what they want to report on and how they will report on it and what it will look like. To accommodate that change the board has directed the policy committee to draft a reporting requirements policy re Bill 22.

# NEWS

SDS1

## SDS1 to update school roofs and purchase new bus

CASSANDRA CHIN  
Gazette Reporter

A district re-design was discussed at the last School District 51 (SDS1) board meeting (see page 3) here are some other news items.

### Updates to roofs

School trustees have passed a Capital Project Bylaw to proceed with plans to update school roofs and HVAC (heating ventilation and air conditioning) within schools.

"We need to pass a bylaw where 70 per cent of it is for capital and 30 per cent is for operating," explained Jeanette Hanlon, secretary-treasurer at SDS1. "Last year was the first year where we had to pass a bylaw because it was capital expenditures, which is \$397,374. Most of the capitol expenditures will be spent on roofing (and HVAC control upgrades)."

Supintendent of Schools Michael Strukoff added, "They're never done all at once, because some schools are added on so there are different sections that are different ages, which is why it appears in pieces."

Hanlon pointed out that even though

capital could be used elsewhere, most of it will go to roofing.

"We are able to spend money on other projects, but our plans have always been that we want to take care of our roofs so that we don't have problems in the rest of the building," she said.

The roofs will be updated at Hutton Elementary, Grand Forks Secondary School and Boundary Central Secondary School (BCSS) and will occur during the summer.

### New school bus

SDS1 passed a motion at the last school board meeting on April 10 to spend capital on the purchase of a new school bus for the next school year.

The bus will be a Bluebird bus and will use capitol monies of \$127,370,60.

"We usually have a few spares and sell the older buses when we get a new one," stated Hanlon.

There are 11 buses running throughout the school district, with four standby buses, two in the east and two in the west.

### Functional course at BCSS

BCSS was awarded a one-time grant to engage special education students in an innovative and interactive class.

Led by Dr. Linda Dolezsar, a teacher at



Dr. Linda Dolezsar

BCSS, the class looks at blended learning which involves face-to-face instruction, online learning, guided simulations and community experiences.

"These are students who are severely disabled so during my classes I was teaching functional curriculum on daily living skills along with independence in the community," said Dolezsar.

Dolezsar pointed out that the class engages the students and teaches them about social skills.

One of the community stores was McMynn's where students learned about expiration dates and checking the different products.

At Parkview Manor, the students learned about food serving etiquette, cof-

fee making and how to use the elevators.

"The expectation is to sustain it, which we can easily do but it was just a matter of getting it going," Dolezsar said. "The curriculum is so well developed now that we can just keep adding to it. I already have a whole bunch of people in mind to extend the partnerships out too."

Trustee Cathy Riddle noted, "It's exciting to see because we always say 'no child left behind.' Basically all the skills we take for granted are being offered to them."

Dolezsar will be attending a Rural Teachers symposium at the University of British Columbia on May 5 to present her findings.

### Facebook now public

SDS1's Facebook page is up and running for parents and students to "like."

By liking the Facebook page, the school board will be able to provide quick updates to parents and inform parents on what events are occurring at their child's school.

To "like" SDS1's Facebook page, visit Facebook.com/sd51boundary.

The next school board meeting is on May 8 at 6 p.m. at the SDS1 school board office.