

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, October 22, 2013

1. District Student Advisory Council (DSAC)

Prior to submitting their school's organization report to the Superintendent and a declaration stating that all classes are appropriate for student learning, principals have the responsibility to consider all factors deemed relevant for each class or division. In reaching an opinion as to whether or not a class with over 30 students is appropriate for

- Preliminary organizations, consultations and timetabling of classes loaded to meet the School Act regulations in terms of class size and composition—May to September 2013.
- School Act requirements for the organization of classes were reviewed with all administrators in late May, June, August and September 2013, with a special focus on the revised Section 76 requirements and Learning Improvement Fund implementation regulations.
- School-based principals provided a declaration to confirm that the organization of classes for their schools is in compliance with the provisions of the School Act and is appropriate for student learning.
- Report on the organization of classes in the school district for 2013/2014 submitted to the Board of Education October 22, 2013.

### Elementary Schools

There are fortyone K-7 elementary schools in the district each offering additional options and programs for students including band, music, and choir. A summary of the school organizations include:

- 574 K-7 enrolling divisions are at or below the allowable class sizes outlined in the School Act. There are no enrolling divisions which exceed the allowable class size maxima.

28 excluded or non-enrolling classes at the elementary level have more than 30 students, as noted below:

- 11 non-enrolling choir classes have received teacher consent. Music teachers consider large groups acceptable, and in many instances, preferable for choir instruction. Schools have created unique organizations to deliver these classes if it is deemed appropriate to have more than one teacher involved.
- 15 Grade 7 band classes have received teacher consent. Band teachers consider the organization to be acceptable and view the larger classes as a means of encouraging more students to join the program.
- 2 general music classes have received teacher consent.

### Secondary Schools

There are eight -32 secondary schools in the district each offering comprehensive curricular programs for students. A total of 2,753 classes are being delivered to students in secondary schools.

- 2,714 classes or 99 % are at or below the allowable class size limits outlined in the School Act.
- 39 classes or 1% exceed 30 students.

The reasons for classes exceeding thirty students vary from school to school however the rationale can be summarized by the following:

- The learning conditions were considered and are appropriate. All reasonable solutions to balancing class sizes were attempted. The best alternative available to meet the educational programming needs of the greatest number of students was followed.
- Band, Music, Dance and Choir are organized in larger classes to facilitate performances, support ensemble classes, and to encourage greater student participation. Past practice has taught us that these learning conditions are appropriate.
-

If it is determined that classes require learning supports above those regularly provided, the Principal, in consultation with the teaching staff, develops a plan and submits the plan to the district with their requests identified in priority order. The school plan is presented to the PAC president for further consultation. Support for learning must fit in one of the following categories:

- Provision of additional teaching staff, EAs and other paraprofessionals
- Additional teaching time and services to students
- Pro-D training of teaching staff to address challenging learning conditions
- A district reserve fund

After receiving the school requests district staff work with schools, consult with the BTA, DPAC and develop a district Learning Improvement Fund spending plan based on the highest priority requests, the available resource and district priorities. The 2013-2014 Learning Improvement Fund Spending Plan has identified the following expenditures:

Category of Support	Amount Allocated
Additional Teacher Staffing	\$1,064,109
Additional EA Staffing	\$ 904,070
Potential CUPE salary adjustment	\$ 2,990
Additional EA Time Adjustment	\$ 314,391
Professional Development training of teaching staff to address challenging learning conditions	\$ 119,540
District Reserve Fund	\$ 21,266
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,448,366</b>

District Reserve funds will be used to support learning needs that develop in the second semester as new students register with the district. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2014.

Recommendation: THAT the Board approve the Learning Improvement Fund Spending Plan as presented.