

MIDTERM REPORT TO SCHOOL DISTRICT # 20

December 15, 2010

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PROJECT SUMMARY

During the last couple of months of this project, the focus has been on research, community consultation, and proposal writing. We finished up the community education survey in mid-November, with some very useful results. We also worked closely with local media to regularly update the community of our progress. In late November we started working on a fundraising effort through the Aviva Community Fund.

A proposal has been developed outlining two scenarios for education in Rossland and a vision for education across School District # 20. These scenarios were generated using information from the survey, the community open house, and various stakeholder meetings and informal public consultation. This proposal will be submitted to the School Board and available to the public by December 17th. Our hope is that a proposal will be considered carefully by the School District when making future facilities decisions. The goal of both scenarios is to maintain educational choice and help to alleviate financial pressure from the School District. This proposal has been a major focus of the committee in the last two months.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Followed a work plan, adapted the work plan as needed
- Researched and compiled information about other successful Neighbourhood Learning Centres, community school programs, and alternative school models
- Researched alternative education models and specialty programs around the province
- Submitted various media about the project: radio interviews on KBS, Mountain FM, and CBC; newspaper articles in the Rossland News, Trail Daily Times, and the Rossland Telegraph
- Liaising regularly with the City of Rossland staff and council
- Liaising regularly with School District # 20 staff
- Liaising with local school administrators and staff
- Liaising with the Ministry of Education for more information and support on the Neighbourhood Learning Centre concept
- Collated, analyzed, and graphed the results from the community education survey
- Held various stakeholder meetings to get feedback on possible proposals
- Contacted and met with a variety of possible stakeholders to introduce the project
- Attended the Community Schools Conference in Surrey and gained excellent information and contacts that will help this project move forward
- Met with RSS administrators and School District operations staff to discuss the functionality of either K-12 or a Neighbourhood Learning Centre wing in RSS

- Applied for Round 2 funding from the School Community Connections program
- Submitted an application in the Aviva Community Fund competition and widely publicized this opportunity (This grant competition is based on community support through votes. Our idea made it through the first round in first place in our category in front of hundreds of ideas from across Canada. The semi-finals just finished today and it looks like we were fourth in our category and will go on to the finals. Grant winners will be announced on January 25th, 2011.)
- Met with Rossland school PACs including the École des Sept-Sommets PAC
- Worked with the RSS PAC to organize a button and sticker campaign spreading awareness and support for our initiative
- Developed a comprehensive proposal to the School Board that outlines a vision for quality education across the District and two feasible scenarios for educational configurations in Rossland
- Presented the scenarios to stakeholders for review
- Collected letters of support for the proposal

UPCOMING PROJECT PLANS

- Updating the Aviva submission for the finals of the grant competition
- Submitting the proposal and survey results to the School Board and School District staff
- Posting the proposal on the Visions for Small Schools and City of Rossland website
- Communicating with the media to share the key ideas of the proposal
- Organizing a community meeting in Rossland to share the scenarios and generate discussion around the two main concepts of K-12 in one building and Neighbourhood Learning Centre space (The meeting will be Thursday, February 3rd, 2011.)
- Contacting other successful K-12 schools or schools that have incorporated Neighbourhood Learning Centre space to have representatives come and present at the community meeting
- Working with the School Board to determine feasibility and functionality of the scenarios that we have presented
- Researching funding opportunities that could help this project move forward

PROJECT BUDGET

Income

City of Rossland	\$10,000.00
School Community Connections	\$10,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,000.00

Expenditures

Coordinator Hours	
August 24 th -31 st	\$379.50
September	\$2,706.00
October	\$2,821.50
November	\$2,722.50
December 1 st -15 th	\$990.00
TOTAL for Coordinator Hours	\$9,619.50
Project Expenses	
Coordinator posting	\$310.12
Supplies for the community open house	\$46.63
Mail drop to advertise for open house and stakeholder meeting	\$186.17
Display board printing for the community open house	\$29.56
Community Schools Partnership Conference registration fee	\$125.00
Conference flights	\$384.44
Photocopying from the City of Rossland	\$69.91
Hotel for the Community Schools Partnership Conference	\$153.46
Survey Monkey account for the online community survey (October)	\$21.10
Open house supplies and copying	\$15.83
Survey Monkey account (November)	\$20.73
Coloured paper for mail drops	\$62.67
Binder / covers for survey / proposal	\$8.48
Mail drop for Aviva round one	\$169.13
Survey Monkey account (December)	\$20.73
Coloured paper for mail drops	\$29.10

Mail drop for NOL fact sheet	\$169.13
Photocopying from City of Rossland	\$261.62
TOTAL for Project Expenses	\$2,083.81
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES to October 15, 2010	11,703.31
TOTAL PROJECT MONEY REMAINING	\$8,296.69

Thank-you for the opportunity to work on this important project.