



The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Michelle Reed, Music Vice-Principal
RE: SD83 District Music Report

DATE: 18 February 2020

Highlights

- Winter Concerts and Teacher Appreciation
- Len Wood Middle Programming
- PVSS Musical Theatre Development
- Discussions taking place with SMS and CAR to address 2019 Music Report suggesting we need more music choice and options at middle school level
- Discussions taking place with SAS Jackson to look at ways to expand music offerings

Updates to Instrument Inventory System

Working jointly with Emily at the District Resource Center and with Jong Ae, Music Clerical, we implemented a barcoding system on all of our instruments. We now have a more accurate inventory list and can track instruments as they move between schools, repair shops and the DESC.

Human Resource Challenges for Music

Qualified Music teachers are hard to find and in this climate provincially, Music teachers have their pick of Districts to work in. We do not have enough Music Education graduates coming out of UBC and UVIC to meet provincial needs for the next few years. We need to be proactive in our efforts to attract and secure qualified Music teachers. With the reinstatement of the Music Vice Principal and continuation of the Music Department, we have something very special to offer to potential applicants. HR has been doing a great job of promoting our unique and supportive program to new prospects, and I have been working through my provincial contacts with the BCMEA to connect with Music teachers who may wish to join our team.

I am in the process of trying to connect with ten prospects right now. One thing we can do to help with HR concerns in music, is to get our postings out earlier than we have in the past. I am working with Carl and Leah-Ann to get a head start on music postings for next year.

Music positions can be tricky to fill due to the itinerant nature of elementary programs. In some cases, we have music teachers working at three or more schools, while not ideal, it is our reality and challenge in Music. Building these jobs is something that requires extra effort to coordinate and something I have already started working on for next year.

Music TOC's are in short supply for us right now too. We regularly have non-music qualified TOC's (or none at all) in our music rooms. We need to attract Music TOC's in addition to permanent teachers.

Despite the challenges we face, I am happy to report that for the first time in the past few years, we were able to start the 2019/2020 school year with a music specialist in every school. It is my sincere hope to do the same for the 2020/2021 school year.

Assessment

Music staff have been looking at ways to improve assessment practices. In the Spring we will begin looking at creating a local framework for K-12 Music that will include assessment practices and suggestions. It is our hope that this framework will provide consistency across the district and will provide clarity to school based administrators as well.

Fees

The elimination of the fee associated with borrowing a district owned instrument has created serious financial implications for the District Music Department budget. An increase to the Music budget will be necessary to maintain cost-free instrument borrowing to our students. I am working with Carl to create a budget proposal to present in the budget process.

SD83 to Partner in Provincial Indigenous Music Project

Through my involvement in the BCMEA, I became aware of a large-scale project to Indigenize Music Education in BC. This project is being led by a joint committee of researchers and educators from UBC and UVIC. I am working jointly with Meredith Rusk and have secured our position as a Partner in the research project entitled: *From policy to practice in decolonizing and Indigenizing music education: Advancing teacher understanding of Indigenous worldviews.*

This is a valuable project to be a part of as it is leading the way nationally. The Canadian Music Educators Association has been in talks with our researchers to continue this work across the country once the BC project is underway. Meredith and I will attend a provincial conference and work session on this next year.

Music Monday

I am in the beginning stages of planning a District music event to celebrate and participate in Music Monday on May 4th. I am hoping to work with the City of Salmon Arm to host the event at our new Treble Clef Art Installation. I look forward to working jointly with schools and sending invitations to the Salmon Arm Community Band and Shuswap String Orchestra to join us in this celebratory event. I will provide more details as the event comes together. Here is some information on Music Monday for you to consider:

Launched in 2005 by The Coalition for Music Education, Music Monday is one of the world's largest single events dedicated to raising awareness for music education. Each year, hundreds of thousands of students, educators, and music makers celebrate with events from coast to coast to coast and participate in the collective singing of the Music Monday Anthem, an original song written by a Canadian artist. The 2020 anthem is the iconic "Hymn to Freedom," by Oscar Peterson and Harlette Hamilton, in a

new bilingual translation. By raising our voices and instruments in support of Music Monday, we make a powerful statement to all Canadians about the importance of equitable access to quality music education for all students.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Reed

Michelle Reed
Music Vice-Principal