

Program Review

Date: January 21, 2020
To: Board of Education
Prepared by: Steve Drapala

Name of Program: J.L. Jackson Mountain Biking Academy

1.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The J.L. Jackson Mountain Biking Academy is a program of choice. Students selecting the program through their school counsellor would be enrolled in the two designated courses in their school, one which would be a BAA Mountain Biking Course, and the other which would be Physical Education. The program would be offered inside the regular school day and within the school timetable, with the exception of field trips, and would include a minimum of 70 hours of riding and physical conditioning, as well as student learning focused on repair and maintenance, trail building and maintenance, grant writing, first aid, fitness, nutrition, leadership, and mentorship components. The teacher responsible for the program will engage outside expertise as needed to add value.

2.0 CONNECTION TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This program fully supports the School District's Strategic Plan goals of *Students First* and *Culture of Health and Wellness*. This program will expand opportunities for students to have input and choice in learning experiences as well as supports learning that encourages healthy living and physical activity.

3.0 BACKGROUND

British Columbia is a world renowned destination for mountain biking tourism. Salmon Arm has a very well established mountain biking community. Through the Larch Hills Nordic skiing program many young, competitive athletes 'cross-over' to mountain biking as their three season sport of choice following the ski season. Building upon this success is the Salmon Arm Secondary Mountain Bike Team which began 13 years ago and has since won the BC School Sports Provincial Championship five times. At the team try outs in April 2019 there were 47 athletes vying for a position on the team. Shuswap Middle School and South Canoe Elementary School both have mountain bike teams and/or clubs. Salmon Arm Secondary school hosted a Thompson/Okanagan zone league race in April 2019 that attracted 96 competitors. All in all, mountain biking is well established and growing quickly in our region. The present expansion of the South Canoe Trails facility by the City of Salmon Arm is set to triple available parking, add a pump track, jump park, skills park, outdoor classroom and picnic facilities. The Rubberhead trail network east of Canoe recently received official Recreation Site status from Sites and Trail B.C. and resultant facility improvements.

Given the established popularity and continued growth of mountain biking in our community it seems the timing is right to offer students opportunities to pursue

competitive, recreational and career options in this sport. A course such as this will provide students with the opportunity to learn about this sport and industry in a safe and informative, innovative and experiential environment. Primary amongst these opportunities is the ability for this course to offer a series of collaborative projects with groups in our community such as the Shuswap Trail Alliance, the Shuswap Cycling Club, local businesses, the Larch Hills Nordic Society, as well as outreach programs including leadership opportunities for students in the course to visit schools in the district to teach what they are learning.

In preparation for the development of a Mountain Biking Academy, a BAA Mountain Biking course was developed and subsequently approved by the board in May 2019.

We are therefore looking to move forward with a Mountain Biking Academy for J..L. Jackson in Salmon Arm to be run in the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

4.0 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS/INTENDED OUTCOMES/CURRENT GOALS

Academies are intended to provide our students with opportunities to pursue excellence in areas of passion in a way that cannot be provided in a traditional classroom setting. It is also our intention to provide the type of programs that connect our students with the unique natural landscapes that the Okanagan/Shuswap has to offer and potentially attract students from abroad.

We would consider the program potentially viable with a minimum of 20 resident students, augmented by international students if space is available, to a maximum of 30 participants. Pre-registration for 2020-2021 would commence in March 2020.

5.0 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OPERATING THE PROGRAM

We have set the estimated per student fee at \$370 for the semester, which includes coaching, first aid certification, transportation, park fees, and consumables (see attached Draft Budget). It is intended that these academy fees are revenue neutral, and cover only the costs of the program as described.

As an elective program in our schools, it would require approximately 20 students to cover staffing, and therefore not divert staffing away from other elective choices. With the historic level of interest in outdoor education and mountain biking in Salmon Arm and the ability to enroll International students, we expect the number 20 to be exceeded.

Families unable to pay the fees may discuss payment options with the school principal as per board policy.

6.0 OPTIONS FOR ACTION

1. Approve the J.L. Jackson Mountain Biking Academy as a Program of Choice as proposed.
2. Approve the J.L. Jackson Mountain Biking Academy as a Program of Choice with amendments.
3. Decline the J.L. Jackson Mountain Biking Academy as a Program of Choice.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Board of Education approve the J.L. Jackson Mountain Biking Academy as a Program of Choice to be offered to students, on conditions of substantive enrollment for the 2020-21 school year.

J.L. Jackson Academy Budget Plan - DRAFT

Mountain Biking Academy

Revenue		
Students	Academy Fee	Total
20	\$367.50	\$7,350

Expenses		
Expenditures	Cost per student	Total
First Aid training (for Level 1)	\$100	\$2,000
Transportation	\$50	\$1,000
Park fees	\$87.50	\$1,750.00
Academy apparel	\$100	\$2,000
Consumables	\$15	\$300
Equipment - General	\$15	\$300
Total Expenditures	\$368	\$7,350

Recommended Fee* \$370 per student

*Based on 20 students