

## notes

Department:  
Planning & Transportation,  
Area V

December 1, 2016

## Mandarin Bilingual Parent Representatives Meeting

### In attendance:

Amber Stewart, Trustee, Wards 12 & 14  
Jean Hugill, Principal, Midnapore School  
Tara Wigington, School Council Chair for Midnapore School  
Carrie Edwards, Director, Planning & Transportation  
Sydney Smith, Director, Area V  
Scott MacNeill, Consultant, CBE Teacher Staffing  
Darlene Casten & Justin Reid, Concerned Parents of Area V Mandarin Program Representatives

### Staffing

- Creating sourcing strategies
- 22,000 applicants to CBE in all areas
- Teachers apply on-line
- Temporary = can't post for permanent as teachers are hired on first as temporary; part time = teachers are hired first to the sub roster so therefore part time
- FYTT Contract for teachers – bridge to a position; teachers are paid as full time teachers
- FYTT teacher attached to Colonel Irvine? Find out -> identify & retain; moved to need
- If teacher wishes not to teach a language – we cannot force them as this is a union position
- FYTT contracts are offered to any area of high need; consider for all positions
- Will be investigating
  - Canvassing teachers
  - Last year process – identify skill set
- Outside of program we do recruit:
  - Current CBE Teachers
  - Prior to spring staffing
  - Post notifications on website
  - Teachers self-identify
  - Need to reflect inwards
    - Follow up or make commitment
    - Any Mandarin teacher who meets CBE standards
      - Hired as FYTT and then to sub-roster
    - Profiles self-identified
      - Capacity
      - How many

learning | as unique | as every student



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- Principals interview together, Shelly does Mandarin component, oral, written and reading proficiency test. Assess collaboratively which teachers will be a fit in which school k-9
- Prospective candidates – directly to Scott MacNeill
- 153 parents on WeChat – Western Family Community
  - Parents want to grow the pool
    - UBC, SFU, Vancouver, Victoria (9 schools with 6 in Alberta)
  - People interviewed online via Skype and phone
  - Bridge Program ->Monica Jung – teacher
    - U of A and U of C
  - Meetings with Deans of high needs area and admission requirements of university – consideration of all the requirements to teach in CBE
  - Advocate for the program

#### Marketing

- All high needs areas
- 45 minute power point, language – hard to fill need
- Signage
- Poll teachers – what makes teaching Mandarin in CBE in our program so successful
- Extremely supportive group – work with North city parents
- 3 teachers for next year
  - More than part time position vs permanent vs temp
  - Investigate FYTT as posted? – HR
  - PT vs. FT – due to sub list
  - Software limitations
- Goal is to have public see us working together
- Five Principals do the consulting
- Some questions we can't answer due to personnel – acknowledged
- Rather be partners than receiving FOIP requests
- Start of dialogue not the end

#### Ask Scott

- 1 posting – for the position
  - Apply to the board first
- Sample posting – link to the application
- 30% of language, Jr. High

#### Expression of Interest

- January – Middle School, gr 5, 6, 7
- Now going to grade 5s – future planning
  - Some students never planned to go beyond gr.6
- Yes, we need to do something formal
- Fluent in mandarin – students interested who are not in program
- Professional evaluation in oral, written and verbal communication
- Ask for registrations – by this date – commitment gr. 5, 6, 7 – location identification to justify opening gr. 7 program in the north
- Of sufficient number in gr. 5, 6, 7
  - New program - # of students
  - Offer to continue EOI
- May not want 5-7
- Some will be unhappy
- Others go TLC, Science, GATE
- Many reasons why people make different decisions
- More flexible on numbers -> room for flexibility
- Asking what's going on
- Time crunch
- EOI every year?

### **Review of current situation**

- Learned a lot
- Start program 50 students/grade at K-1
- Open House
  - Commit to 3 ks
  - Advertise school with signs
  - Signs at library
  - Most current grade 6's want to go to MidSun
  - Grade 6 meeting with parents and students
    - Jean to contact each parent
  - Commit to vision going forward
  - Commit to coming together
- Recap to parents – conversation – commitment going forward
- Joint communication -> from concerned parents, school and CBE

### **Concluding Thoughts**

- Gr. 6s – program accessibility
- Working together to address staffing, students