



COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

Highlights from the June 20-23 Council of Commissioners

During their last meeting, the Commissioners heard year-end reports from each department of the school board. In addition, the 2016-2017 budget was examined and approved. An overview of key discussions and decisions made by the commissioners is presented below.

Restructuring of the Education Services department

During the second half of the school year, the social crisis that affected Nunavik had direct repercussions on our schools and their operation. Within the school board, as our services were repeatedly mobilised to respond to emergency situations, the need to restructure our departmental divisions became evident.

As a result, the Commissioners approved that the Complementary Services department be placed under the responsibility of the Director of School Operations. As part of this new structure, the Director of Education Services will now oversee the Research and Teacher Training department and the departments of First and Second language curriculum development.

The new structure therefore groups departments engaged in providing support services to students and schools under the school operations department. The departments whose core mandate concerns pedagogy, research and training are grouped under the education services department.

Curriculum development in Inuktitut

Over the last 2 years, a lot has been accomplished to bring new technologies into all our Inuktitut classrooms.

Our Education Services developed more than 1,500 learning activities for SMART Tables, in Inuktitut. These activities complement the Grade 1, 2 and 3 curriculums. All our Grade 1 and 2 classrooms are now equipped with SMART Tables. Grade 3 classrooms will all be equipped

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with SMART Tables by the end of the current school year.

New technologies training and technical support for our Inuit teachers has also been provided on an on-going basis for the last 2 years.

iNaqittaq, an Inuktitut syllabics keyboard application, was developed by KSB. It facilitates the use of new technologies in the classroom. The application is available for free, since September 2015.

A new hand writing recognition application will soon be released by KSB. It will allow elders and younger students to type syllabics by tracing them on an iPad screen with their finger.

Curriculum Development in 2nd language French and English

A new program for social studies was developed for Grade 4 to 6. It was introduced in all our schools at beginning of the school year.

The development of the new mathematics program is progressing well. The material for Grade 3 is being piloted in Kangirsuk, Salluit, Puvirnituq and Akulivik.

The new KSB program "Personal Skills and Social Development", which includes a sexual education section, will be offered to all our Grade 6 students this year.

Also new for 2016-2017, the "Professional Exploration Program" will be offered to Secondary 1.0 (Grade 7) students. The program will help them to identify their professional and personal interests or skills. They will also learn about employment opportunities.

Cultural instruction: pilot project, regular cultural instruction and land survival programs

Since its creation, KSB has been offering culture classes.

The regular culture classes include both classroom and land survival activities. These classes are taught all year long, on a weekly basis.

In 2014, KSB introduced a cultural instruction pilot project in Akulivik, Umiujaq, Quaqtaq and Kangiqsujuaq. The pilot project continues for a third consecutive year these 4 communities.

The pilot project replaces the regular culture classes that are offered weekly in our schools. Instead, culture is taught 3 times a year, during a whole week. These one-week instruction periods include land-based teaching and overnight excursions.

An assessment of this pilot project was presented to the Commissioners. The discussion that ensued indicated the need for a comprehensive review of the school board's culture programs, including the pilot project and the regular classroom and land-based cultural instruction.

The Commissioners requested that an overview of the current culture programs be presented to them at their October 2016 meeting. This overview would be used as a basis for a comprehensive discussion on the type of cultural instruction programs the school board should offer to students.

The new KSB program "Personal Skills and Social Development" will be offered to all our Grade 6 students this year