



November 7, 2014

**Item 3**

**TO:** Education and Student Services - Committee III

**FROM:** Maureen Ciarniello, Associate Superintendent

**RE:** **Update on the Implementation of the Recommendations in the Re-visioning Inner City and CommunityLINK Resources report**

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**Background**

In March 2014 the Board adopted the Final Report for Re-visioning Inner City and CommunityLINK Resources in Vancouver Schools which contained a number of recommendations for implementation over two school years from 2014-2015 through to 2015-2016.

An update was provided to Committee III in September 2014. Staff will continue to provide regular updates on the progress of the implementation plan.

**Update on the Implementation Process**

**Maintaining Focus:**

The main focus of the re-visioning implementation is to align services and supports to vulnerable children who are disadvantaged due to poverty, in these major areas: literacy, including early learning and early intervention; social emotional growth, including resiliency building; parent involvement; attendance, and community connections.

A major aspect of the work this year is to develop a focused district and school-based strategy to provide supports to these students. This includes realigning the services of CommunityLINK and Enhanced Support staff, as well as examining where these services intersect with other district-based supports to schools such as Aboriginal Education staff, and Special Education staff. Continuing to grow the connections between community organizations and schools will remain a key strategy of the work.

**Funding:**

In the past, funding provided by the Board for the Inner City Project Teams was directed to schools where there were high concentrations of children who were disadvantaged due to poverty.

Funding is also provided by the Ministry of Education through the CommunityLINK grant to support vulnerable students. The district has been using a broader definition of student vulnerability for the allocation of some of the supports and services provided through these fund, i.e. Community School Team staffing.

In the re-visioning report, there was a recognition that vulnerable children, disadvantaged due to poverty, who are attending other schools in the district, albeit in smaller numbers, are also in need of supports. The CommunityLINK food program is under review this fall, to identify where and how food programs might support these other vulnerable children.

### **Development of logic model:**

Staff have developed a draft logic model of the objectives, indicators, measures and possible strategies, which will be used to monitor and review the impacts of the supports. The district is working to match the objectives to data sources such as the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI), as well as to widely-used school-based assessments, e.g. literacy assessments related to Early Intervention.

The model is being shared at a series of meetings with Tier school staff teams, Community School Coordinators, Aboriginal Education staff, Transition Teachers, and others, for input and feedback from now until the end of December.

In January a working draft will be used as the basis for developing the staffing model for Sept. 2015, based on providing service and supports directly related to the objectives, indicators, and measures. We anticipate that the logic model will continue to be developed and refined, with the objectives remaining constant, but with indicators, measures and strategies being adjusted as required.

### **Refocusing of CommunityLINK Community School Team roles:**

Assignments of CLINK YFWs this year have been adjusted slightly to:

- prioritize services to schools based on highest SSI data (within a given hub)
- focus support on grade to grade transition, – especially grade 7-8 transition
- align with other staffing resources currently in the school, i.e. IC Project Team
- increase time spent with students at each school by decreasing movement during the day, between sites

District staff have been meeting individually and as a group, with Community School Coordinators (CSC), as part of the re-visioning planning process. Many of the individuals have been in their current placement for ten or more years. As part of the realignment of services and supports, the current placements of CSCs are being reviewed and there will be some reassignments between hubs. This will allow CSCs in the Tier school areas, to participate fully with their schools, in planning for September 2015.

### **CommunityLINK Food Programs**

CommunityLINK resources for lunch, breakfast and snack programs are transitioning to focus on programs that meet the needs of hungry children, in all Vancouver schools.

Food Services is actively supporting 17 elementary schools to transition to “full pay” hot-lunch programs beginning September 2015. The transition of Tier 3 and non Tier schools to “full pay” programs will allow the alignment of CommunityLINK resources to support place-based lunch, snack or breakfast programs for vulnerable students in an increased number of Vancouver elementary schools.

Food Services is gathering data from Secondary Schools to review the distribution of CommunityLINK resources to align with student vulnerability data. Subsidized lunch programs are offered at all 18 Secondary School Cafeterias.

Food Services is reviewing service models and program costs at 22 Secondary Alternative Programs for efficiencies and cost-savings.

Food Services expects to have sufficient data and trend analysis by early February to recommend the distribution of CommunityLINK resources for lunch, breakfast and snack programs and the viability of continued “full pay” elementary lunch services.

**Early Learning Supports:**

A consultant has been holding focus groups with community organizations and partners who support pre-Kindergarten children and their families, as well as with school administrators, to gather information and input into possible school readiness options. A summary will be provided to Committee III at a later date.

The Summer Early Learning Pilot project (2014) is being expanded for 2015 and will include Tier 3 schools: Cook, Selkirk and Nightingale. This project was outlined to Committee III in September 2014.

Staff will be following up with partner agencies and organizations around this summer’s Support for School Success Project to develop options for future models.

This report is presented for information purposes.