RDPA Meeting Notes

# RDPA Meeting held February 5, 2109

Items discussed and of note:

* One guest whose name escapes me discussed mental heath in schools and was very informative. Discussed there is ongoing training in schools right now and the objective is to create ‘resilient children’ which is a bit of a change from the past where children were protected and accommodated. This was very informative and my thought was very positive in the message they are trying to convey and the objective they are trying to achieve and messaging. Some notes include:
  + The importance to listen to and communicate with kids. Hear what they are saying and what they need. The Board has done surveys and has been listening to children. They have also asked that ‘we listen to them’;
  + Kids will be taught stress is normal. Life is hard and how to deal with it. If the child happens ot have a mental illness will be assisted with on how to manage and deal with what they are experiencing.
  + Mental health literacy training will be rolled out system wide by June 2020.
  + Whole idea is to create more resilient kids that can face reality.
* Some websites and media that were discussed in the presentation include the following:
  + Brainhighway.com – played a video called ‘heartfelt advice from a learner’
  + [teenmentalhealth.org](http://teenmentalhealth.org) used by AB and ON and one of the go to curriculums.
  + <https://keltymentalhealth.ca/> by the BC Children’s Hospital and a great resources for mental health and substance use information.
* This was a general discussion topic but the District has been collecting data on and from students through surveys, etc. for years and has not been using it. The District has recognized they are “data rich and analytical poor” and have begun to us data analytics to begin to use and better utilize this data.
* Word has been given by the gov’t they do not want to do seismic upgrades to all the Richmond schools as the population is not growing like other areas and also due to the lopsided school utilization ie. some schools are not full while other areas have too many kids. May force the district to take a look at the distribution because there are 25 schools needing seismic upgrades. They will again be looking at school numbers and expect aa redrawing od boundary lines – more information on this to come in future RDPA meetings.
* RDPA Constitution – changes to the new constitution were discussed and approved. Passed changes are the same as previously circulated after the last RDPA.