

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

### POLICY 706.1

Effective Date, September 22, 2008

#### EDUCATION CHOICE

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation, consistent with the *School Act* and relevant provincial legislation, to provide an educational program for all students of school age. It is the goal of the Board to offer programs promoting excellence in instruction and optimal achievement for all students.

The Board may support community initiated educational programs, which bring a particular educational emphasis to student talents or to particular student needs, within the parameters of provincially prescribed and/or locally developed curriculum.

Consideration for any new programs will:

- Have a clearly articulated philosophy and mission statement.
- Acknowledge parental desire for programs with a particular educational emphasis.
- Fulfill a recognized educational need separate from existing programs and services.
- Conform with collective agreements.
- Be consistent with Board policy.
- Be funded at the same levels with respect to resources and staff as those established for elementary and secondary schools/grades/programs.
- Be housed in facilities where space permits and which are suitable to the program.
- Be maintained without transportation assistance from the Board.
- Incur no extraordinary costs for program maintenance.
- Be subject to periodic evaluations by the Board and/or Ministry of Education assessments.

#### Process for Submitting Proposals

1. Any community group seeking to have the Board establish a program of choice will submit a written brief to the Board which contains a clear rationale for the program as well as:
  - a) a mission statement accompanied by the goals and objectives for the program;
  - b) a statement which sets out the educational soundness of the program for the District; including how the proposal is distinct from existing educational programs or fills a particular educational need not currently offered in the District;
  - c) a clear indication of the intended school population to be served including age, grade levels, learner characteristics, and the number of students to be served including the neighbourhood communities;
  - d) a clear understanding of the qualifications and nature of professional staff, and support staff required to offer the program;

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- e) a clear understanding of the facilities required for offering the program, both in the immediate and long term;
  - f) evidence of community support for the program which indicates the parents have an understanding of the proposal and have or will have children who will enroll in the program;
  - g) how students register for the program; and,
  - h) evidence of such programs' success if they are operating in other school districts.
2. Upon receipt of a proposal, the Board may direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study which will set out costs and other issues including:
- a) staffing/human resource requirements;
  - b) facilities, both interim and long term requirements;
  - c) curriculum development and implementation;
  - d) sources of funding/revenue including government, private, or corporate services and any obligations of the Board in the event outside funds are provided; and,
  - e) a proposed implementation timeline.

The Superintendent may include members of the organization proposing the program in undertaking the feasibility study.

3. The Board will reply to the proposal after a review of the feasibility study. Where a program is approved, the implementation will be the responsibility of the Board.