

Educational Policies Committee Report
Meeting of March 18th, 2015

International Studies:

Carol Mastantuono presented the 'International Studies' program available at LBPSB, discussing various elements of the program and responding to questions from the committee. Below are the highlights:

- growing in numbers each year -about 1200 students currently
- China is currently the biggest market for Elementary, Secondary and post-secondary students. India is the 2nd biggest market and South Korea the 3rd.
- Students in countries abroad are offered an opportunity to come do their schooling in Canada by participating in this program. Once here, they are obliged to follow the same criteria as other LBPSB students in terms of curriculum and assessment.
- Students come here for various reasons; to get a diploma from Canada and then return to their country to work (North American Diplomas are highly sought after), to eventually immigrate here, or to work & study here.
- Elementary-school aged children come with their parents (only 11 currently enrolled)
- All students who want to participate in their program have to pay for their entire educational experience (about \$15 000 for one year of schooling) which covers all expenses related to their stay.
- No funding for an international students is provided for by the Quebec Government.
- The International Studies Program does bring in a profit for the LBPSB. Any profit goes directly to the board and currently helps balance the budget. The International Studies Program is asked yearly to bring in a certain amount of funds (as pre-established by the board and agreed upon by the program's director). Once the program has committed to a number, they need to fulfill that mandate for the year.
- The profit brought in from this program was never intended to supplement the budget but rather be 'extra money in the bank'. However, due to the current MELS cut-backs, the board has had no choice but to use this profit in order to maintain its numbers and avoid having to make additional cut-backs to services already in place at the LBPSB.
- It is mandatory that every student coming into this program take ESL courses, in addition to their regular classes. After one session is complete, an assessment is completed to see if their English is at a satisfactory level. If not, additional ESL classes are required.

- Other boards (Sir Wilfrid Laurier, EMSB & some of the French boards) are now trying to incorporate similar programs.
- Although the presence of international students in the classroom can cause unique situations for a teacher the program is open to working together in order to find solutions. If you have any concerns start by contacting your administrator who will get in touch with the program's director.

Google workshops:

ESD continues to provide more workshops (in English & French) for Google 101, 201 & 301. Please register on the portal as they fill up quickly. ESD covers all expenses related attending these workshops.

New Portal:

Comments from focus group were sent to the design team & have been taken into account throughout this process. Next round, there will also be a focus group involving students, to get their feedback, in addition to teachers & administrators from all sectors.

The old portal is still scheduled to be inactive as of the end of this school year.

If you are running into problems using both email accounts simultaneously (Portal and Google) feel free to email me (lbarroca@lbpearson.ca) and I will provide you with the steps for forwarding your portal email to Google.

Upcoming ESD:

- April 24th (Elementary.) 'Spring into Action; Give your Teaching a New Twist!'^{*}
- May 15th (High School) - 'Digital Storytelling & App Smashing' (More info to come and registration to be completed, through Portal.)
- Summer Institute (Implementing Technology in the Elementary & High School Classroom) will be starting with their first session in May and continuing on June 26th & 29th.

Summer School 2015:

Info will be available on the LBSPB site in the next few weeks. Portal recently posted vacancies looking for teaching & administrative staff for the summer. Kathleen O'Reilly will be the coordinator again. It will be offered at St. Thomas and LCCHS.

Submitted by:

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