

Student Voice

SPRING 2013

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."
- Henry Ford



'V' for Voice....

B.C. Student Voice Spring Meeting

Richmond B.C. April 26 & 27



Who are we and what does it take to become even better?

A big thank you is extended to Sharon Cutcliffe for the many years of passionate support for the "voice" of students in the province of British Columbia. Sharon has been instrumental in promoting student leadership and is responsible for bringing international recognition to the value and importance of BC Student Voice. Students acknowledged the positive guidance and direction that Sharon has provided with an extended standing ovation, one that was preceded by a fitting David Jang [tribute](#):

"Sharon you make people want to be better than we thought we ever could be, you are an incredible champion for young people and for public education; you challenge us to want to achieve more, to want to be more, to want to do more; and that is a gift, a gift that follows us throughout our lives and makes us ultimately better people and it is a gift that you have, that you bring out in other people and it is what makes you such an incredible educator."



BC Student Voice is sponsored by the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association. The "Voice" represents students throughout sixteen regions of the province spanning from Haida Gwaii to the Kootenays and Peace River to Lower Vancouver Island. Since 1990 dedicated advisors and students have been enhancing student leadership in British Columbia. Students work and learn together to provide input and advice on a variety of topics such as bullying, social media, the BC Ed Plan, ethics in the use of technology and safe schools, to name just a few of the recent topics. Student understanding is enhanced with opportunities to interact and learn with outstanding role models.



Featured Presenters:

- **Katie Fritz**

HootSuite Digital Media Specialist - Essential reflections on transitions beyond high school.

- **Rachael Bullock**

BCSV - Human Trafficking

- **David Jang**

CBC Marketing & Communications - present in "Spirit Alone"

- **Stuart Bent**

BCSV Advisor Sea to Sky - The Ecuador Experience



Leadership Synergy

"We must become the change we wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

bcp  vpa



The Quick Facts:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| # of Academy Awards | Infinite |
| Students participating | 54 |
| Advisors supporting | 15 |
| # funny Tim / Stuart moments | Many |

The Voice on.....

Have you seen the [Web Site?](#)

What are students interested in learning more about:

- how do you best share & collaborate with other students provincially
- how Student Voice can have a stronger influence on education
- proactive measures to impact the bullying
- preparation for successful life after high school, what does it look like?
- strategies that help to develop that leadership culture
- student leadership opportunities outside of school
- to learn more about what Student Voice has done in the past
- contemplated changes to grad requirements
- what types of things people are doing in their forums in their districts
- how does one organize a successful Flash Mob or Lip Dub

What wishes would your magic wand bring for your school:

- more energy, spirit, identity and unification
- connections more evident and real between courses & departments
- more action oriented initiatives where you see outcomes/results
- an involved community and sense of team with lots of participation
- stronger focus on healthy living, not just in one course
- fewer cliques, more unity and fun
- that school was more challenging and engaged with community
- opportunities to develop confidence in those areas where it is lacking
- access to a wider range of program and course opportunities
- multicultural support and recognition

SPiRiT

More SPiRiT

Key questions resonating with Student Voice members:

- How can we learn more about the necessary preparation for potential job opportunities in an integrated way?
- How can student leadership become more than a course or a club representing a limited range of the diverse interests of all students?
 - Why can't we learn about those things that are of real meaning and interest for us at our own pace?
 - Why don't we have more pride in our school, in our community?
- How can we improve the connection between teachers and students more so that students will be more willing to open up to them?
- How do you balance everything between school, home, & work?
- Why are some schools great, liked by students and others not?

The Word



“Relationships as a foundation for learning”?

What did the students have to say....

“Engagement”

I believe that a relationship with the person you are learning from can make your education much more personal.

Key relationships.... ultimately result in more engaged and invested students and teachers who will enjoy their time in classes for a mutually beneficial experience.

Life is relationships. Working, playing and harmonizing together.

“Caring”

My parents have taught me the most important things in my life.

If you have a good connection with the people around you, chances are that you are in a positive environment where your growth in learning can prosper.

Because the relationship between parent and child is so strong, we usually take in many of the parent opinions and use those to build our identity.

“Respect”

Questions are an important part of learning and you'll ask more relevant questions if you feel good about a relationship you have with a person.

Without a relationship everything would be a struggle.

It is so much easier to learn from someone that you trust and value. Relationships provide that opportunity.



Bullying: What Helps?

- teachers being taught by students about bullying
- older / younger peer support programs in schools
- educate about the seriousness of cyber-bullying
- have the courage to talk about it more openly
- have many support options readily available
- develop student responsibility for addressing the problem

Resources to ponder:

- Instructions for a [bad day](#)
- [Love](#) is Louder
- The [Deal](#)
- [Cyberbullying](#)
- More [Bullying](#)
- [Safe](#) Schools - What can I do?



MJ

Thoughts to Ponder

The difference between the ordinary and the extraordinary is the little extra.

It always seems impossible until it is done.

If you are not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original.

The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.

Whether you think you can or you can't, you're right.

Education costs money and time, but then so does ignorance.

Watch your thoughts they become your words...
Watch your words they become your actions....
Watch your actions they become your habits...
Watch your habits they become your character...

Watch your character it becomes your destiny

Regional Advisors for Student Voice

A. Choi & T. O'Rourke
New Westminster SD40

Rachael Sdoutz
Kamloops SD73

Tim Mushumanski
Kootenay Lake SD8

M. Reid & Paul Britton
Vernon SD22

K. Regular
Southeast Kootenay SD5

Lee Karpenko
Prince George SD57

Tonya MacGregor
Delta SD37

Glenn Kishi
Richmond SD38

Open
North Vancouver SD44

Kory O'Hare
Burnaby SD41

Adrienne McLeod
Langley SD35

Stuart Bent
Sea to Sky SD48

Broyden Bennett
Peace River North SD60

Gerald Fussell
Comox Valley SD71

B. Davis & Bruce Firth
Saanich SD63

K. Farquhar & Mini Gill
Surrey SD36

More
BC Ed [Plan](#)

BC Grad Review: student perspectives on the "essentials"



Students respond....

What are the core or essential things all students should know and understand by the time they graduate?

- Critical thinking
- Responsibility / social skills
- Self confidence & motivation
- How to learn & study
- Communication Skills
- Well rounded citizen
- Creative thinking
- Health conscious
- Writing skills
- Comfortable with Technology

How do you think students could demonstrate the five competencies?

- solving realistic problems
- thru self-directed learning
- to take on leadership roles

- having more personalized assignments that can reflect interests and creativity
- reflecting on personal experiences and volunteering
- giving presentations in a variety of formats
- contributing to school pride by demonstrating good citizenship

Beyond the core, how could pathways for choice or exploration be provided?

- more links to the community for learning
- less emphasis on the current core subjects
- be more responsive to the different learning styles
- allow for exploration of your passions
- internship or co-op for high school students
- assignments more integrative across the different courses
- greater exposure to a variety of different areas of learning
- summer program options or year round schooling availability with community opportunities
- ability to count all work experiences
- have mentors available

How could student learning be communicated?

- use of a portfolio, maybe even an online portfolio that is interactive
- provincial tests should be seen online with answers so students know where they went wrong
- more specific feedback not just the numbers
- parents should be involved in the process somehow
- should reflect how much we grow and develop compared to where we started
- more frequent celebrations, not just at reporting times
- educate parents on evaluation & assessment
- demonstration of skills while able to focus on areas that you are interested in

What should the competencies include?

- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Social responsibility
- Relationship skills
- Communication
- Creativity / Innovation
- Self-confidence
- Technology Literacy
- Flexibility
- Personal Planning