

Questions

- 1. Given that our economy is developed and changed by creative individuals, how would you support opportunities for artistic learning?**
- 2. Given the recent mandate to include 30 minutes of physical activity in addition to the already legislated Physical Education classes, what is your position on incorporating artistic and creative time back into the schools?**
- 3. Are you in favour of creating partnerships with local Arts organizations (i.e. – Music, Drama, Dance, Visual, Culinary & Literary Arts) that would develop programs to augment school curriculum?**

Chak Au

1. When I became a school trustee in 1999, one of the first things I did was giving support to the creation of the “Strengthening Fine Arts Committee” in the School District to strengthen and support artistic learning in schools. When other school districts cut back in arts programs for the reason of fiscal constraint, in Richmond we did the opposite and we were proven right! I believe, given the crucial role of artistic learning in developing the minds of students, there is no justification to deprive students of the opportunities.
2. I support the idea in principle, but it is very difficult to implement. In fact, I like the way it was implemented when the Ministry of Education first introduced the Graduation Portfolio in 2004. Students (Gr. 10-12) were required to demonstrate that they had completed certain hours of learning in Arts (in or out of school) as a requirement to fulfill the Graduation Portfolio. Unfortunately, in 2006 the Ministry changed its rule and it is not part of the requirement anymore.
3. Certainly. I don't believe schools can do everything by themselves. There is a huge wealth of resources and expertise in the community that schools could tap on. In return, the school district should also support local Arts organizations by creating partnerships as widely as possible.

Rod Belleza

1. I think our children would benefit most from artistic learning if they receive "on the job training." Artistic learning for our kids should involve them participating in local music programs, dance studios, theatre productions, and gourmet kitchens) Similar to co-op programs in university. Our kids should be exposed to arts in the "real world" as early as possible.
2. I believe that the ability to choose is key in our public schools. Ultimately, children should have a choice as to whether they participate in the programs their school offers. When you consider that kids have different talents and strengths, we should not force kids to participate in artistic activities if they do not want to. We should absolutely encourage and educate them of the benefits of having a creative artistic mind but the final decision should remain with them.

3. I wholeheartedly believe that our school system should partner with local art organizations to further enhance our school curriculum. I believe that our school system should have standard art classes as electives but any experiences and programs offered to our kids outside the school system can only broaden their horizon. Richmond is a beautiful city with such a diverse makeup and history. We should expose our kids to the many splendors our city has to offer.

Grace Tsang

1. I have been a long time community supporter for artistic learning. My community involvement includes: a founding member of the Richmond Arts Coalition, Richmond Youth Concert Band Vice-President and Hugh Boyd Secondary school music department fundraiser. With two children who have benefitted from the fine arts programs, I have always been an advocate of artistic learning opportunities. Various scientific researches have proven that students who have been educated or participated in the fine arts activities score higher on SAT's than those who have not. Hence, I encourage students to participate in the art and music programs which would foster and strengthen their development into well rounded individuals. I will continue to advocate for sustainable resources by communicating with the City of Richmond, as well as with the B.C. and the Federal governments. In addition, as an active community volunteer I have established a strong network of community partners and various non-profit organizations to work together in utilixation resources, to offer training and mentorship to our staff and students.
2. To improve student achievement, we need to encourage initiatives to support both physical and mental wellness for students and staff. As a school trustee who serves on the Fine Arts Committee, I have promoted and supported many school based and extra-curricular projects, working with community partners and the three levels of governments, to enhance artistic learning. Here are some of the examples:
 - Richmond Youth Honour Choirs – Teacher sponsor Lorraine Jarvis
 - Arts and Cultural Week (last week of April)
 - Canada Line Rapid Transit – Artworks Project
 - Music in Our Schools Concerts at Gateway Theatre
 - Olympic Oval opening Ceremony – 200 band members and 600 choirs
 - Rich City Idol for secondary schools
 - Richmond's Annual Street Banner Contest
 - 2010 Legacies Now – Summer Art and Sport camps
3. Yes, I am in favour. As a member of the Richmond Sunset Rotary Club (which hosts annual Winter Wonderland Christmas concerts at the City Hall) I am one of the co-coordinators who is responsible to coordinate with local community performing groups and school bands in putting the concert program together. Another example that, as the Chairperson of the Education Committee, I have supported having the Richmond School District to work with Chef Ian Lai on the "Terra Nova Project". The program was started three years ago with 30 students. Since then, it has grown to 600 elementary students from four elementary schools in the Terra Nova area. This program runs year round with the students involved in a variety of learning activities

ranging from planting to harvesting, including using the ingredients to cook and bake with.

JJ Cheng

- 1) First of all, encourage school set up more talent programmes including arts factors and then select those who are good at one or two subjects and let them receive special training. Of course, precondition is the financial support both from government and the Arts Organizations and Enterprises as well.
- 2) Comparing to PE, Arts Class needs at least the same time or more than one hour.
- 3) I agree with your suggestions that the programmes should be created at Elementary School but Culinary at High School only.

Carol Day

1. I think all students benefit from exposure to art, so I would encourage the business community to open their doors to students and let them see " ART AT WORK ". Design and creativity are a big part of many businesses and I think the experience would open students eye's to the unlimited options for using their artistic talents in the real world.
2. Some students are naturally artist and some are not, but all children can have an appreciate of art through passive examples such as paintings loaned from the various art galleries to more hands on experiences like the art truck. I don't think you can enforce creativity but I think the artistic ability can be nurtured by regular exposure, for example if every school had a station where students could use supplied materials for creating greeting cards. Another example is optional art classes at lunch time or before school. My point is anyone can go out and exercise for 30 minutes but not everyone has the ability to be creative, on demand, so extra exposure to art should be a flexible and voluntary experience.
3. YES !!! I cannot understand why we as a school district do not make better utilization of the many talents of parents and commercial opportunities available to the schools. I am told we have to worry about the safety of our kids but surely back ground checks and teacher supervision would satisfy any concerns. We are a village and if the schools where more open to the options, our students would be exposed to a much richer environment.

Linda McPhail

1. As a current school trustee I have seen that, in the Richmond school district, the Fine Arts are more of a priority than other school districts. I have supported the "Strengthening the Fine Arts" working committee which has a goal to "assist in planning, implementing, and focusing attention on the fine arts through promotions, partnerships and professional development" and to provide short and long term goals. I supported, through the budget process, allocating \$100,000.00 towards new musical instruments for students. I was not in favour of user-pay

- band. I will continue to be a strong advocate for Fine Arts in Richmond so that it will keep being a prominent part of the overall educational program in Richmond.
2. The arts are acknowledged as being part of the core curriculum and can also be used to teach other core subjects such as reading, math, science and social studies. I have supported, through the budget process, \$10,000.00 on Learning Through The Arts binders so each school can have access to lesson plans which incorporate the arts into core curriculum subjects. We have also added three Elementary Fine Arts Teacher Leaders whose focus is to provide in-depth mentoring for classroom teachers. We need to provide resources that support the importance of lifelong learning in the arts.
 3. Yes. I believe it is essential that we cultivate community partnerships. I have supported initiatives that seek partnerships with local arts organizations and have seen how current partnerships with arts organizations such as Learning Through The Arts, Gateway Theatre, ArtStarts, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Art Gallery, and Vancouver Opera Association have enriched student learning.

Donna Sargent

1. Artistic learning is critical for the educational growth of all of our students and is an important part of the curriculum. Fine Arts provides opportunities for students to represent their learning in creative and personally relevant ways. I would continue to support artistic learning by valuing its contribution to the overall learning, encourage and support teachers in their work in this area and to always reflect on what we are currently doing and how we can improve each student's artistic/creative experience.
2. I believe currently there is a lot of artistic and creative time in our schools. To mandate it does not make students value it. Artistic and creative skills are an essential component to the development of the whole child. It must be incorporated throughout the curriculum and teachings and part of every lesson.
3. Yes I am in favour of creating partnerships with local Arts organizations. We currently as a Board have such partnerships and I would encourage more of them. Together we can accomplish so much more. It really does take a village to raise a child.

Michael Strachuk

1. Opportunities for artistic learning can be only be beneficial for children.
2. Artistic and creative time in the schools is something I would like to have more of, as I believe it is very important in learning and doing.
3. I would definitely be interested in having new and different ideas, skills and influences in the school curriculum.

Debbie Tablotney

1. As a passionate advocate for the arts I have served as the Treasurer for Richmond Youth Concert Band, President of London School Music Society and have served on school committees focused on strengthening the arts in our schools and community. My own participation in music includes the BC Regiment Band and as well as teaching piano.

It has been researched and proven that students who have been educated in the arts score significantly higher on SAT's than those who have not. Learning through the arts promotes creativity, problem solving and teamwork which are qualities necessary for the academic, social and emotional growth of students.

I am in favor of offering professional development for teachers to assist them in forming lesson plans that incorporate creative learning opportunities such as history through role playing, social studies through storytelling, learning multiplication through songwriting and science through dance etc. into the curriculum.

In my previous term I served on a committee whose mandate was to strengthen fine arts programs in the school district. I would be committed to continuing this work along with strongly advocating to the Provincial and Federal government for additional funding to support such programs.

2. While I believe that physical fitness and activity are important I am also of the mindset that an education in the arts is equally essential. Incorporating various forms of dance and expressional movement could be one of many creative and enjoyable ways for students and teachers to meet the 30 minute requirement. In the secondary system there are many ways of obtaining credit for physical activity or fine arts classes participated in outside of the regular school timetable. I am in favor of expanding those opportunities to receive credit where possible.

3. Partnerships with organizations such as the Vancouver Symphony, Vancouver Opera Society, along with our local theatres, art gallery and cultural centers are valuable opportunities for students to take in experiences and gain valuable information about post secondary and possible career opportunities in the arts.

Eric Yung

1. I'm quite enthusiastic about alternative learning methods that may be employed in our schools. Systems like the Montessori program have shown that there are benefits to be garnered from methods of learning that expose the child to artistic endeavors. I would be open to expanding on such systems of learning where we may challenge our children to acquire more creative skills. At later stages of learning, the concept of creativity can best be explored by more free-form thinking and problem solving with thinking "outside the box". I would want to discuss with the various stakeholder groups, the possibilities of including more goal-oriented tasks/puzzles/contests in our curriculum where a creative point of view may be more openly expressed.

2. I think artistic and creative expression is one facet of personal development, and I would hope that our schools do offers opportunities to explore this. I would support some component of artistic and creative time to be incorporated back into our curriculum, although the scope of this may be limited by our resources. However, some aspects of creativity can be incorporated back into our core curriculum by encouraging our students to work on multidisciplinary projects to emphasize novel approaches to problem solving. I would encourage our stakeholder groups to assist in creating additional opportunities for our children to explore their artistic talents and augment our core curriculum. Working in groups outside of the classroom on various creative and artistic projects in conjunction with experienced guides in the community could offer not only a powerful tool to emphasize the creative component of their education, but also encourage our children to succeed in team learning environments.

3. I would encourage local Arts organizations who are interested to contact our school administrators and participate in the school curriculum development process. This is one way to bring a fresh perspective in teaching concepts in our basic curriculum. In addition, there are partnerships between various local organizations and the local schools already, and I would be open to exploring partnerships with local Arts organizations to develop after school and/or extracurricular programs which may augment school curriculum. Additional opportunities such as summer school programs may also be appropriate. Participation by all of our community groups can only serve to enhance our children's education if done well and in a well thought out manner.