#### **BCSTA** Executive

It has come to my attention that Saanich school district and openStudent representatives have been approaching Boards of Education and local teacher associations in a concerted effort to undermine the implementation of MyEducation BC and encouraging districts to unilaterally withdraw from a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

I am frustrated that it appears a school district is spending public dollars on their own solution, dollars that should be directed to students, to compete against a province-wide solution chosen by their own colleagues, after a comprehensive and transparent selection process. To date 47 districts and 80 independent schools representing close to 90 per cent of students are committed to MyEducation BC.

These are the facts regarding the MyEducation BC.

Claim: Saanich was not permitted to participate in the RFP process.

Fact: False. The Saanich Board of Education did have an opportunity to participate in the qualification stage but was not successful in meeting the required qualifications. Government procurement and Treasury Board policy require that all large scale procurements include a Request for Qualifications stage.

Claim: There are significant financial savings by developing a product in BC (openStudent) rather than purchasing a commercial of the shelf service (MyEducation BC).

Fact: False. These claims are based upon inaccurate comparisons with BCeSIS. The business plan for openStudent, as described in published documents, is incomplete and does not accurately account for all ongoing development and hosting costs.

The openStudent financial model requires substantial uptake by schools in order to be viable. A Ministry review of the business plan indicates that openStudent systems would need to contain more than 100,000 active student records to reduce annual school district costs to \$10/student, the annual usage fee for MyEducation BC. The total enrolment for the four districts that have indicated support for openStudent is only 23,600 students which would cause their annual usage cost to exceed \$27.50/student. If all five remaining uncommitted districts also choose to implement openStudent (which is highly unlikely) the cost would still be more than \$14.85/student. An analysis based on information from their own business plan shows that openStudent will cost districts significantly more than MyEducation BC.

Claim: The Ministry is developing a "BC common platform" that will allow openSchool to plug-in and exchange student records with other student information systems.

Fact: False. The Ministry is not developing a platform for connecting disparate district-based student information systems. MyEducation BC is a complete student information service and no

provision is being made for interfaces with other student information systems. Schools that use openStudent or any other system will not be able to easily share records with schools using MyEducation BC.

Claim: OpenStudent is on the Ministry of Education list of approved software.

Fact: False. The Ministry does not have a list of approved student information system software.

Claim: Aspen SIS is an unfinished product.

Fact: Aspen is a mature product that has been installed in more than fifty jurisdictions in the United

States and United Kingdom. Aspen was selected through a rigorous procurement process because it best satisfied the requirements of schools in British Columbia, right out of the box. The service will go into production in April 2014 and all enhancements and customizations for BC will be completed in August 2014. MyEducation BC will be implemented in more than 700

schools by September 2014.

As Minister responsible for education in this province it is my job to ensure ever dollar that we have available supports student learning. We believe that we have selected the best product to support the transformation of education in this province and I am frustrated there is misinformation being actively communicated through a variety of channels.

I look to each of you as trustee leaders in this province to actively support the province-wide solution – a solution that was that chosen by school districts for school districts.

Sincerely,

Peter Fassbender Minister of Education

#### TIMELINE AND DETAILS OF THE MYEDUCATION BC PROCUREMENT PROCESS:

January 2012 – engagement of 1400 stakeholders though a survey to determine key requirements and criteria for a new electronic student information system. Stakeholders included BCTF, BCSTA, BCCPAC, BCPVPA, BCSSA, FISA, FNESC, school district staff, independent school staff who identified the 700 requirements the successful vendor would need to meet.

May 2012 – creation of an executive steering committee comprised of 3 superintendents, 3 secretary-treasurers, 1 school district principal, one service management council member and ministry staff. It was their job to determine if what was being requested was viable.

July 2012 – province issues a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The purpose of the RFQ was to comply with the Vendor Reference Check Review Policy, set out by Treasury Board, and to establish a list of Qualified Respondents that met the requirement of the Policy and who were eligible to submit proposals in response to the RFP. Only legal entities qualified through the RFQ process were eligible to submit proposals through the RFP.

August 2012 - 16 responses received and evaluated by committee comprised of 5 school district representatives and 4 ministry staff lead by an independent government procurement specialist.

September - November 2012 - functional requirements for the new system were prepared by 45 experts from public and independent schools. These requirements were made publicly available on the Ministry's website, 175 comments were received that were then incorporated into the requirements document that formed part of the Request for Proposal.

December 2012 – Request for Proposals issued to all qualified candidates from the RFQ process. Six proposals were received.

February – June 2013 – evaluation process. Evaluators were all members from the core evaluation committee and additional subject matter experts. In total experts from 16 districts helped to select the successful vendor on behalf of all school districts and the ministry.

November 2013, after a comprehensive procurement process, the Ministry of Education entered into a contract with Fujitsu Consulting (Canada) to offer MyEducation BC, a hosted service based upon the Aspen SIS software from Follett School Solutions Inc.

February 2014 - Several school districts have begun the implementation process and it is expected that the service will replace BCeSIS in 720 schools by September 2014. Deployment across the province will be completed in 2015/16

March 2016 - BCeSIS will be decommissioned.

On Mar 6, 2014, at 9:41 AM, "Wood, Rob EDUC:EX" <Rob.Wood@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Please see below the note from Nancy MacDonald regarding open student and my response to Nancy.

From: Wood, Rob EDUC:EX Sent: March 6, 2014 9:40 AMTo: 'Nancy

Macdonald'-Subject: RE: openStudent

Thanks for your note Nancy. As I shared with you earlier in the week, I know from personal experience how hard this decision is for you, your team and the board. As with so many initiatives like this, I'm not sure anyone could have predicted the type of systems that could have been available or had the level of up take that it has incurred. In hindsight, I'm sure a number of things could have been done differently.

What will be most important for me now is how we support you in the transition going forward. I will have a conversation with my team on their ideas of next steps and we will have further conversations with yourselves and the other openStudent Districts.

I will be in touch shortly.

Kind regards,

Rob

From: Nancy Macdonald [mailto:nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca] •Sent: March 6, 2014 9:02 AM•To: Wood, Rob EDUC:EX•Subject: openStudent

Hello Rob,

At our in-camera Board of Education meeting last night I presented the concerns you expressed regarding the integration of openStudent with the Service Card, potential costs for SD63 and the implications of further investment of funds, as per our conversation on Monday. The Board passed a motion to wind down operations of openStudent by April 30.

It is extremely disheartening for them and for all of our staff as you can imagine. And there is concern that we received mixed messages from the Ministry over time (districts should consider innovative cost saving measures, districts could choose their system, the service card was never raised as an issue til now, etc.). Personally, I believe that if a couple of things had been different at the time of the announcements about the end of BCesis, and we had been given the opportunity to be considered, openStudent as a BC product was an innovative solution to the headaches and costs of the past.

The Board also felt that it would have been appropriate for you to speak to them directly about this. I do know that that would not have changed anything. It is what it is, and Saanich will rebound.

The Minister may receive a letter in this regard from the Board and I believe that our Board Chair will do a press release. For now we will begin packaging up our code, because the core module is complete and marketable.

Best wishes, Nancy

Nancy Macdonald Superintendent of Schools School District 63 Saanich nmacdonald sd63.bc.ca 250-652-7332

Who are we meeting with? What do you need from me to be ready? e

From: "Wood, Rob EDUC:EX" < Rob. Wood@gov.bc.ca >

**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 1:06 PM **To:** Eleanor Liddy <eleanor.liddy@gov.bc.ca>

## Subject: Rob / Saanich SD re: openStudent

When: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time (US &

Canada).

Where:

S15

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

\*~\*~\*~\*\*



May 22, 2014

Ref: 170906

Wayne Hunter, Chair Board of Education School District No. 63 (Saanich) Email: Board.trustees@sd63.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Thank you for the letter of November 18, 2013, Minister Fassbender has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you acknowledge in your invitation, the Province is strongly committed to providing the K-12 Sector a common student information service. After extensive consultations with school districts, practitioners, parents and students there is overwhelming support for the MyEducation BC provincial solution. We are convinced that there is great benefit to students and teachers to have all schools in the province using the same student information system.

I believe it is in your school district's best interest to reconsider using MyEducation BC before making further investments in an independent solution. It is our understanding that very few districts are pursuing openStudent. Currently, we have a commitment from districts representing close to 90 percent of the student population who will be moving to MyEducation BC.

I would also like to address the inaccuracy in your statement that you were not permitted to participate in the RFP process. Government procurement requires that all large scale procurements include a Request for Qualifications stage. The Saanich Board of Education did have an opportunity to participate in the qualification stage but was not successful in meeting the required qualifications.

In addition, the Ministry of Education has undertaken a review of the business case that you provided for openStudent. It does not accurately reflect our experience with BCeSIS or the plans for transitioning to our new service. We feel that some of the assumptions underlying your approach, statements about the level of support by other districts, and the accuracy and completeness of the financial analysis are questionable. Given the limited support by other school districts, I am not persuaded that you have made a convincing case for a viable standalone solution.

The benefits that teachers, students and parents will experience with MyEducation BC include a province-wide system for cross district collaboration through a modern, easy to use secure system that allows real-time access to student records while being flexible to support personalized learning, special needs, and various scheduling options.

The ability for parents and students to monitor student progress on a continual basis and communicate securely with teachers and school-based staff is something government feels is a strong benefit of this new system.

Once again, I would encourage you to re-evaluate your pursuit of a standalone solution as I do not believe it is in the best interest of your students or is financially sustainable.

I have asked the MyEducation BC team to meet with your team on how we can include your District to ensure Saanich school district benefits from adopting the provincial student information service.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Wood Deputy Minister

pc: Nancy MacDonald, Superintendent, School District No. 63 (Saanich)
Monica Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 63 (Saanich)
Scott Benwell, Superintendent, School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)
Sherry Elwood, Superintendent, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)
Joy Yule, Superintendent, School District No. 47 (Powell River)

Approvals					
Contact Info		Comments	Date		
Drafted by:	Eleanor Liddy				
In Consultation with:					
Manager and/or					
Director					
ADM	Jennifer McCrea				
МСО	Penny Rosales		Jan. 9, 2014		
DM					
МО					

\* MCO - Remove the Approval Block before saving as a PDF\*



May 22, 2014

Ref: 170906

Wayne Hunter, Chair Board of Education School District No. 63 (Saanich) Email: Board.trustees@sd63.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Thank you for the letter of November 18, 2013, Minister Fassbender has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you acknowledge in your invitation, the Province is strongly committed to providing the K-12 Sector a common student information service. After extensive consultations with school districts, practitioners, parents and students there is overwhelming support for the MyEducation BC provincial solution. We are convinced that there is great benefit to students and teachers to have all schools in the province using the same student information system.

I believe it is in your school districts best interest to reconsider using MyEducation BC before making further investments in an independent solution. It is our understanding that very few districts are pursuing openStudent. Currently, we have a commitment from districts representing over 90 per cent of the student population who will be moving to MyEducation BC.

I would also like to address the inaccuracy in your statement that you were not permitted to participate in the RFP process. Government procurement requires that all large scale procurements include a Request for Qualifications stage. The Saanich Board of Education did have an opportunity to participate in the qualification stage but was not successful in meeting the required qualifications.

In addition, the Ministry of Education has undertaken a review of the business case that you provided for openStudent. It does not accurately reflect our experience with BCeSIS or the plans for transitioning to our new service. We feel that some of the assumptions underlying your approach, statements about the level of support by other districts, and the accuracy and completeness of the financial analysis are questionable. Given the limited support by other school districts, I am not persuaded that you have made a convincing case for a viable standalone solution.

The benefits that teachers, students and parents will experience with MyEducation BC include a province-wide system for cross district collaboration through a modern, easy to use secure system that allows real-time access to student records while being flexible to support personalized learning, special needs, and various scheduling options.

The ability for parents and students to monitor student progress on a continual basis and communicate securely with teachers and school-based staff is something government feels is a strong benefit of this new system.

Once again, I would encourage you to re-evaluate your pursuit of a standalone solution as I do not believe it is in the best interest of your students or is financially sustainable.

I have asked the MyEducation BC team to meet with your team on how we can include your district to ensure Saanich school district benefits from adopting the provincial student information service.

C:		1	l
51	nce	erei	١V.

Rob Wood Deputy Minister

pc: Nancy MacDonald, Superintendent (<u>nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca</u>)
Monica Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer (<u>mschulte@sd63.bc.ca</u>)

Approvals					
Contact Info		Comments	Date		
Drafted by:	Eleanor Liddy				
In Consultation with:					
Manager and/or Director					
ADM	Jennifer McCrea				
МСО	Penny Rosales		Jan. 9, 2014		
DM					
МО					

\* MCO - Remove the Approval Block before saving as a PDF\*

## Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

From:

Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

Sent:

February-21-14 11:36 AM

To:

'rezansoff@sd51.bc.ca';

322

'mmcevoy@sd61.bc.ca';

'vadrian@gw.sd74.bc.ca'; 'tbella@sd57.bc.ca'; 'jkellett@sd45.bc.ca';

'korky\_neufeld@sd34.bc.ca'; 'shansen@bcsta.org'

Subject:

Letter from Minister Peter Fassbender

Attachments:

172431 BCSTA Executive outgoing.pdf

Please find attached a letter from the Minister of Education.



February 21, 2014

Ref: 172431

Teresa Rezansoff, President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: rezansoff@sd51.bc.ca

Trish Bella, Director

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: tbella@sd57.bc.ca

Gordon Swan, Vice-President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: TrusteeSwan@gmail.com

Jane Kellett, Director

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: jkellett@sd45.bc.ca

Michael McEvoy, Past-President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: mmcevoy@sd61.bc.ca

Korky Neufeld, Director

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: korky\_neufeld@sd34.bc.ca

Valerie Adrian, Director

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: vadrian@gw.sd74.bc.ca

Stephen Hansen, Executive Director

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Email: shansen@bcsta.org

Dear Executive Members:

It has come to my attention that Saanich School District and openStudent representatives have been approaching Boards of Education and local teacher associations in a concerted effort to undermine the implementation of MyEducation BC, and encouraging districts to unilaterally withdraw from a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

I am concerned that it appears a school district is spending public dollars on their own solution, dollars that should be directed to students, to compete against a province-wide solution chosen by their own colleagues, after a comprehensive and transparent selection process. To date 47 districts and 80 independent schools representing close to 90 percent of students are committed to MyEducation BC.

These are the facts regarding the MyEducation BC.

Claim: Saanich was not permitted to participate in the RFP process.

Fact: False. The Saanich Board of Education did have an opportunity to participate in the

qualification stage but was not successful in meeting the required qualifications. Government procurement and Treasury Board policy require that all large-scale procurements include a

Request for Qualifications stage.

. . . /2

Claim: There are significant financial savings by developing a product in BC (openStudent) rather than purchasing a commercial off the shelf service (MyEducation BC).

False. These claims are based upon inaccurate comparisons with BCeSIS. The business plan for openStudent, as described in published documents, is incomplete and does not accurately account for all ongoing development and hosting costs.

The openStudent financial model requires substantial uptake by schools in order to be viable. A Ministry review of the business plan indicates that openStudent systems would need to contain more than 100,000 active student records to reduce annual school district costs to \$10 per student, the annual usage fee for MyEducation BC. The total enrolment for the four districts that have indicated support for openStudent is only 23,600 students, which would cause their annual usage cost to exceed \$27.50 per student. If all five remaining uncommitted districts also choose to implement openStudent (which is highly unlikely) the cost would still be more than \$14.85 per student. An analysis based on information from their own business plan shows that openStudent will cost districts significantly more than MyEducation BC.

Claim: The Ministry is developing a "BC common platform" that will allow openSchool to plug-in and exchange student records with other student information systems.

False. The Ministry is not developing a platform for connecting disparate district-based student information systems. MyEducation BC is a complete student information service and no provision is being made for interfaces with other student information systems. Schools that use openStudent or any other system will not be able to easily share records with schools using MyEducation BC.

Claim: OpenStudent is on the Ministry of Education list of approved software.

Fact: False. The Ministry does not have a list of approved student information system software.

Claim: Aspen SIS is an unfinished product.

Fact:

Fact:

Fact:

Aspen is a mature product that has been installed in more than 50 jurisdictions in the United States and United Kingdom. Aspen was selected through a rigorous procurement process because it best satisfied the requirements of schools in British Columbia, right out of the box. The service will go into production in April 2014 and all enhancements and customizations for BC will be completed in August 2014. MyEducation BC will be implemented in more than 700 schools by September 2014.

As the Minister responsible for education in this province, it is my job to ensure every dollar that we have available supports student learning. We believe that we have selected the best product to support the transformation of education in this province and I am very concerned there is misinformation being actively communicated through a variety of channels.

I look to each of you as trustee leaders in this province to actively support the province-wide solution—a solution that was chosen by school districts for school districts.

Sincerely,

Peter Fassbender

Minister

#### TIMELINE AND DETAILS OF THE MYEDUCATION BC PROCUREMENT PROCESS:

January 2012 – engagement of 1400 stakeholders though a survey to determine key requirements and criteria for a new electronic student information system. Stakeholders included BCTF, BCSTA, BCCPAC, BCPVPA, BCSSA, FISA, FNESC, school district staff, independent school staff who identified the 700 requirements the successful vendor would need to meet.

May 2012 – creation of an executive steering committee comprised of three superintendents, three secretary-treasurers, one school district principal, one service management council member and Ministry staff. It was their job to determine if what was being requested was viable.

July 2012 – province issues a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The purpose of the RFQ was to comply with the Vendor Reference Check Review Policy, set out by Treasury Board, and to establish a list of Qualified Respondents that met the requirement of the Policy and who were eligible to submit proposals in response to the RFP. Only legal entities qualified through the RFQ process were eligible to submit proposals through the RFP.

**August 2012** - 16 responses received and evaluated by committee comprised of 5 school district representatives and 4 ministry staff lead by an independent government procurement specialist.

**September-November 2012** - functional requirements for the new system were prepared by 45 experts from public and independent schools. These requirements were made publicly available on the Ministry's website, 175 comments were received that were then incorporated into the requirements document that formed part of the Request for Proposal.

**December 2012** – Request for Proposals issued to all qualified candidates from the RFQ process. Six proposals were received.

**February–June 2013** – evaluation process. Evaluators were all members from the core evaluation committee and additional subject matter experts. In total experts from 16 districts helped to select the successful vendor on behalf of all school districts and the ministry.

November 2013 - after a comprehensive procurement process, the Ministry of Education entered into a contract with Fujitsu Consulting (Canada) to offer MyEducation BC, a hosted service based upon the Aspen SIS software from Follett School Solutions Inc.

**February 2014** - Several school districts have begun the implementation process and it is expected that the service will replace BCeSIS in 720 schools by September 2014. Deployment across the province will be completed in 2015/16

March 2016 - BCeSIS will be decommissioned.

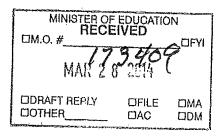
# Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, Canada V8M 2A5

(250) 652-7300 Fax: (250) 652-6421

March 25, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender Minister of Education PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Gov't Victoria, BC V8W 9E2



Dear Minister Fassbender,

I am writing you today on behalf of the Saanich Board of Education. As you know, our district has suspended work on its student information system (*openStudent*) as we explore options outside British Columbia. We are encouraged by the interest we have received and will continue to consider ways to finish what we believe to be an outstanding and inexpensive system for any educational jurisdiction, Canadian or international.

Our Superintendent, Nancy Macdonald, was called to the Deputy Minister's office on March 4, 2014 to discuss the requirement of a BC system to integrate with the new BC Services Card. He explained that this requirement would be of significant cost to the district. Ms Macdonald graciously received this information and provided it to the Board of Education on March 6, 2014 concluding that the potential cost would be too great a risk for our Board to bear. The Board reluctantly passed a motion to cease development temporarily, while options mentioned above were explored.

The Trustees would like to express their concern that the Board itself was not involved in the Deputy's communication. A meeting with Mr. Wood was postponed twice and then eventually cancelled. While this opportunity may not have changed the outcome, it would have allowed the Board the chance to discuss its concerns and to pose questions of the Deputy Minister.

Overall, our Board of Education is extremely disappointed but has no less pride in the innovative approaches it has taken in education, technology and revenue generation. There is no invention or innovation out there that hasn't involved courage or risk. We hold our heads high in knowing that we built an information system that is competitive, flexible and modern. And we took these steps upholding our Board goals and will continue to do so in the future with the greatest degree of integrity.

With the greatest respect,

Wayne Hunter Board Chair

School District 63 (Saanich)

WH/NM:klg

Saanich Schools



## Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

172847

From:

Sauder, Kit EDUC:EX

Sent:

Monday, March 10, 2014 9:16 AM

To:

Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

Subject:

FW: Killing the Openstudent tracking program in SD 63

Categories:

ST - Direct Reply

Hi Carrie,

Can we please have this letter responded to by program area addressing the concerns raised by

322

Thank you,

Kit Sauder, Executive Assistant Office of the Honourable Peter Fassbender Ministry of Education

Ph: (250) 387-1977 Cell: (250) 889-9133

Website: www.bced.gov.bc.ca

From:

322

Date: March 8, 2014 at 8:57:33 AM PST

To: < Peter.Fassbender.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, < Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Cc: <<u>Adrian.Dix.MLA@leg.bc.ca</u>>, <<u>Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca</u>> Subject: Re: Killing the Openstudent tracking program in SD 63

Mr. Fassbender

I am appalled by your government's curtailment of School District #63 (Saanich) students' tracking system that was to be implemented this coming school year. This project was undertaken to address the inadequacies of the BCeSIS tracking system that cost \$Millions from a US firm to develop over several years and was less than satisfactory for tracking of students' progress in spite of several attempts to correct this program. From what I gather you are scrapping the Openstudent program because it will not co-ordinate with a student services card that will be the same as the provincial healthcare services card. The Openstudent program, being locally developed and therefore far less expensive, would meet the needs of BC students, teachers and administrators, and save the government money. Your government has decided to sign another deal with a foreign corporation for yet another untried student tracking program with the inevitable costs associated with any new IT system in revising software programming, but you have squelched the technological development of our own made-in-BC software.

**S22** 

Is it your government's intent to spend more in foreign-owned and operated software at three and possibly 30 times the cost of a BC-developed IT service that could save the taxpayers of this province money better spent put into the BC education system? I hope your ministry will seriously reconsider the investment in a locally-produced IT system 100070

to the benefit of British Columbian parents, students, teachers, administrators and IT workers.

Sincerely -

**S**22

## Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

From: Sent: Macauley, Andrew EDUC:EX Tuesdav. March 18. 2014 2:08 PM

To:

Subject:

Provincial student information service (Referral 172847)

Dear

322

Thank you for your e-mail of March 8, 2014 to the Minister of Education, regarding the new common student information service. I have been asked to respond to your message.

In response to feedback collected through an extensive consultation process, the Ministry of Education undertook a comprehensive procurement process for a new student information service to replace BCeSIS. In November 2013 a contract was signed with Fujitsu Consulting (Canada) to provide MyEducation BC, a hosted service built upon the Follett Aspen SIS software. The selection was based upon requirements prepared by teams of stakeholders from school districts, independent schools and the Ministry. Fujitsu was chosen because their proposal best delivered the required functionality and they have the corporate capacity to provide a stable, low-risk, flexible solution that will serve students and schools well. Fifty school districts, representing more than 88.5% of public school students, and more than 80 independent schools have already committed to participate in MyEducation BC. It will be implemented in more than 800 elementary, middle and secondary schools by September 2014, with the remainder coming on board in 2015.

The Request for Proposals for the provincial student information service, including requirements for user authentication, were published on the BC Education Plan web site. OpenStudent did not meet the minimum criteria required to qualify for consideration as a province-wide service. The decisions to continue the development of openStudent as a district project and subsequently to terminate it were made by Saanich Board of Education. The Ministry of Education is confident that MyEducation BC is the best common solution for teachers, staff, students, and parents in this province, and will not be providing direct funding to other solutions.

Thank you for your interest in the new common student information service.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Macauley** 

Andrew Macauley Director, Common Business Initiatives Ministry of Education (250) 415-2736 (cell) (250) 356-9460 (fax)

## Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

172821

From:

Donald Lacy [dlacy@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent:

Friday, March 7, 2014 3:12 PM

To:

Tim Agnew; Debby Davis; whunter@sd63.bc.ca; Nancy Macdonald; Peter Westhaver;

Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

Subject:

Open Student demise: No words can say enough, but I will try

322

Categories:

ST - Take Appropriate Action

To: Minister Fassbender

Mr. Hunter - Chair Saanich School Board

Ms. Macdonald - Superintendent Saanich School Board

Mr. Westhaver - Principle, Stelly's Secondary School

Mr. Tim Agnew and Ms. Debbie Davis,

Re: Cancellation of OpenStudent Student Information System

Tim, Debbie and others, I know this was your baby and it must hurt. To say that I am dismayed that it is cancelled does not even come close.

\$22

It will be the kids and families that lose. And staff.

I am cc'ing various levels of SD63 and our Minister, all of whom I am certain are like feeling somewhere between 'gut wrench' and 'why do we have to be the axe men/women for education - just give us the resources we need and we'll do the right thing'.

To our Prov Gov: "Penny wise and pound foolish."

Minister Fassbender | S | I appeal directly to you to please provide direct funding for Openstudent - its the best MIS out there for education. I have met the development team - I have no affiliation with them, nothing personally to gain - I just know they are your best bet to move forward. Please consider this.

Again, to the OpenStudent team, deepest regrets.

And my best wishes - you are an outstanding development group.

Best regards,

**S22** 

cc: Minister Fassbender

Mr. Wayne Hunter - Chair Saanich School Board

Ms. Nancy Macdonald - Superintendent Saanich School Board

Mr. Peter Westhaver - Principle, Stelly's Secondary School

From: "Tim Agnew" <tagnew@sd63.bc.ca>

To: "Tim Agnew (tagnew@openStudent.ca)" <tagnew@openstudent.ca>

Cc: "Debby Davis" <ddavis@sd63.bc.ca>, "Gregg Ferrie" <gferrie@sd63.bc.ca>, "Trustees"

<trustees@sd63.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, 7 March, 2014 1:34:34 PM Subject: openStudent Announcement

Hello Everyone:

It is with extreme regret and disappointment that the District of Saanich has been compelled to discontinue funding for the openStudent project. In a recent meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education, it was revealed that any new information system must now integrate with the new BC Service Card, and that this new requirement will result in significant increased costs to the openStudent project. It was indicated that these additional costs would be in the millions of dollars. Given this cost pressure, the Saanich School board made the very difficult decision to cease funding further development of the openStudent application. I have attached the news release related to this announcement.

The reasons that the openStudent project was initiated three years ago remain fully intact and meaningful today. It is a system that has been developed by the education community and has the ability to continually evolve in sync with changes in educational delivery and assessment. The user acceptance level has been remarkably high. Feedback from teachers, clerical and admin staff has been extensive and extremely positive.

openStudent remains the lowest cost alternative SIS for any jurisdiction, and over a short period of time, would have freed up over 100 million education dollars that could have been put to better use.

In February 2011 districts in the province gathered together in Abbotsford and clearly identified a number of key objectives for the successor to BCeSIS. These included: a common system, a custom built applications, improved functionality, a robust and flexible design, and control at the stakeholder level. The only alternative that addressed ALL of these important objectives is openStudent. We have never lost sight of this mandate.

The completion of version 1 of openStudent has proven that it is entirely possible for the education community to successfully design and build a student information system, one that directly meets the needs of stakeholders. During the project we created and maintained authentic connections with the stakeholders and, through continuous collaboration, tapped into their collective skills and experience. The result has been something that is innovative, diverse and gets us all thinking outside the box. And through it all, we have managed this project inexpensively, on time and on budget.

We wish to thank everyone in the province for your contributions to this project. To our partner districts: it has been a pleasure working with you and we wish to thank you for your trust, time and energy 20 To the

District (	of Saanich:	our sincere	thanks and	appreciation	for your	faith and	extensive	support 1	throughout	thi
project.	This truly is	s a district th	nat is not af	raid to be inn	ovative a	and to this	nk outside	the box.	_	

While this chapter of the openStudent project is clearly at an end, we are continuing to pursue other jurisdictions and partners to help complete the build of the application.

Good luck to everyone in the future and hopefully our paths with cross again.

Tim Agnew & Debby Davis

Tim Agnew

openStudent Project Manager

250.732.8871

Debby Davis

openStudent Business Analyst

250.508.9443

## Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

172821

From:

Liddy, Eleanor EDUC:EX

Sent:

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:55 PM ·

To:

dlacy@sd63.bc.ca

Subject:

Provincial Student Information Service (Referral 172821)

Dear

322

Thank you for your email of March 7, 2014 to the Minister of Education regarding the common provincial student information system. I have been asked to respond to your letter.

In response to feedback collected through an extensive consultation process, the Ministry of Education undertook a comprehensive procurement process for a new student information service to replace BCeSIS. In November 2013 a contract was signed with Fujitsu Consulting (Canada) to provide MyEducation BC, a hosted service built upon the Follett Aspen SIS software. The selection was based upon requirements prepared by teams of stakeholders from school districts, independent schools and the Ministry. Fujitsu was chosen because their proposal best delivered the required functionality and they have the corporate capacity to provide a stable, low-risk, flexible solution that will serve students and schools well. Fifty school districts, representing more than 88.5% of public school students, and more than 80 independent schools have already committed to participate in MyEducation BC. It will be implemented in more than 800 elementary, middle and secondary schools by September 2014, with the remainder coming on board in 2015.

We are confident that MyEducation BC will provide the education community with a service that will support change and personalized learning as we move together to transform education in the province. The Ministry will not be providing any direct funding to other solutions.

## Regards

Eleanor Liddy,
Strategic Director
MyEducation BC/BCeSIS, Open School Bc
Ministry of Education
250-508-1119

#### Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

From:

Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

Sent:

Friday, February 14, 2014 4:53 PM

To: Subject:

Wood, Rob EDUC:EX FW: Letter to Saanich

Attachments:

170906 Hunter Revision - 3 (3).docx; 170906 Hunter incoming.pdf

Importance:

High

Hi Rob, I didn't hear back on the one yet. Is it ok to go?

Pls note - you are supposed to attend a meeting in Saanich to see their district's info system – do you still plan to attend or will you be sending someone?

#### Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:43 PM

**To:** Wood, Rob EDUC:EX **Subject:** FW: Letter to Saanich

Importance: High

Hi Rob, this is in the site and as per your request, I'm holding it. Jennifer is following up on it. Please let me know the

status Thanks, Sue

#### Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Wood, Rob EDUC:EX

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2014 1:47 PM

**To:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** FW: Letter to Saanich

Importance: High

Can we load this version in the approval site and I will sign off on it. I am going to call, Nancy before we hit the go button on the letter. Will let you know when I have connected with her.

From: Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2014 2:23 PM

To: Wood, Rob EDUC:EX
Cc: McCrea, Jennifer EDUC:EX
Subject: Letter to Saanich

Importance: High

For approval please. I will send out today when I hear back from you.

Thanks, Sue

## Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

## Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

From:

Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

Sent:

Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:18 PM

To:

Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

Cc:

Rosales, Penny EDUC:EX

**Subject:** 

RE: 170906 Hunter

it needs to be cancelled – it was not approved by DM but the issue was dealt with.

Thanks, Sue

#### Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Preziuso, Carrie EDUC:EX

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:07 PM

To: Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX Cc: Rosales, Penny EDUC:EX Subject: 170906 Hunter

Does anyone know what is happening with 170906 Hunter? It appears the latest copy on DMO SP was not approved but provides no information as to where to go from here?

Thoughts

Carrie Preziuso
Correspondence Coordinator
Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Education

Phone: 250-889-9763 | Email: Carrie.Preziuso@gov.bc.ca



May 13, 2014

Ref: 170906

Wayne Hunter, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 63 (Saanich)
Email: Board.trustees@sd63.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Thank you for the letter of November 18, 2013, Minister Fassbender has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you acknowledge in your invitation, the Province is strongly committed to providing the K-12 Sector a common student information service. After extensive consultations with school districts, practitioners, parents and students there is overwhelming support for the MyEducation BC provincial solution. We are convinced that there is great benefit to students and teachers to have all schools in the province using the same student information system.

I believe it is in your school district's best interest to reconsider using MyEducation BC before making further investments in an independent solution. It is our understanding that very few districts are pursuing openStudent. Currently, we have a commitment from districts representing close to 90 percent of the student population who will be moving to MyEducation BC.

I would also like to address the inaccuracy in your statement that you were not permitted to participate in the RFP process. Government procurement requires that all large scale procurements include a Request for Qualifications stage. The Saanich Board of Education did have an opportunity to participate in the qualification stage but was not successful in meeting the required qualifications.

In addition, the Ministry of Education has undertaken a review of the business case that you provided for openStudent. It does not accurately reflect our experience with BCeSIS or the plans for transitioning to our new service. We feel that some of the assumptions underlying your approach, statements about the level of support by other districts, and the accuracy and completeness of the financial analysis are questionable. Given the limited support by other school districts, I am not persuaded that you have made a convincing case for a viable standalone solution.

The benefits that teachers, students and parents will experience with MyEducation BC include a province-wide system for cross district collaboration through a modern, easy to use secure system that allows real-time access to student records while being flexible to support personalized learning, special needs, and various scheduling options.

.../2

The ability for parents and students to monitor student progress on a continual basis and communicate securely with teachers and school-based staff is something government feels is a strong benefit of this new system.

Once again, I would encourage you to re-evaluate your pursuit of a standalone solution as I do not believe it is in the best interest of your students or is financially sustainable.

I have asked the MyEducation BC team to meet with your team on how we can include your District to ensure Saanich school district benefits from adopting the provincial student information service.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Wood Deputy Minister

pc: Nancy MacDonald, Superintendent, School District No. 63 (Saanich)
Monica Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 63 (Saanich)
Scott Benwell, Superintendent, School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)
Sherry Elwood, Superintendent, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)
Joy Yule, Superintendent, School District No. 47 (Powell River)

		Approvals	
Con	tact info	Comments	Date
Drafted by:	Eleanor Liddy		
In Consultation with:		·	
Manager and/or Director			
ADM	Jennifer McCrea		
МСО	Penny Rosales		Jan. 9, 2014
DM			
МО			

<sup>\*</sup> MCO - Remove the Approval Block before saving as a PDF\*

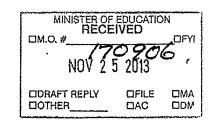
# Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, Canada V8M 2A5

(250) 652-7300 Fax: (250) 652-6421

November 18, 2013

The Honourable Peter Fassbender Minister of Education PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E2



Dear Minister Fassbender:

The Saanich Board of Education and Senior Staff wish to extend our thanks to you for meeting with us today about openStudent.

We want to acknowledge your receptiveness and very much appreciate the timely efforts made to accommodate our team.

Minister Fassbender, we believe we have taken some bold steps in addressing a pressing need of the Province of British Columbia's schools. And while we were not permitted to participate in the RFP process regarding a new student information system, we have forged ahead with the belief that we have a product that will be not only superior in functionality, but significantly cheaper than a commercial version, as described in our meeting today.

You did confirm that your preference is that all districts employ the same system. Our view is that modern systems can be compatible, without detriment to the goals of government for seamless record transition and other requirements.

At our meeting you acknowledged that you would be interested in coming to Saanich. We are happy to host you at any time.

Thank you again for the time you gave us today.

Yours truly,

G. Wayne Hunter

Chair, Saanich Board of Education

NM:rd

cc:

N. Macdonald, Superintendent of Schools

M. Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer

Saanich Schools



Visit us at our website: www.sd63.bc.ca

## Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

From:

Leigh Glancie < Iglancie@sd63.bc.ca> Monday, January 27, 2014 1:50 PM

Sent: To:

Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

Subject:

Re: Invitation

Hi Sue.

I have confirmed that Tuesday, February 18 at 9:00am works for the meeting with Rob re: openStudent.

Please confirm he is still available. Many thanks.

Leigh Glancie
Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" < Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Leigh Glancie" < lglancie@sd63.bc.ca> Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 11:14:40 AM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Leigh,

Rob has had a change in his calendar on Tuesday and will not be able to meet with Nancy. Looking forward in the calendar, I can offer Feb. 18 or Feb. 19 - 9:00 - 10:00 on either date.

Please let me know if one of those options will work for you.

Thanks, Sue

## Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2014 3:40 PM

**To:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** Re: Invitation

I've got it so you don't need to send her an invite.

Thanks, Leigh

Leigh Glancie Executive Administrative Assistant Office of the Superintendent of Schools School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" < Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca >

To: "Leigh Glancie" < <a href="mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca">lglancie@sd63.bc.ca</a> Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2014 3:27:12 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Leigh, Let's go for the 28th at 9:00 am at your office. Shall I send the invite through our calendar to Nancy?

Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2014 3:25 PM

**To:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** Re: Invitation

Hi again,

Anytime between 9:00 and 2:00 looks good on both the 28th and 30th.

Can you pick the time around Rob's schedule?

Leigh Glancie
Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines: EX" < Susan, Baines@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Leigh Glancie" < lglancie@sd63.bc.ca > Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 5:05:42 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

He's fairly open for both dates so I'll go with the times that would work best for you.

#### Thanks, sue

#### Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 fax: (250) 356-6007

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca] Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 3:22 PM

**To:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** Re: Invitation

Hi Susan,

I am just checking the dates. Will get back to you asap. Is there a time of day that works best?

Leigh Glancie
Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" < Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Leigh Glancie" < <a href="mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca">lglancie@sd63.bc.ca</a> Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 2:01:22 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Leigh,

January 28<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> would be good days for Rob – would one of those date work?

Please let me know. Thanks, Sue

#### Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph; (250) 356-1234 fax: (250) 356-6007

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2014 11:43 AM

Cc: Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX Subject: Re: Invitation

Good morning Susan,

Further to the message below, I am hoping to find a time later in January that Rob could come and visit Saanich to receive an update on openStudent.

Please let me know what times work for him. Thank you,

Leigh Glancie
Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Rob EDUC Wood:EX" < Rob.Wood@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Nancy Macdonald" < nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca >

Cc: "Leigh Glancie" < lglancie@sd63.bc.ca >, "Susan A EDUC Baines: EX"

<Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca>, "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" <Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2014 9:23:26 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Nancy,

Yes I'd be happy to come and talk about the information system. Perhaps we can set something up towards the end of this month?

From: Nancy Macdonald [mailto:nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2014 4:17 PM

To: Wood, Rob EDUC:EX

**Cc:** Leigh Glancie **Subject:** Invitation

#### Hello Rob.

I don't like taking advantage of having your email address, but just wanted to follow up with you regarding a visit to Saanich for an update on **openStudent**. Would it be possible for your assistant to contact mine (copied here) with some possible dates?

We are very excited about the interest we are receiving in our student information system. We can share the latest with you and promise to keep it to one hour at the most.

Thanks Rob, looking forward to hearing from you.

Nancy

Nancy Macdonald Superintendent of Schools School District 63 Saanich nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca 250-652-7332

## Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

From:

Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX

Sent:

Thursday, January 23, 2014 12:03 PM

To:

'Leigh Glancie'

Subject:

RE: Invitation

Thanks Leigh - sorry about the late cancellation.

### Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca] Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 11:42 AM

To: Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX Subject: Re: Invitation

Thanks, Susan. I will get back to you asap to confirm one of those dates.

Leigh Glancie **Executive Administrative Assistant** Office of the Superintendent of Schools School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines: EX" < Susan. Baines@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Leigh Glancie" < lglancie@sd63.bc.ca> Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 11:14:40 AM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Leigh,

Rob has had a change in his calendar on Tuesday and will not be able to meet with Nancy. Looking forward in the calendar, I can offer Feb. 18 or Feb. 19 - 9:00 - 10:00 on either date.

Please let me know if one of those options will work for you.

Thanks, Sue

#### Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2014 3:40 PM

**To:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** Re: Invitation

I've got it so you don't need to send her an invite.

Thanks, Leigh

Leigh Glancie Executive Administrative Assistant Office of the Superintendent of Schools School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" < Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Leigh Glancie" < <a href="mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca">lglancie@sd63.bc.ca</a> Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2014 3:27:12 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Leigh, Let's go for the 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at your office. Shall I send the invite through our calendar to Nancy?

Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 cell: 250 216-4363

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2014 3:25 PM

**To:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** Re: Invitation

Hi again,

Anytime between 9:00 and 2:00 looks good on both the 28th and 30th.

Can you pick the time around Rob's schedule?

Leigh Glancie
Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
School District 63 (Saanich)
ph: 250.652.7332

fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" < Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Leigh Glancie" < <a href="mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca">lglancie@sd63.bc.ca</a> Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 5:05:42 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

He's fairly open for both dates so I'll go with the times that would work best for you.

Thanks, sue

Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 fax: (250) 356-6007

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca] Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 3:22 PM

**To:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** Re: Invitation

Hi Susan,

I am just checking the dates. Will get back to you asap. Is there a time of day that works best?

Leigh Glancie
Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax; 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" < Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Leigh Glancie" < <a href="mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca">lglancie@sd63.bc.ca</a> Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 2:01:22 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Leigh,

January 28<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> would be good days for Rob – would one of those date work?

Please let me know. Thanks, Sue

Susan Baines, Senior Executive Assistant

Ministry of Education / Deputy Minister's Office / PO BOX 9179 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9H8 / ph: (250) 356-1234 fax: (250) 356-6007

From: Leigh Glancie [mailto:lglancie@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2014 11:43 AM

**Cc:** Baines, Susan A EDUC:EX **Subject:** Re: Invitation

Good morning Susan,

Further to the message below, I am hoping to find a time later in January that Rob could come and visit Saanich to receive an update on openStudent.

Please let me know what times work for him. Thank you,

Leigh Glancie Executive Administrative Assistant Office of the Superintendent of Schools School District 63 (Saanich)

ph: 250.652.7332 fax: 250.652.7360

This email is intended for the recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying or distribution is by permission only. Please delete if received or obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. School District 63 (Saanich) cannot assure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that it is free of errors, virus, interception or interference.

From: "Rob EDUC Wood:EX" < Rob. Wood@gov.bc.ca>

To: "Nancy Macdonald" < nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca>

Cc: "Leigh Glancie" < lglancie@sd63.bc.ca >, "Susan A EDUC Baines: EX"

<<u>Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca</u>>, "Susan A EDUC Baines:EX" <<u>Susan.Baines@gov.bc.ca</u>>

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2014 9:23:26 PM

Subject: RE: Invitation

Hi Nancy,

Yes I'd be happy to come and talk about the information system. Perhaps we can set something up towards the end of this month?

From: Nancy Macdonald [mailto:nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca]

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2014 4:17 PM

**To:** Wood, Rob EDUC:EX **Cc:** Leigh Glancie **Subject:** Invitation

Hello Rob.

I don't like taking advantage of having your email address, but just wanted to follow up with you regarding a visit to Saanich for an update on **openStudent**. Would it be possible for your assistant to contact mine (copied here) with some possible dates?

We are very excited about the interest we are receiving in our student information system. We can share the latest with you and promise to keep it to one hour at the most.

Thanks Rob, looking forward to hearing from you.

Nancy

Nancy Macdonald Superintendent of Schools School District 63 Saanich nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca 250-652-7332 From:

Wood, Rob EDUC:EX

To:

Stickney, Matthew EDUC:EX; Fassbender, Peter EDUC:EX;

cc:

Liddy, Eleanor EDUC:EX; Allen, Roderick EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:

EX; Butterfield, Renate R EDUC:EX; Davis, Rick EDUC:EX; Fayad, Deborah EDUC:EX; MacFarlane, Paige EDUC:EX; McCrea, Jennifer EDUC:EX; Pauliszyn, Robert GCPE:EX;

Roberts, Mike X EDUC:EX; Rongve, Ian EDUC:EX; Baines, Susan A EDUC:

EX;

Subject:

FW: openStudent

Date:

Thursday, March 6, 2014 9:41:23 AM

Please see below the note from Nancy MacDonald regarding open student and my response to Nancy.

ot Responsive

**From:** Wood, Rob EDUC:EX **Sent:** March 6, 2014 9:40 AM

**To:** 'Nancy Macdonald' **Subject:** RE: openStudent

Thanks for your note Nancy. As I shared with you earlier in the week, I know from personal experience how hard this decision is for you, your team and the board. As with so many initiatives like this, I'm not sure anyone could have predicted the type of systems that could have been available or had the level of up take that it has incurred. In hindsight, I'm sure a number of things could have been done differently.

What will be most important for me now is how we support you in the transition going forward. I will have a conversation with my team on their ideas of next steps and we will have further conversations with yourselves and the other openStudent Districts.

I will be in touch shortly.

Kind regards,

Rob

**From:** Nancy Macdonald [mailto:nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca]

**Sent:** March 6, 2014 9:02 AM **To:** Wood, Rob EDUC:EX

Subject: openStudent

Hello Rob,

At our in-camera Board of Education meeting last night I presented the concerns you expressed regarding the integration of openStudent with the Service Card, potential costs for SD63 and the implications of further investment of funds, as per our conversation on Monday. The Board passed a motion to wind down operations of openStudent by April 30.

It is extremely disheartening for them and for all of our staff as you can imagine. And there is concern that we received mixed messages from the Ministry over time (districts should consider innovative cost saving measures, districts could choose their system, the service card was never raised as an issue til now, etc.). Personally, I believe that if a couple of things had been different at the time of the announcements about the end of BCesis, and we had been given the opportunity to be considered, openStudent as a BC product was an innovative solution to the headaches and costs of the past.

The Board also felt that it would have been appropriate for you to speak to them directly about this. I do know that that would not have changed anything. It is what it is, and Saanich will rebound.

The Minister may receive a letter in this regard from the Board and I believe that our Board Chair will do a press release. For now we will begin packaging up our code, because the core module is

complete and marketable.

Best wishes, Nancy

Nancy Macdonald Superintendent of Schools School District 63 Saanich nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca 250-652-7332

# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education for **Information** 

by the Deputy Minister of Education

**SUBJECT:** openStudent Information Campaign

## **BACKGROUND:**

In early 2010 the Saanich School District announced its intent to develop a new student information system as an alternative to BCeSIS or its replacement. Their product, **openStudent**, is based upon open source software tools.

Saanich has prepared a high-level *openStudent Business Plan*<sup>1</sup> and solicited support from other school districts to fund the development of openStudent. To date, three<sup>2</sup> districts (Comox Valley, Vancouver Island North and Powell River) have indicated support for the initiative and are working with Saanich to create a non-profit society to promote its development. The first components of openStudent were completed in May 2013 and piloted in twenty elementary schools. The full production version of the software, which includes support for secondary schools, is not scheduled to be available until the fall of 2015.

The estimated development cost of openStudent is \$3.90M. Saanich school district has invested \$1.46M from capital reserves and anticipates raising an additional \$2.44M through investments by other school districts and sales outside of British Columbia.<sup>3</sup>

In November 2013, after a comprehensive procurement process, the Ministry of Education entered into a contract with Fujitsu Consulting (Canada) to offer MyEducation BC, a hosted service based upon the Aspen SIS software from Follett School Solutions Inc. Several school districts have begun the implementation process and it is expected that the service will replace BCeSIS in 720 schools by September 2014. Deployment across the province will be completed in 2015/16 and BCeSIS will be decommissioned in March 2016.

Forty-seven districts, representing 85% of the public school population, have committed to implementing MyEducation BC. Additionally over 80 independent schools (an additional 12,000 students) have also committed to MyEducation BC Four districts currently use CIMS, but are considering moving to MyEducation BC. Five districts have not yet declared their intentions regarding BCeSIS replacement.

## **DISCUSSION:**

It has come to the Ministry's attention that Saanich and openStudent representatives have been approaching Boards of Education and local teacher associations directly and encouraging them not to implement MyEducation BC and in some cases to unilaterally withdraw from a signed Memorandum of Understanding. This often includes misleading statements that misrepresent Ministry plans and could put districts at risk, including:

Saanich was not permitted to participate in the RFP process.

Date Drafted: February 18, 2014 1 CLIFF No:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.openstudent.ca/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The group originally also included Cowichan Valley, but they have since signed a MOU for MyEducation BC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Further information about the openStudent can be found in Cliff 170663.

Government procurement requires that all large scale procurements include a Request for Qualifications stage. The Saanich Board of Education did have an opportunity to participate in the qualification stage but was not successful in meeting the required qualifications.

Aspen SIS is an unfinished product.

Aspen is a mature product that has been installed in more than fifty jurisdictions in the United States and United Kingdom. Aspen was selected through a rigorous procurement process because it best satisfied the requirements of schools in British Columbia, right out of the box. The service will go into production in April 2014 and all enhancements and customizations for BC will be completed in August 2014. MyEducation BC will be implemented in more than 700 schools by September 2014.

- School districts should defer their implementation decisions until 2016 so that openStudent can be considered when it becomes available.
  - OpenStudent is an untested product that is being developed in phases and the complete production version of the software will not be available until the fall of 2015. This is a major risk for schools that must transition from BCeSIS before it is decommissioned in early 2016.
- There are significant financial savings by developing a product in BC (openStudent) rather than purchasing a commercial of the shelf service (MyEducation BC).
  - These claims are based upon inaccurate comparisons with BCeSIS. The business plan for openStudent, as described in published documents, is incomplete and does not accurately account for all ongoing development and hosting costs.

The openStudent financial model requires substantial uptake by schools in order to be viable. A Ministry review of the business plan indicates that openStudent systems would need to contain more than 100,000 active student records to reduce annual school district costs to \$10/student, the annual usage fee for MyEducation BC. The total enrolment for the four districts that have indicated support for openStudent is only 23,600 students which would cause their annual usage cost to exceed \$27.50/student. If all five remaining uncommitted districts also choose to implement openStudent (which is highly unlikely) the cost would still be more than \$14.85/student. An analysis based on information from their own business plan shows that openStudent will cost districts significantly more than MyEducation BC.

• The Ministry is developing a "BC common platform" that will allow openSchool to plug-in and exchange student records with other student information systems.

This is contrary to public statements made by the Assistant Deputy Minister and information contained in the Request for Proposals. The Ministry is not developing a platform for connecting disparate district-based student information systems. MyEducation BC is a complete student information service and no provision is being made for interfaces with other SIS systems. Schools that use openStudent will not be able to easily share records with schools using MyEducation BC.

- OpenStudent is on the Ministry of Education list of approved software.
  - The Ministry only supports MyEducation BC and does not have a list of approved student information system software.
- OpenStudent is "open source" and can be customized locally.

While this approach does have merit for some classes of software it has not been shown to be effective for developing complex administrative systems, such as student information systems. Saanich frequently cites the Kuali project, a collaborative development effort by a consortium of post secondary institutions, as a model for "open source" development for the K-12 sector. However UBC, one of the founding members of the Kuali Student project, has withdrawn from the initiative

due to escalating costs, excessive overhead, lack of responsiveness and unacceptable delivery schedules. In the Gartner Report, analysts were unable to identify any examples where open source has been used successfully to create student information software for complex jurisdictions. The "partner" districts will be dependent upon Saanich for support.

The Ministry of Education is making a major investment in MyEducation BC with the goal of establishing a high-quality service that will support school operations and the BC Education Plan. This effort is being systematically undermined by Saanich's campaign of misinformation. School districts need to understand the risks and costs of adopting openStudent. An external review of their business model might give a more realistic assessment of actual costs and capacity.

Contact Information	ADM	Jennifer McCrea	Approved by:
Services and Technology			
Division	DM	Rob Wood,	Honourable Peter Fassbender
Phone: 250-216-7168	Initial	Deputy Minister	Minister
			Date signed:

		2012/13	Implement	Implement			
SD#	District	Headcount	2014/15	2015/16	Wave 1	Wave 2	Comment
005	Southeast Kootenay	5259	4705	554	4705	554	Have MOU
006	Rocky Mountain	3086	0	1	. 0	3086	Have MOU
800	Kootenay Lake	5458	1	. 0	5458	0	Have MOU
010	Arrow Lakes	504	0	1	. 0	504	Have MOU
019	Revelstoke	1022	0	1	. 0	1022	Have MOU
020	Kootenay-Columbia	3870	0	0	0	0	Reviewing options - likely Wave2
022	Vernon	8248	0	0	0	0	Using CIMS - will likely implement MyEdBC in Wave2
023	Central Okanagan	21328	0	1	. 0	21328	Have MOU
027	Cariboo-Chilcotin	5046	1	. 0	5046	0	Have MOU
028	Quesnel	3450	2638	812	2638	812	Have MOU
033	Chilliwack	12988	3542	9446	3542	9446	Have MOU
034	Abbotsford	19394	1	. 0	19394	. 0	Have MOU
035	Langley	19902	5749	14153	5749	14153	Have MOU
036	Surrey	71974	24724	47250	24724	47250	Made commitment - new MOU reqd
037	Delta	16123	0	0	0	0	Using CIMS - wait to evaluate options
038	Richmond	22138	1	. 0	22138	0	Have MOU
039	Vancouver	56669	1	. 1	28335	28335	Made commitment - new MOU reqd
040	New Westminster	7548	944	6605	944	6604	Have MOU - BCeSIS, Windsor, Turbo
041	Burnaby	25023	1	. 1	12512	12512	Have MOU
042	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	14759	0	1	. 0	14759	Have MOU
043	Coquitlam	33436	22165	11271	22165	11271	Have MOU
044	North Vancouver	15773	1	. 0	15773	0	Have MOU
045	West Vancouver	7112	1255	5857	1255	5857	Have MOU
046	Sunshine Coast	3142	1	. 0	3142	. 0	Have MOU
047	Powell River	2118	0	0	0	0	OpenStudent
048	Sea to Sky	4313	1	. 0	4313	0	Have MOU
049	Central Coast	226	1	. 0	226	0	Have MOU
050	Haida Gwaii	624	1	. 0	624	. 0	Have MOU
051	Boundary	1317	0	1	. 0	1317	Have MOU
052	Prince Rupert	2153	1	. 0	2153	0	Have MOU
053	Okanagan Similkameen	2443	1	. 0	2443	0	Have MOU

054	Bulkley Valley	2204	0	0	0	0	No information
057	Prince George	13520	0	0	0	0	Internal approval issue - likely in Wave2
058	Nicola-Similkameen	2505	1	0	2505	0	Have MOU
059	Peace River South	3734	0	1	0	3734	Have MOU
060	Peace River North	5861	1	0	5861	0	Have MOU
061	Greater Victoria	19864	1	0	19864	0	Have MOU
062	Sooke	9963	1	0	9963	0	Have MOU
063	Saanich	10228	0	0	0	0	OpenStudent
064	Gulf Islands	1786	1	0	1786	0	Have MOU
067	Okanagan Skaha	6017	1	0	6017	0	Have MOU
068	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	13971	1	0	13971	0	Have MOU
069	Qualicum	4245	0	0	0	0	No information
070	Alberni	3803	1	0	3803	0	Have MOU
071	Comox Valley	9877	0	0	0	0	OpenStudent - status uncertain
072	Campbell River	5228	0	0	0	0	Using CIMS
073	Kamloops/Thompson	14792	4370	10422	4370	10422	Have MOU
074	Gold Trail	1209	1	0	1209	0	Have MOU
075	Mission	6031	1	0	6031	0	Have MOU
078	Fraser-Cascade	1741	1	0	1741	0	Have MOU
079	Cowichan Valley	7906	3012	4894	3012	4894	Have MOU - formerly openStudent
081	Fort Nelson	878	0	1	0	878	Have MOU
082	Coast Mountains	4953	0	1	0	4953	Have MOU
083	North Okanagan-Shuswap	6072	0	0	0	0	Using CIMS - wait to evaluate options
084	Vancouver Island West	389	0	0	0	0	No information
085	Vancouver Island North	1386	0	0	0	0	OpenStudent
087	Stikine	200	1	0	200	0	Have MOU
091	Nechako Lakes	4606	1	0	4606	0	Have MOU
092	Nisga'a	371	0	1	0	371	Have MOU
093	Conseil scolaire francophone	4744	0	1	0	4744	Have MOU
		564530			272217	208805	

Total 481022

Districts with MOU 47
Students represented 85.21%