



Memorandum

Date: October 8, 2021
To: Board of Education
From: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Prepared by: Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent
Action Item: Annual Cap Review – International Students at École Kelowna Secondary School

1.0 ISSUE STATEMENT

2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Public Board Meeting – January 13, 2021

MAIN 21P-003 AS AMENDED BY AMENDMENTS 21P-004 AND 21P-005

THAT: The Board of Education cap the number of International students at École Kelowna Secondary School to a maximum of 65 FTE;

AND THAT: The Board of Education annually review the cap on International students by mid-October for as long as the capacity issues at École Kelowna Secondary School persist.

3.0 BACKGROUND

This September, École Kelowna Secondary School (KSS) was able accommodate all in-catchment students in addition to international students. KSS presently has 1,822 students while the projected number was 1,840. This number includes 58 FTE from the International Education Program. The International Education Program did not fill the 65 FTE cap in order to provide opportunity for short-term students to extend to second semester while still maintaining the Board approved cap of 65 FTE.

4.0 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

The International Education Program has contracts with 25 students at KSS for 2022-2023. These students are presently attending KSS and either plan to complete their program next fall or to graduate from KSS in June 2023 or in June 2024.

The International Education Program also has long-standing partnerships and contracts with 4 sister schools, 3 from Japan and 1 from Columbia, and from 2 agencies who sponsor students on scholarship programs each year. In all 5 cases, the schools and scholarship sponsors limit the number of students at each school to 3 to 5 students. The rationale of this limitation is to

provide opportunity for students to engage fully with Canadian peers and to maximize English language development. These longstanding partnerships include 18 spaces at KSS each year.

A key strength of our International Education Program is the diversity of students who participate. Presently there are students representing 29 countries. This diversity supports the secondary objectives for the program of creating cultural awareness and enhancing diversity in our schools. This approach has provided a balance between generating funds and infusing culture into the District.

The International Education Program limits the number of students at each school to a 1% language cap based on school population. The purpose of this cap is to provide maximum opportunity for students to develop English language skills and to ensure the diversity of students in each school. From a marketing perspective, this is a key factor that sets the Central Okanagan apart from many other programs. Maintaining a number of students at KSS will allow the program to continue to keep this important element of our program while not reducing the financial capital that we are able to generate for the District each year. The reduction in program capacity would be significantly reduced as the remaining high school can only accommodate a percentage of our key markets based on language.

By design, Central Okanagan Public Schools continues to operate our International Education Program as a mid-sized boutique program. This attracts students from many areas of the world. Students in our program represent 33 countries and jurisdictions for the 2019/2020 school year. The District's approach is different than other similar sized districts where there is a heavy reliance on only one or two markets to create a large program.

The homestay program has capacity to maintain our target numbers if we continue to include families living in the KSS catchment area. Should these families no longer be available, the remaining zones do not have capacity to host an additional 60 students in their neighbourhoods. Each of our neighbourhoods are at or near capacity for homestay families.

The international recruiting timeline for the following year begins in August in many countries. Specifically the German market is already placing students in districts around the world. The program presently has 15 German students who are waitlisted to attend KSS as their first choice. No commitment has been made to these students, however, should the KSS cap be reduced, these students will be redirected to other high schools thus reducing capacity to accept other students from Germany. Germany is our largest target market. A reduction in capacity may lead to the loss of key longstanding partners.

The International Education Program is able to limit student enrollment by grade and program by strategically placing students where there is capacity. Should the projected increase at KSS be at the grade 10 level, the program can limit registrations at this school to short term grade 11 and 12 students in classes that have space to accommodate these students and/or in low enrolling optional classes that would not be able to run without additional student enrollment. No spaces would be lost to domestic students needing full schedules to graduate.

The Central Okanagan Public Schools' International Education Program continues to be attractive to students from around the world due to the outstanding efforts of our staff, our quality schools and welcoming community. Despite the challenges of the past year and half, the International Education Program has been able to return enrollment to pre-pandemic levels.

We have 423 (411 FTE) students attending school in the Central Okanagan with another 112 students planning to arrive for the second half of the school year. The majority of students are enrolled at the high school level and 15 students in elementary schools and 32 at the middle level. Elementary students are living with their parents who are either working or studying in Canada. Some middle school students are in our homestay program while others are living with their parents. The large majority of high school students are in our homestay program.

The International Education Program continues to meet the mandate to generate revenue for the District resulting in significant funds being utilized to support additional staffing, initiatives and programs within the District. Since inception, the International Education Program has generated approximately \$30 million of net income to subsidize the District's operations. The funding distributed to schools continues to enhance the student experience for all students including many of our most vulnerable and the ever increasing number of students and families who have recently arrived to Canada and our community.

"Appendix A" provides a five year report of the actual student FTE, total revenues, expenses and net income. It also illustrates the fourteen year cumulative values that support the \$30 million net income the International Education Program has generated in addition to the projected 2021-2022 net income

5.0 OPTIONS FOR ACTION

1. The Board maintain the present cap of 60 FTE of international students at École Kelowna Secondary School for 2022-2023.
2. The Board reduce the present cap of 60 FTE to 50 FTE of international students at École Kelowna Secondary School for 2022-2023 based on catchment projected growth and annually review the cap on international students by mid-October for as long as the capacity issues at École Kelowna Secondary School persist.
3. The Board reduce the 50 FTE of international students at École Kelowna Secondary School until a second secondary school is built in the Central zone.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS/CEO COMMENTS

The International Education Program is an important business, the profits of which support additional courses and programs for all students.

7.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Board of Education maintain a cap of 50 FTE of international students at École Kelowna Secondary School for 2022-2023;

AND THAT: The Board of Education annually review the cap on international students by mid-October for as long as the capacity issues at École Kelowna Secondary School persist.

8.0 APPENDIX

A. 5 Year Summary of International Education Program as at June 30, 2022

APPENDIX A

**Summary of International Education Program
As At June 30, 2022**

	Actual Spending					14 Year Cumulative	Amended Budget 2020-2021	Annual Budget 2021-2022
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021			
FTE	375	402	379	410	260	3419	260	400
Tuition	4,502,855	5,131,482	4,722,514	5,249,607	3,266,461	43,194,242	3,357,929	5,083,909
Application Fees	72,681	79,795	74,269	87,795	59,663	417,706	56,159	92,859
Homestay Placement Fees	126,114	169,268	146,791	172,396	69,531	773,484	110,274	108,219
Student Insurance Fees	347,716	370,442	339,093	338,780	321,616	2,018,193	216,702	500,562
Optional Student Activity Fees	118,904	135,195	140,871	45,239	9,285	449,493	28,937	14,451
Total Revenue	5,168,270	5,886,182	5,423,538	5,893,817	3,726,557	46,853,119	3,770,000	5,800,000
Commissions	554,296	628,837	546,046	620,136	375,735	4,675,118	300,000	645,000
Recruitment	123,674	125,625	93,588	46,211	15,900	508,701	50,000	100,000
Services & Supplies	76,222	102,552	72,719	108,422	94,204	2,960,422	112,034	104,000
Student Activities	195,658	195,862	206,511	120,325	82,637	859,126	128,000	190,000
Student Insurance	279,691	285,004	274,566	335,110	233,258	1,644,751	245,500	400,000
Transportation (bussing)	74,249	61,341	45,790	71,878	44,100	359,839	65,000	65,000
Wages & Benefits	533,608	551,596	566,061	659,082	781,915	6,153,179	657,629	807,831
Total Expenses	1,837,398	1,950,817	1,805,281	1,961,164	1,627,750	17,161,136	1,558,163	2,311,831
Net Income	3,330,873	3,935,366	3,618,257	3,932,653	2,098,807	29,691,982	2,211,837	3,488,169