

Boyle Street Education Centre Charter 2006 - 2011

Section 1

Teaching Philosophy, Vision, Purpose, Goal/Measurable Outcomes

The Boyle Street Education Centre believes that socially, economically and otherwise disadvantaged students deserve the opportunity for full and equal participation in the life of Alberta. The Centre further believes that the provision of a holistic education program within the context of a multi-disciplinary community model and a supportive environment will maximize opportunities for students and that such education must be student centered and student driven.

Our vision is to be an education centre that is holistic in nature and aspires to facilitate the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual growth of students who have previously been unsuccessful or have had interruptions in their school experience. Students will:

- maximize their capacity to pursue post-secondary learning if they choose to do so;
- enter the workforce, and;
- understand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Our purpose is to promote the success of students who are at-risk youth or who have been out of school in their goals of education, including the acquisition of social and employability skills so they may be responsible, caring and contributing members of society; and to encourage the participation in and commitment to the education process by parents and caregivers, students and the community.

The Boyle Street Education Centre goal is to engage at-risk and out-of-school youth back into the learning process. Student goal attainment will be measured using the following outcomes:

- school attendance
- academic progress
- utilization of available support services
- participation in school and community life

Section 2

Improved Student Learning Outcomes

- Formerly out of school students are engaged to complete their individualized learning program.
- Overall school attendance improves to acceptable levels.
- Student literacy and numeracy skills improve.
- Students progress towards provincial graduation requirements.

Section 3

Period of School Operation

September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2011

Section 4

Name of Operating Company

Boyle Street Education Centre Ltd.

10312 105 St

Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1E6

Telephone:

(Administration)

(780) 424-4106 Ext. 204

(School) (780) 428-1420

Fax: (780) 429-1428

Corporate registry # 518938501

Jurisdiction # 6017

School Code # 6003

Section 5

Description of students

The profiles of the students reflect the impact of intergenerational poverty and oppression. The students have experienced multiple social problems including histories of physical and sexual abuse, addictions, criminal involvement and frequent stays in institutional care. Many do not have supportive families, positive adult role models, stable living environments or adequate financial resources. The absence of such support systems makes it difficult to maintain continuous involvement in education. As a result, they are typically below the academic level appropriate for their age and have a tendency to withdraw or drop out of school when challenged.

Despite all of these barriers, many maintain a sense of optimism and a belief in their potential to be contributing members of their community. Some are resourceful and energetic. Their peer groups play a very important role in their lives.

The resiliency of the student population is a significant resource. The Education Centre draws on and fosters each student's capacity and strengths.

The Centre is open to students aged 14 – 19 who are currently out of school, have had limited success in regular school programs, or have inner city life and/or street experience.

No one who expresses a strong desire to attend the Centre is turned away if the school is able to effectively address their support and educational needs.

The registration policy involves intake interviews between the student and school staff. These interviews focus on determining the student's needs, grade level and how the Centre can be of optimal service to the student.

Section 6

Additional Curriculum Offered

The Boyle Street Education Centre adheres to the curriculum requirements as set out by Alberta Education. The educational program strives to offer courses of interest need and value to students. Additional Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses and non-core courses are added dependant on student interest, need, and availability of the necessary expertise, personnel, and budget requirements.

The teachers develop curriculum that will stimulate student interest and student success. Instead of beginning with curriculum and fitting the student to the curriculum needs, we begin with the student and see how the school can develop programs that stem from student interest but also meet the needs of the curriculum. Programs are developed on both an individual and a class level. The innovation in the development of the school programs is in the way that the curriculum is embedded within activities that stimulate student participation.

The Centre offers an educational program based on a community model. Students have continuous access to a support network of relevant services to meet their needs through partnerships within the community. Students remain in their accepted community setting and they have year round continuous access to education.

Section 7

Process for Communication of Innovation to the Education Community

- Keep an updated web site – www.bsec.ab.ca.
- Attend and present at conferences and community organizations.
- Maintain regular communication with the Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools and other educational organizations and school jurisdictions.
- Network with inner city agencies and programs.
- Take part in community events.
- Support student performances in the community.
- Produce and distribute videos that deal with a wide range of youth-related topics and share with other interested parties whenever possible.

Section 8

Roles and responsibilities of Charter Board and Parents

A volunteer Board of Directors governs the Boyle Street Education Centre. As per the Centre's articles of Association, the Board is elected annually by the membership at the annual general meeting. Board members bring to the table expertise in governance, education, intervention services, issues related to marginalization and a commitment to the vision and principles of the Centre.

The Board of Directors is the final authority in the decision making process and in policy making.

The Boyle Street Education Centre facilitates parent, caregiver and community involvement through school family dinners and community events. Many students aged 16 to 19 are of

independent status and act on their own behalf.

Each school year, before September 30, the principal will call a general parent meeting to determine the level of interest in establishing a School Council. In the absence of such interest, the principal may initiate the establishment of an advisory council.

The teachers, students, parents and community stakeholders have input to program delivery and the general operation of the Centre. All parties involved in the schoolwork collaboratively.

Section 9

Corporate Bylaws and Articles of Association

(insert hard copy of Bylaws and Articles)

Section 10

Projected student Enrolment, Grade Distribution and School Building Requirements for the term of the Charter

The projected student enrollment for the term of the charter is forecasted to be 125 students.

Grade distribution will be from basic literacy ranging up to grade 12.

The current building satisfies the school's requirements for this charter term.

Section 11

Charter Amendment Process

Matters that may initiate a process to amend the charter include changes in:

- school name
- nature of the student population
- school structure
- school administration
- budget adequacy

Centre administrators, teachers, students, parents and community members will have input in making recommendations concerning all amendments. Notification of intent to amend the charter will be by announcement on the web page, posters in the school and mailed notice to the membership.

The final decisions shall be made by the Board of Directors in consultation with all concerned parties including representatives from Alberta Education.

A 14-day notice shall be given to members, students, parents, community stakeholders and staff prior to submitting an amendment request to the Minister. Notice will be by mail to listed members, poster in the school building and announcement on the web page. Notice of amendments approved by the Minister will be similarly communicated.

Section 12 Charter Dissolution Process

Dissolution Steps:

- The Board of Directors of the Boyle Street Education Centre will initiate the dissolution process.
- A meeting of the membership will be called as per the Articles of Association to decide on dissolution before January 1 of the school year in which the charter will be dissolved.
- The Minister of Education will be notified by January 31 in the school year in which the charter will be dissolved.
- Where possible, parents/caregivers, students and teachers will be advised of the dissolution of the school by March 1 in the school year in which the charter will be dissolved. Notice will be by mail to the last known address of each student, posters in the school and an announcement on the web page.
- Dissolution will coincide with the August 31 school year end.

Transfer of students:

Student services personnel will facilitate meetings between students and possible future program and facilitate student transfers. Given that student population is a difficult population to place, successful transfers can not be guaranteed. Student records will be transferred to the receiving school or to the Minister of Education.

Disposition of property and records:

After satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, remaining Alberta Education grant monies shall be returned to the government. Fixed assets purchased with Alberta Education monies will be sold at market value and the proceeds will be returned to the government. All other assets will revert to Boyle Street Community Services or, if Boyle Street Community Services is also dissolved, to such other charitable or non-profit organization having objects similar or compatible with the objects of Boyle Street Community Services. School records requiring retention will be held by Boyle Street Community Services or its successor for the required retention period. School records not requiring retention will be destroyed.

As does Boyle Street Community Services, these similar or compatible organizations will prohibit the distribution of income among their members. The distribution of any remaining money and/or assets will be held for charitable purposes. This clause may only be changed by the unanimous vote of all the members of the Boyle Street Education Centre.