

Update, evolve, grow – with e-Learn

Winter-Spring 2010

Economic times may be tight – but BCSTA is expanding pro-d opportunities for trustees. In an initiative that's also environment-friendly, BCSTA is once again offering cost-effective distance learning opportunities for boards and trustees throughout British Columbia. Using the Ministry-sponsored *Illuminate* online software program, you'll be able to enroll in sessions of particular interest to you. You can join in from home or from your board office. See below for the technical requirements for participation in these programs.

Program topics are based on some of the most popular sessions at our recent Ability Academy. If you were unable to attend in person, this is your chance to participate online.

Dates & Times

Dates & Times	Title	Presenter(s)	Description
Monday, January 11, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	Technology for Trustees	Mike Gagel, Rob Goodall, Maggie Li	Technology is an endlessly valuable resource for those comfortable using it – but many are still shy about logging into the opportunities. This session provides a how-to guide for Illuminate, DocuShare content management system, online meetings, and more.
Wednesday, January 27, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	Local Education Agreements: Barriers and Potential	Tyrone McNeil, Mary Sasakamoose, Norm Leech	Using the First Nations Education Steering Committee's newly revised Local Education Agreement handbook, this workshop session looks at whether LEAs have improved First Nations' students' quality of education.
Monday, February 8, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	Plain Language Instruction: Creating Engaging Environments	Christabelle Kux-Kardos, Kathy Sawchuk	You will learn practical and strategic approaches to improve student and community engagement through effective communication and presentation. The presenters will discuss ideas and share tips and examples around knowing your audience, plain language, recognizing community assets, and creating friendly learning places.
Monday, February 22, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	Managing Conflicts of Interest	Judith Clark	Drawing on her 22 years' experience working with boards, BCSTA General Counsel Judith Clark shares advice, best practices, and the latest issues and policies to help trustees navigate this contentious, often confusing matter.

Dates & Times	Title	Presenter(s)	Description
Monday, March 8, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	Industry Training Programs Work for Kids	Jessi Zielke	Despite the economic downturn, the demand for trades' careers is hot, hot, hot. The Industry Training Authority's Jessi Zielke explains how we can better target participation in trades training by today's youth.
Monday, March 22, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	The Real Work of Trusteeship: Myths and Realities	Alan Chell	Many trustees are surprised to learn that what they thought of as requirements are actually internal practices. This session is your opportunity to hear from long-serving trustee and board chair Alan Chell, and clarify your own understanding of a board's real work.
Monday, April 12, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	Ethical Decision-Making in a World of Competing Demands	Jordan Tinney	In an era of tight budgets and increased complexity, which set of lenses does a trustee choose in making decisions? This workshop, with real-life scenarios, provides trustees with tools to analyze difficult situations and weigh the options.
Monday, May 3, 2010 9:30 AM	Rethinking the High School Experience for a New Generation – A Design Framework for 21st Century Learning	Peter Drescher	Given this era of complexity and change, how can high schools move closer to creating the kind of interesting and relevant learning environment to this generation of students needs, wants, and expects? How can we ensure they will be fully engaged in their learning until they graduate from high school, and are well-prepared for the future?
Monday, May 17, 2010 9:30 AM, repeated at 7:30 PM	Mobilizing a Community: the Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary Community School Story	Lenora Trenaman/Verna Mayers McKenzie	The purposes of this presentation are to showcase a stunning new Community K-12 school, and to highlight how successful even very small communities, such as Crawford Bay and the East Shore area, can be in building a true, community-shared facility.

Registration

BCSTA offers these programs to boards and trustees throughout BC free of charge. However, you must register in order to receive sign-in information and to participate. Please register by completing the online registration form at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KPVB6VY> at *least one week before* the program you wish to take.

e-Learn FAQs

- ⇒ **What is Elluminate e-Learning?** – e-Learn is a cost-effective, convenient way for school trustees to learn more about topics of interest.
- ⇒ **How does Elluminate e-Learn work?** – Sit down at home, in your board office, or elsewhere on your own or with fellow trustees and interested staff. Use your Internet-connected computer to sign in to the BCSTA classroom. Listen to the presenter and watch the presentation materials on your computer screen. You will have opportunities to ask questions and engage in online discussion as part of the program. If you are participating with a group, you may choose to sign off at the end of the program and discuss the presenter's ideas and suggestions. Chances are, you will want to put some of this new information to work right away!
- ⇒ **What do we need to participate?** – Familiarity with computers and the Internet, a willingness to try new delivery methods, a computer with a high-speed connection to the Internet, a sound card and headphone/microphone (or noise cancelling microphone and speakers for group participation). If you don't have a high-speed Internet connection at home, you'll want to participate at your board's office. If you are working with a group you will probably want an LCD projector, screen and a quiet room. As an option, you may wish to consider connecting a webcam as well. You will receive handout materials and instructions in advance.
- ⇒ **NEW!** We now have the capacity to include you in the program using a telephone connection for the audio portion. For those who do not have headsets and microphones for their computers, this option provides an attractive alternative. However, we do recommend that you use a headset with your phone as well since it is hard to hold a phone handset up to your ear for the entire length of the program and home speaker phones are not usually high-quality. Those connecting from an office may be able to use a commercial speaker phone.
- ⇒ **Orientation** – For those not familiar with the process and equipment, we will sign on 30 minutes early and provide a short orientation so that you can relax and enjoy the program when it begins.

Any other technical questions? Contact Mike Gagel – mgagel@bcsta.org BCSTA Director, Information & Education Technology.