

Staff Report



May 13, 2025

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)
From Nathan Ngieng, Acting Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Re **Big Brothers Big Sisters Sponsorship**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Education approve the request from Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley to sponsor group programs in the amount of \$7,000.

BACKGROUND:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley (BBBSFV) group programs aim to foster personal wellness and growth among students in grades 4 and 5, empowering them to realize their full potential. BBBSFV diligently screens and trains 2 to 3 volunteer Group Leaders to facilitate weekly activities, which include games, group discussions, and exercises aligning with the designated theme for the week. The program's objectives encompass enhancing decision-making skills, fostering social connections and friendships, and bolstering self-esteem and a sense of belonging among students.

In 2025, BBBSFV intends to maintain the same level of programming across the district with five schools, serving approximately 50+ students who benefit from these social-emotional connections. To support students' social-emotional development further, BBBSFV seeks additional funding to run a free, inclusive summer day camp for 15 Abbotsford students aged 9-12. The one-week camp, based on the Medicine Wheel framework, will concentrate on health and wellness, connectedness, exploring personal interests and competencies, and building resilience.

The sponsorship of \$7,000 is to assist in maintaining the level of existing programming along with the addition of the summer day camp. The Board has previously donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2024 with a total donation of \$5,000.