

**DATE:** February 28, 2012  
**TO:** Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools  
**SUBJECT:** SLISE (Student Led Initiatives for Sustainability Education)  
**ORIGINATOR:** Bruce Coggles, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
**RESOURCE** Don Blackwell, Principal Queen Elizabeth School  
**STAFF:** Aaron Dublenko, Coordinator of SLISE program at Queen Elizabeth School

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### **ISSUE**

Education for Sustainable Development identifies practical applications that engage youth in applying their knowledge to addressing real world problems.

### **BACKGROUND**

The SLISE (Student Led Initiatives for Sustainability Education) program is based on the United Nations concept of E.S.D. (education for sustainable development). It is a model of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning that goes beyond classroom walls by connecting students to others through video conferencing, field trips, conferences and clinics. Examples of hands-on projects and problem-based learning include recycling programs, demonstration sites for renewable energy (such as solar panels and micro-wind turbines).

At Queen Elizabeth School, SLISE began with a project to build solar lanterns for Haiti which are now being used by Haitians as nighttime lighting for education, medical services and economic development.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Student understanding of the advancement and application of emerging world trends involve the surge in development of renewable energy technologies, sustainable economic growth and ecological concerns.

The SLISE program places an emphasis on AGENCY (student's viewing themselves as worthy and capable of making change); ACADEMICS (bridging the core disciplines); CITIZENSHIP RESPONSIBILITY and ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.

Students are working in projects involving solar energy (solar panels, solar ovens, solar lanterns) bio-fuel production, indoor and outdoor gardening, water conservation and filtration, and energy conservation through the use of smart meters technology. They are also involved in public speaking and presenting information about their projects.

**KEY POINTS**

- SLISE is a hands on project and problem based learning program that models 21st century education through interdisciplinary approaches.
- It helps students develop into agents of change, leaders and responsible citizens
- Students use CTS modules in Natural Resources to guide learning and to achieve credits
- Approximately \$60,000 has been raised for projects and training inside and outside of school
- Partnerships with other schools, government, businesses, post-secondary institutions, NGO's

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