

K-12 Innovation in Workforce Development

a presentation by small-is-amazing SD 10



*Presented at the Columbia Basin Trust RDI - - Rural Development Institute
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Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning School
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How small is really BIG

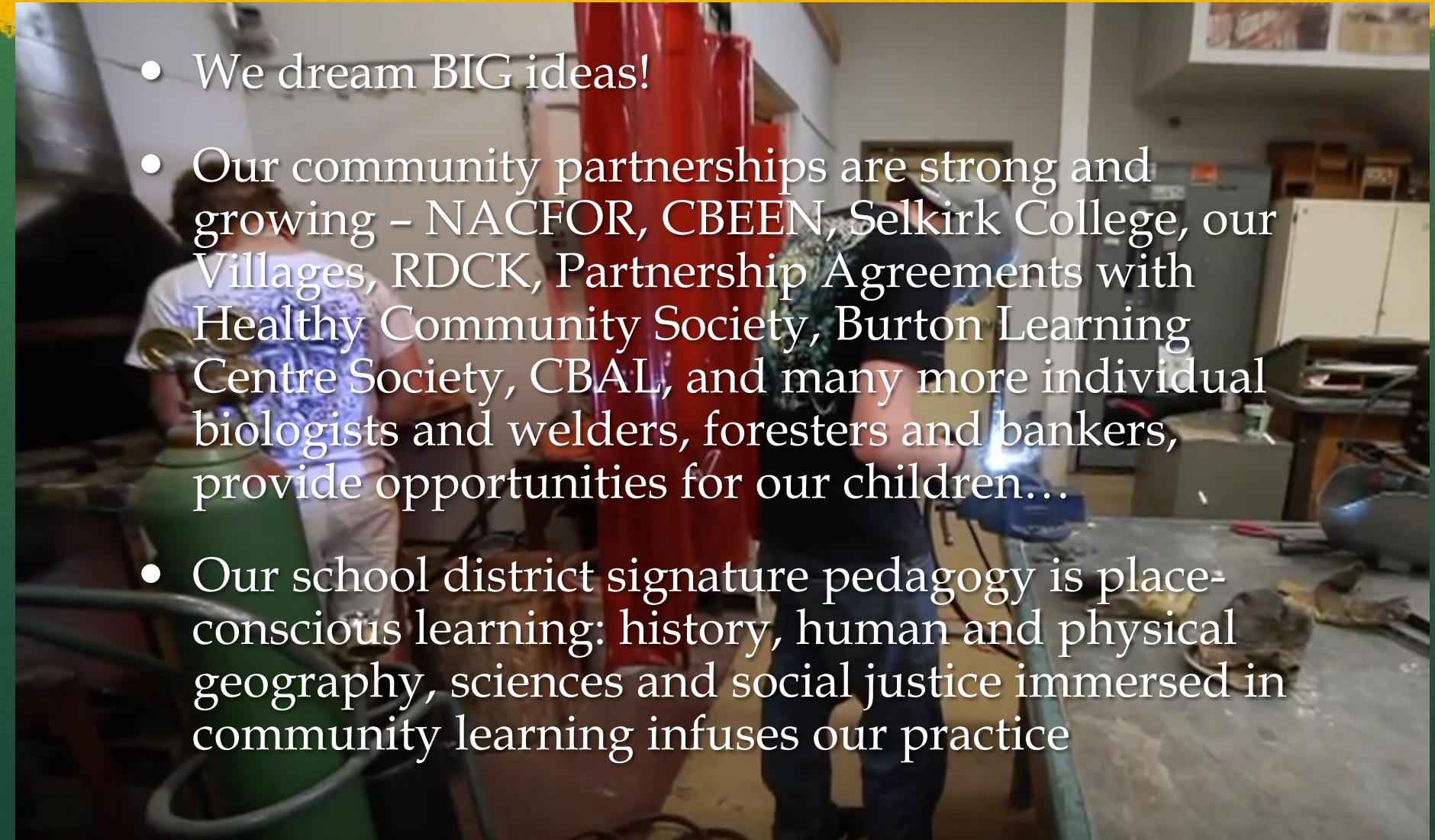
small	= BIG
Being small, rural, and geographically isolated	= an enabling constraint in imaginative SD 10
Our challenges and barriers	= thinking creatively, collaboratively, and problem-solving using what we have

Small is complex....

- Only 6 schools (two with fewer than 30 students)
- Only 461 students K-12
- Only 44 teachers who almost all teach in multi-aged classrooms, 3 Principals – each leading two schools, 2 Vice-Principals, a Director of Learning and a Superintendent who is also Secretary-Treasurer and Director of HR
- Geographic distances spanning three hours travel from one end of the district to another – longer in winter
- 2 - 5 hours travel over ferries, mountain roads, and along long lakes to reach the nearest small city

and small is ...VIBRANT!

- We dream BIG ideas!
- Our community partnerships are strong and growing – NACFOR, CBEEN, Selkirk College, our Villages, RDCK, Partnership Agreements with Healthy Community Society, Burton Learning Centre Society, CBAL, and many more individual biologists and welders, foresters and bankers, provide opportunities for our children...
- Our school district signature pedagogy is place-conscious learning: history, human and physical geography, sciences and social justice immersed in community learning infuses our practice



Our reputation for educational innovation crosses the province

A few recent examples:

- Mountains as Teachers – *Local and Global Learning Through Mountain Culture*
<http://sd10.bc.ca/mountains-as-teachers/>
- Walking Wednesdays – *Sustainability and Learning in the Wild in K-2*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBWkPQSp7zc>
- Rocking the Page – *Virtual and F2F Writers Festival across SD 10 and beyond*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjIPFPyxSnY>
- Reconciliation Through Art – *Aboriginal artists inspire learning about residential schools and grow Aboriginal Understanding for all*
<http://sd10.bc.ca/reconciliation-through-art/>
- Student Inquiry – *Grade 3-7 students inquire and learn through their passions*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MV56F3UHWI
- Our zeal for growing connections with others yields opportunity for our young people

Hands-On Learning K-12

- Maker experiences for all our students – from K-12 through vibrant Fine and Performing Arts and Applied Skills, and Outdoor Education projects and courses
- A district Hands-on Learning teacher collaborates with classroom teachers and community partners to connect students with relevant and important hands on skills
- A vibrant Chef to Table program using local food, grown in the school gardens and greenhouse, and sustainably sourced in our own community

Solar Energy and Sustainability Project



Design Thinking: Making a Difference in the World

- 13 artists, artisans and makers work in 2 day to 2 week residencies with students from K-12 from January to May 2016
- Over 70% are former graduates of our own schools, and all are members of our small, rural communities – career inspiration from makers, artisans and entrepreneurs living and working in our community!
- From sound artists to timber frame builders, from fabric artists to dancers, from clay artists to filmmakers – all said “YES!” to working side by side with us, inspiring students with the joy of making
- Focused on place-consciousness and authentic community and world issue problem-solving, the projects will be showcased in June 2016

Entwining Outdoor Education and Entrepreneurship



<http://sd10.bc.ca/outdoor-education-nakusp/>