

Board Report February 13, 2019

As Chairperson, I am very pleased to report that the Board of Education has been extremely busy since our last report on January 9th and specific activities I would like to highlight include:

BCPSEA Annual General Meeting

On January 23rd and 24th the board was represented at the Annual General Meeting of the BC Public School Employers Association. This two day AGM focused on governance issues and preparation for 2019 collective bargaining.

BCSTA/BCPSEA Trustee Orientation

On January 25th and 26th the Board was represented at the BCSTA/BCPSEA Trustee Orientation meetings. These meetings, held over two days, were focused on the broad work of a board of education and its trustees.

City of Surrey Liaison Meeting

On January 31st, the Board and senior staff met with the Mayor of Surrey, city counselors and their senior staff. The meeting was an introduction to the new mayor and council and was primarily focused on capital and our urgent need for more student school capacity to be built throughout the district. The discussion topics included strengthening our joint planning, expediting capital project delivery, as well as other topics such as joint use agreements for shared use of facilities.

Opposition Education Critic

On January 31st, the Board and senior staff met with the official Opposition Education Critic who introduced himself to the Board and engaged in a discussion of priority issues for the Board. Issues discussed included the extreme shortage of student capacity in our schools, concerns regarding the potential outcome of the Ministry's' ongoing review of the operating grant formula, and the inadequacy of the existing Community Link funding.

Meeting with DPAC

On February 6th, the Board hosted a meeting with the Surrey District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC), the liaison meeting was an introduction to the new DPAC council and was an opportunity to provide updates on various topics, as well as discuss how the district can further support the work of DPAC.

Meeting with the Minister of Education, City of Surrey Mayor and Council

On February 7th, the Board met with the Minister of Education, and the City of Surrey Mayor and Council. The meeting focused solely on how all three levels of government can work together to deliver more new schools and school expansion projects in a faster, efficient and more coordinated manner.

Official Ground Breaking

Also on February 7th, the Board hosted an official ground breaking ceremony for the new Edgewood area elementary school. Construction has now started on the new elementary school, which will have a 655 student capacity and serve the Grandview Heights area. The Edgewood elementary school is the third project construction contract awarded over the last two months. The other two projects include a 12 classroom addition at Pacific Heights Elementary School as well as the new Madaugh Road Elementary School, which, once completed, will have a capacity for 605 students in the Clayton area. All three of these projects are now under construction.

City of White Rock Liaison Meeting

Earlier today, the Board met with the City of White Rock Mayor and Council. The meeting was a productive first introduction to the new council and focused primarily on a sharing of information and discussing capital project priorities for the White Rock area.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next week I will represent the Board at the annual board chairs and partner group liaison meetings with the Ministry of Education and I will provide an update in the next report.

On March 1st, trustees will meet with local MLAs to discuss various topics including capital projects and funding.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to recognize two events that will be taking place within the district this month.

- On February 21, the district will be recognizing International Mother Language Day to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promote multilingualism.
- On February 27th various events will take place throughout the district to take a stand against bullying on Pink Shirt Day.

Trustees are proud to support the work undertaken by staff and students to highlight these important initiatives.