

## **Board Report May 15, 2019**

As Chairperson, I am pleased to report on the work of the Board of Education since our last report on April 10, 2019.

### **Liaison Meetings**

Over the past few weeks the Board has been very busy with liaison meetings with our employee groups and educational partners.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> we met our local MPs to advocate for funding for the Welcome Centre. The meeting was promising, the MPs were impressed with the work being undertaken at the Welcome Centre and expressed their support for continued funding. Later that same day, we met with our local MLAs on various issues including the funding of capital projects and portables, childcare spaces in Surrey and the funding model review.

Our meetings with the STA on April 24<sup>th</sup> and CUPE on May 8<sup>th</sup> provided opportunities to share information on current topics of mutual interest and concerns, and to share input and feedback on continued improvements to enhance workplace and employee issues, where appropriate or necessary.

We also had the opportunity to meet with our Surrey Principals and Vice Principals' Association on April 17<sup>th</sup> and Surrey Students' Advisory Council on May 1<sup>st</sup>. As always, the Board was pleased to learn more about various initiatives in the district from the SPVPA, and to hear firsthand from the student leadership regarding their needs, challenges and success stories.

**Capital Projects**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Premier, together with the Minister of Education visited Sullivan Elementary to celebrate the construction of a 200 seat new addition at the school. The \$15 million expansion will provide 8 new classrooms and an expanded gymnasium at the school.

This Friday, the Minister of Education will be visiting the Grandview construction site for a ground-breaking ceremony. Construction of the new secondary school, expected to be completed for September 2021, will provide 1500 new seats.

**BCSTA AGM – April 25-27<sup>th</sup>**

Together with the Executive, trustees attended the 2019 British Columbia School Trustees Association 115<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held in Richmond. The AGM provided an opportunity for networking, professional development for trustees, to hear from the Minister of Education, Rob Fleming and to debate a number of motions focused on improving education services to all students throughout the province. Our Board put forward three motions for consideration by the BCSTA assembly and I am very pleased to report that all three were approved. The motions we put forward included:

- That the BCSTA request that by September 1st, 2019 the Ministry of Education make available the new funding model(s) being considered for implementation in March of 2020 with sufficient detail to allow districts to adequately consider implications and to provide feedback on implementation.
- THAT the BCSTA write to the Ministry of Education requesting that all minutes of the working groups related to the Report of the Funding Model Review Panel be required to publicly publish minutes of their meetings.
- That the BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education extend the same opportunity that it is providing to teachers to support staff by targeting funding directly to recruit, retain and support Indigenous workers in our schools as Education Assistants or other support staff positions that work directly with children.

**Strategic Planning Session**

Trustees held a half day strategic planning session with the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The session was extremely valuable and topics included development of the Board's 2019/20 Governance Framework, a draft of which is included in tonight's agenda, establishing future meeting schedules, and focused in-service discussions on Capital, Special Education Services and Student Transportation.

**SPVPA Conference**

Trustees also had an opportunity to attend the Surrey Principals and Vice Principals' conference on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. The conference was a great opportunity for trustees to participate in professional development and to spend time strengthening our relationships with our school based leadership team.