
Board Report June 12, 2019

As Chairperson, I am pleased to report on the work of the Board of Education since our last report on May 15, 2019.

Grandview Groundbreaking Ceremony

On May 17th, the Board was pleased to host the Minister of Education, City of Surrey Mayor and Councilors at a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Grandview Heights area secondary school project. Construction of the new secondary school, expected to be completed for September 2021, will provide 1,500 new student spaces.

MPs Tour of the Welcome Centre

At the Board/MPs liaison meeting held on April 17th, MPs expressed their support of the work being undertaken at our English Language Learners Welcome Centre and were keen to visit the Welcome Centre in person. On May 24th, the Board and staff were pleased to provide a tour of the Welcome Centre for MPs where they were able to further learn of the important programs and services being provided and the positive impacts these are having on our local school communities.

BCSTA Special Metro Branch Meeting

This morning, the Board and Executive together with our Metro area counterparts had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Minister of Education and his staff to continue the conversation regarding the ongoing Operating Grant formula review process. In addition, the 2018/19 Operating Grant funding announcement and capital planning were also discussed.

BCPSEA Regional Meeting

On June 6th, trustees hosted the British Columbia Public School Bargaining Association for a regional meeting of school boards to receive an update on provincial bargaining.

Budget Consultation 2020

Earlier this month the provincial government released its 2020 Budget Consultation Paper. Each year, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services holds province-wide consultations for all people in BC to provide input. The Board will participate in the consultation through a written submission to the Committee this month.

School Community

May and June are very busy times of the year for our senior students who are graduating high school and transitioning to their various future endeavors. The Board of Trustees is always proud and happy to be a small part of that transition by celebrating their success and honoring them at their commencement and graduation ceremonies. In addition to our students, the Board of Trustees is proud to share in the celebrations of our employees who were recognized recently at the 25 years' long service reception, and all of our principals and vice principals who have served our students for many years and are now retiring and moving to the next chapter in their lives.

As the school year draws to an end, on behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank all of our staff, volunteers, parents and families, partner and community groups for their efforts and dedication to support education and learning in Surrey. I am sure they would all join me in wishing farewell and success to our students who will not be returning to our schools next year, and a safe and happy summer to our students who we look forward to seeing again in September.