
Board Report December 11, 2019

As Chairperson, I am pleased to report on the work of the Board of Education since our last report in November.

BCSTA Trustee Academy

On November 28th to November 30th, Trustees from all over the province came together at the annual BCSTA Trustee Academy. This was a time to attend various sessions on leadership, change management, mental health and inclusivity to name a few... and to hear from the Minister of Education and learn more about Ministry initiatives.

Strategic Planning

Trustees dedicated a full day on Strategic Planning with the district Executive planning for our governance work and operations of the Board focusing on topics such as advocacy, capital, funding, programming, safe and caring school communities and, of course, supporting student achievement.

Capital Projects

December has already been a busy time for official events and announcements in our district and will continue till the winter break. This is an indication of the tremendous work that has been accomplished by staff this year ranging from the move by students into the new addition at Panorama Park Elementary, and the playgrounds at Goldstone Park and Westerman Elementaries. These projects help to create the learning environments and play spaces we want for our students to be successful. It is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the students and school staff who have worked through the challenges during the construction phase and who can now continue to build positive cultures in each of these schools.

Further work continues, and next week, we will see the groundbreaking for the new addition at Coyote Creek Elementary. We look forward to completion of this project next year, increasing the capacity at the school by four additional classrooms.

Safety in Schools

As trustees, we are always cognizant of the importance of having supportive and safe environments in our schools to help students thrive in their learning. Last week on December 5th, we were pleased to hear the announcement from the Minister of Education and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General that Surrey is one of the school districts selected to receive additional provincial grants to expand our specialized gang prevention initiatives for at-risk youth. The funding will build capacity to strengthen the assistance provided to students and their families.

Engagement with Stakeholders

Whilst the “business” work of the Board continues throughout December, it is also a time when my colleagues on the Board and I have the pleasure of interacting with staff, students and volunteers at the many festive events that take place at our school and district sites. I know I speak for all of us when I say it is a joy to experience the sense of community that is evident as staff, students and volunteers demonstrate their commitment and desire to support each other during this season of giving in so many thoughtful ways.

Thank you, and wishing you all well during this holiday season.