
Board Report February 12, 2020

As Chairperson, I am pleased to report on the work of the Board of Education since our last report on December 11th last year.

Staff and Volunteers

December provided trustees the opportunity to visit schools and district sites to meet not only with staff who continue to work behind the scenes throughout the year and holiday breaks to maintain our facilities, but with the many volunteers who support our students through various programs during the school day and beyond. We are extremely fortunate in our district to have so many members of the community involved and engaged in supporting our students and wanting to make a difference in so many ways.

Capital Projects

The past couple of months have been busy for our district with official events and announcements at several of our schools. The latter part of December included official openings of the Goldstone Park and Westerman Elementary School playgrounds. We are pleased to recognize that these new playgrounds, which benefit the physical and mental well-being of students by being outdoors, are fully accessible playgrounds.

On December 16th trustees attended the groundbreaking for the new four classroom addition now under construction at Coyote Creek Elementary School. The Board is extremely pleased to see this project moving forward. The increased capacity provided by this project will assist the board in our goal of moving students out of portables and into classrooms.

Following a Summit meeting on January 28th, trustees joined the Minister of Education to announce \$43.5 million in funding for the acquisition of two more sites for future schools in the Redwood Heights and South Newton areas. These acquisitions will be funded in part by the Ministry of Education in the amount of \$25.5 million and in part by the district in the amount of \$18 million. These are important acquisitions as the population in these areas continues to grow.

BCSTA and BCPSEA

On January 20th, trustees had the opportunity to come together with their counterparts in the Metro region and delve deeper into the work of board governance and in particular as it relates to strategic planning, supporting district best practices and enhancing student learning. Trustee representatives also attended the BCPSEA AGM on January 30th and 31st which addressed governance and labour relations.

Liaison with Stakeholders

On January 13th, executive committee presented to Mayor and Council on behalf of the Board on the district's five year capital plan and the large number of active capital projects we currently have underway throughout the district. These types of presentations provide opportunities for collaboration and to build on the positive relationship that has been developed with our Mayor and Council.

On January 28th, trustees and executive committee met for a Summit meeting with the Ministry of Education and the City of Surrey to review current projects and set goals for the year ahead.

On February 5th, the Board met with CUPE for its annual liaison meeting to discuss various topics of mutual importance to our support staff in schools and district sites.

Over the past couple of weeks, MLAs have joined trustees and staff for a tour of the Welcome Centre to learn about the issues currently facing newcomers to our district. Earlier this evening, the Board met with our local MPs to further discuss and address issues relating to funding for the services offered at the Welcome Centre.

District Wide Initiatives

Earlier this evening we were pleased to hear from our Canadian Parents for French and the recognition of last week as French Immersion Celebration Week. On behalf of the Board I would also like to recognize International Mother Language Day on February 21st which supports the sustainability of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, and Pink Shirt Day on February 26th when we can show our support of anti-bullying campaigns and initiatives throughout the district. Trustees are proud to support the work undertaken by members of our school communities to highlight these important initiatives.