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## **Board Report - June 9, 2021**

I am pleased to share an update since the last report in May.

While the Board has continued its governance and advocacy work through various meetings with both internal and external stakeholders, this time of year is also one of recognition and celebration. For the second year in a row, the pandemic has impacted end of school year celebrations and while there is disappointment that we cannot get together in person, I know staff and school communities have risen to the occasion yet again and put together virtual events that make the most of the ongoing situation.

In late May we recognized 107 staff members who have reached 25 and 50 years of service by sending them each a card and gift as a token of our appreciation. These staff members are being recognized on the district website and social media and I would like to make a special mention of Carolyn Quan, an Early Literacy teacher and Steven Swenson, an Adult Education teacher who between them have served the district for 100 years! Congratulations to them both and to all our long service award recipients!

Yesterday evening we had the opportunity to get together briefly via video conference to recognize those principals and vice-principals who have made the decision to retire. Again, we are thankful for their service to our district and students, and to all the other staff who are retiring this year and wish everyone the very best in their new pursuits.

May and June are months when our senior students graduate from grade 12 and very soon begin their transitions into post-secondary education, apprenticeships, careers, travel and other adventures. We are very proud of our students and how they have navigated the unusual challenge in their final year at school, and are honoured to participate virtually with our grads of 2021 as they celebrate their accomplishments.

Looking further ahead in the month, June, 21st marks the National Indigenous People's Day. June is National Indigenous History Month and this year marks the national 25th anniversary of celebrating the heritage, cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. We would like to acknowledge staff throughout the district and our Aboriginal Learning Department who are planning for virtual events to raise awareness and celebrate Indigenous Peoples. In addition, you will recall the presentation last month on the work being undertaken to change the department's name to Indigenous Peoples' Learning and we look forward to seeing that work come to fruition very soon. Following the statement earlier this evening, I really want to emphasize the importance of education and awareness around the issues being faced by our indigenous communities and encourage everyone to work together - every small step helps in the healing and making progress in reconciliation.

On May 25<sup>th</sup> Minister Adrian Dix and Dr. Bonny Henry announced details of BC's Restart Plan. Together with the Board, senior leadership has been planning for the new school year. As we all know, the situation continues to evolve, but we look forward to a safe and more normal return to school this coming September. In the meantime, The Board would like to thank all our staff and educational partners who have worked together to continue the delivery of educational programs and services within our schools and communities. Together, you have successfully managed a full school year during a global pandemic - congratulations! I know the work continues, but it is also time to start thinking about winding down and taking some time to recharge and refresh. On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a safe and healthy summer.

Thank you.