

## Superintendent's Report to DPAC

January 19, 2015

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**Parent Network Session: Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>:** School District No. 40 and the District Parents' Advisory Council will offer the third session on "Transitioning My Special Needs Child from School to Community". Representatives from Inclusion BC and the Family Support Institute of BC will talk about how their organizations may support families during the transition process. The evening will also feature two New Westminister Secondary School graduates who will share their personal experience as they transitioned from school into the community. **7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the New Westminister Secondary School Library, 835 Eighth Street, New Westminister.**

**Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms Working Group** is well underway researching and learning about effective educational practices. The plan is to have a focussed "touch-back" session with the broader parent community on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. (date and location to be confirmed). This will be the opportunity for parents to hear a summary about what we know about effective educational practices and to provide input on draft belief statements regarding teaching and learning in diverse classrooms. More information will follow.

It is that time of year when the human resources department turns its attention to the spring staffing process. For the next number of weeks, we will be working with the school principals and district staff as we prepare student and class projections and determine our teaching and support staff needs for September. This is a comprehensive process that requires working with current staff as well as the unions to ensure educational needs are met for the upcoming school year. Actual vacancy postings will start to appear in early May.

The maintenance department is actively engaged in a facility upgrade at QMS which includes classroom painting and new high impact wall board applications. The carpentry crew is active at GMS. As well, they have just completed some maintenance work at McBride. The mechanical department is completing a boiler and controls upgrade at QE. The system is running and the commissioning is about to take place. Electronic digital controls and programming have been installed replacing the original pneumatic system. Electrical LED lighting upgrades are underway at Howay and are already complete at GMS and in the common areas at QE. QMS is the next site for this upgrade. The grounds department staff are currently cleaning parking lots and sidewalks.

The finance department continues to work on preparing the amended budget for submission to the ministry at the end of February. As well we have begun preparing a long term information technology strategy that will guide out infrastructure development and purchasing over the coming years.

John Gauptman  
Superintendent of Schools

School District No. 40 (New Westminister)  
Student Services and the District Parents' Advisory Council

Invite you to

Parents' Networking Sessions:

**“What I Need to Know About the  
Transitioning of my Special Needs Child  
from School into the Community.”**

**Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> (Part One)**

Hear advice from parents who have already experienced this transition.

**Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (Part Two)**

Representatives from Community Living British Columbia will share the eligibility requirements for CLBC supports and their role in developing plans with families that meet funding criteria. Advice will also be given as to when to connect with CLBC to begin the transitioning process. The opportunity to ask questions will also be provided.

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> (Part Three)**

Representatives from Inclusion BC and the Family Support Institute of BC will talk about how their organizations may support families during the transition process. The evening will also feature two New Westminister Secondary School graduates who will share their personal experience as they transitioned from school into the community.

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**New Westminister Secondary School Library**

**835 Eighth Street, New Westminister.**

- Hear advice from parents and students who have already experienced this transition.
  - Begin thinking about, imagining and planning for your child's future.
  - Find out what resources are out there to support this important transition.
    - Learn more about how you can advocate for your child's future.
      - Learn from and network with other parents.
- It is never too early to begin thinking about this important step—parents of children of all ages are welcome to attend these sessions.

For more information, contact Karen Bower at [kbower@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:kbower@sd40.bc.ca) or 604-517-6332.