

## Superintendent's Report to DPAC

April 20, 2015

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**Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms Working Group:** The purpose of the Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms Working Group is for the Board of Education to engage educational partners in a discussion to inform a strategic district plan focussed on student learning success, especially in the delivery of special education services and meeting the needs of diverse learners in the classroom. The Working Group has done a literature review of effective educational practices and has drafted Belief Statements centred on teaching and learning in diverse classrooms. Based on the literature review and belief statements, draft priorities are being articulated to share with our educational partner groups.

**On Thursday, May 21st at 7 p.m.** there will be a "touch back" session with parents to allow for broader input and feedback on the Working Group's discussions to date. Please mark this date in your calendars as we want to hear your voice in this important initiative.

**The spring staffing process is underway.** Currently we are working with principals to determine each school's staffing needs for the 2015/16 school year. Additionally, we are reviewing retirements and those taking, or returning from, leaves of absence. Once that process is complete, positions will be posted and the process of selecting teaching and support staff will begin. This will take place in May and June. We are also reviewing our "Teachers Teaching on Call" (TTOC) lists and support staff casual lists to ensure we have sufficient temporary replacement employees for unexpected absences during the school year.

We continue to meet regularly with our union representatives to not only address issues as they arise, but to prevent issues from detracting from our primary educational focus. All parties cooperate fully in these meetings and such meetings continue to prove a valuable addition to our labour-management working relationship.

**The Finance Department** continues to work on the 2015-2016 budget process. **Tuesday, April 21, 2015** will see the fourth in a series of meetings where the public has an opportunity to inform the budget for the upcoming school year. The budget deliberations meeting will take place in the New Westminster Secondary School library at 7:30 p.m. The Board of Education will vote on the final iteration of the 2015-2016 budget at the Open Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

**The Maintenance Department** has been planning for the 2015/2016 Annual Facilities Grant school renewal projects with the focus for the year being FW Howay and NWSS schools. The consultative process with the site administrators is underway and the finalized scope of works should be determined by the end of April. Included in the scope of work will be a roof replacement program following the district's roofing manual. The manual identifies the schedule of roof repairs and/or replacements in the district for the next 10 years. We also will be scheduling mechanical and electrical upgrades throughout the district to continue our efforts to reduce consumption of energy. This would include replacement of older 60-80% efficient heating equipment with new technologies that have an efficiency rating as high as 95%. The electrical upgrades include controls and a LED lighting conversion program. The department is continuing to support the Capital Projects and work is continuing at Qayqayt Elementary to resolve construction deficiencies. The custodial summer work schedule is being developed at this time to identify the work teams and the work sequence they will follow throughout the district over the summer. The purpose of the team approach is to reduce risk to custodians working individually and to create a synergy that promotes efficient and effective work.