

Superintendent's Report to DPAC

September 21, 2015

Student Learning Services

New District Staff: *We are very pleased to welcome some new staff to our District Student Learning Services Team. We are very excited about the expertise and skills they bring to further enhance our ability to support students in our schools:*

- *Dawn Sasges, Speech & Language Pathologist;*
- *Anjala Banziger, District School Psychologist;*
- *Courtney Millhoff, District School Psychologist;*
- *Jan Palmer, District Behaviour Interventionist;*
- *Kathy Kreiser, District Reading Intervention Teacher;*
- *Liz Kim, District Curriculum Facilitator: Humanities;*
- *Josh Angiola, District Curriculum Facilitator: Math and Science;*
- *Keri Roberts, District French Facilitator;*
- *Samuel Pepin-Guilbert, French Odyssey Monitor.*

Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms Working Group: *As many of you know, 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, drafted Belief Statements centred on teaching and learning in diverse classrooms and now has articulated some draft priorities and action plans for moving forward. As part of this process, two separate “touch back” sessions were held last spring with each educational partner group for broader input and feedback. The Working Group will be meeting soon to review the draft report prior to presenting it to the Board’s October 6th Education Policy and Planning Committee. We are very excited about the action plans that have come out of the rich discussions during the past year and look forward to sharing the report with DPAC and other educational partners.*

Parents’ Networking Session: *The next session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the New Westminster Secondary School library. The Parents’ Networking Sessions are held in collaboration with DPAC and are designed to provide the opportunity for parents to meet and discuss educational issues of relevance. This year we plan on having a session on IEPs (Individual Education Plans) and Assessment and the new Ministry curriculum. More details will follow.*

New Curriculum: As you may have heard, starting this fall, we will begin the three-year process of transitioning to the new curriculum. Teachers in those grades will have the ability to use the new curriculum this coming year before it is fully implemented in all schools in September 2016. Your school will know how much your child's teachers will be using the new K-9 curriculum this fall and will be able to work with you through the transition.

Human Resources Department

School District No. 40's HR Department starts the new year welcoming Jane Boutilier as our new HR Manager - Support. Jane joins Gordana Ballarin (HR Manager -Teaching) and our HR Team is looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

A few last-minute teaching position vacancies are being filled this week and recruitment continues for a few specialty positions.

Facilities and Operations Department

Custodial Department: The custodial department is back into the routine cleaning schedule after the summer cleanup. We are just completing boiler and furnace upgrades and all upgraded systems should be operational by the end of the week. The roof replacement projects are 95% complete with just some cap flashing to be installed. The summer works schedule allowed for some painting of windows and trim at NWSS and civil works at Howay including the play area, pathways and parking lot renewals. Howay work included washroom and minor operational renovations. The district is continuing with lighting upgrades over the next few months.

Recycling Plan: School District No. 40 is working with the City of New Westminister's Engineering Department (Environmental Services) to implement waste management protocols and processes to achieve compliance with Metro Vancouver's "Material Bans" and limit exposure to potential surcharge fees. The School District will be adopting measures to promote ways to reduce waste and improve the reuse, recycling and recovery of materials before they go to landfill.

Respectfully,

Pat Duncan