

Superintendent's Report to DPAC

October 26, 2015

Student Learning Services

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 direction focussed on student learning success, especially in meeting the needs of diverse learners in the classroom. The Working Group completed 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 draft report will be presented at a future meeting of the 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 Sessions: Three sessions are planned for this year in collaboration with DPAC. The first session, scheduled for Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the New Westminster Secondary School library will focus on "What I Need to Know about Individual Education Plans and the Assessment Process" and will be led by District Vice-Principals, Chris Nicholson and Maryam Naser. More details for the sessions are in the attached flyer.

Human Resources Department

With students, teachers and support staff well settled in to the new school year, the Human Resources Department is busy compiling HR statistics for 2015/16 and completing the government reporting for the Fall 2015 period.

In order to assist in the transitioning of our special needs students to class, we employed a number of temporary Educational Assistants (EAs) for the month of September. Some of these positions will remain in place to the end of the 2015/16 school year and a number of the temporary EAs have found regular positions in our schools.

We are also pleased to have created a full-time District Peer Support EA (DPSEA) position. The DPSEA will work as a team member in Student Services to support staff and students by providing a "best-practices" approach to EA support in assigned schools. The DPSEA will be engaged in targeted, short-term school-based placements to provide on-the-job modeling of strategies and interventions, as well as providing additional support for challenging situations as they arise.

Financial Services

The New Westminster Board of Education has set aside funds to assist schools with the purchase of playground equipment. These are one-time funds that will be distributed through an application process. Below are the details of how PACs can access these funds.

The School District will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to PACs that have demonstrated a need and that have raised matching funds required to purchase and install playground equipment at their affiliated school. Funding requests must be made in writing to your school principal and must be submitted no later than December 31st of each year. Principals will forward supported applications to the District office for review. The total grant available to each project will not exceed 20% of the budget inclusive of installation and all other costs. The number of grants given will be dependent on the funding that is available each year. The funding is not automatic, and the amount approved for an individual application may vary from the full grant of \$10,000 to a portion of this amount or none at all.

Facilities and Operations Department

The custodial department is operating under routine scheduling at this time while the maintenance department is continuing with the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) school renewal works plan. All new boiler and furnace upgrades are now in operation and roof replacement work is complete. We are continuing with lighting upgrades as part of our energy reduction plan. This work involves occupancy controls and high efficiency lamp and/or fixture replacements. The maintenance department is currently working at NWSS to resolve issues created by a roof leak that appeared after a heavy rainfall following the hot dry summer period.

Mr. Glen Henderson, the Maintenance Manager, is retiring this month after 15 years in the District. The Manager position will be filled by Mr. Matt Brito who has been employed in the district for 10 years in the Maintenance Department.

Respectfully,

Pat Duncan

School District No. 40 (New Westminster) Student Learning Services
and the District Parents' Advisory Council
invite you to

Parent Networking Sessions:

**“What I Need to Know about Individual Education Plans and
the Assessment Process.”**

District Vice-Principals, Chris Nicholson and Maryam Naser, will provide an overview of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process for parents of ***students who are new to the District or to the IEP process.*** An overview of the assessment process used for students with special needs will also be shared.

Wednesday, October 28th: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Glenbrook Middle School - Library

**“What I Need to Know about the Individual Education Plans and
the Assessment Process.”**

District Vice-Principals, Chris Nicholson and Maryam Naser, will provide an overview of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process for parents of ***students who are preparing to transition into the community.*** An overview of the assessment process used for transitioning students will also be shared.

Thursday, November 26th: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Glenbrook Middle School - Library

“What is the New Curriculum?”

District Vice-Principal, Maryam Naser, will provide an overview of the key components of the new BC curriculum.

Wednesday, February 17th: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Glenbrook Middle School - Library

For more information, contact Karen Bower at kbower@sd40.bc.ca or (778) 789-4791