

Superintendent's Report to DPAC

January 18, 2016

Student Services

Parents' Networking Session: *The next session will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 7 p.m. in the École Glenbrook Middle School library. The topic is the new redesigned BC curriculum. District Vice-Principal, Maryam Naser, will present this session. This event will be an excellent opportunity for parents to learn about the changes to the BC Curriculum that will be implemented starting in September 2016.*

Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms: *We are asking for feedback on the draft Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms report. Please go to our District website www.sd40.bc.ca and follow the link to the report and feedback survey. Your comments are appreciated.*

May Day Task Force: *The Board of Education is convening a May Day Task Force to review the nature and scope of the District's participation in the annual May Day celebration. The Terms of Reference and Expression of Interest form are attached.*

We are looking for a parent representative for the task force. If you are interested, please fill out the Expression of Interest form and send it to Janet Grant, jgrant@sd40.bc.ca. Thank you. Please note that the application deadline has been extended to Friday, January 22nd, 2016.

Gender and Sexual Diversity Advisory Committee: *This committee will make recommendations to the Board of Education as outlined in Policy 510/410 Gender and Sexual Diversity Inclusion regarding sexual orientations and gender identities of individuals in schools. We are looking for up to two parent representatives for this committee.*

The Terms of Reference and Expression of Interest forms are attached. If you are interested, please fill out the Expression of Interest form and send it to Janet Grant, jgrant@sd40.bc.ca. Please note that the application deadline has been extended to Friday, January 22nd, 2016.

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department is currently fully engaged in preparing for the Spring Staffing Process with both unions.

Facilities and Operations Department

The maintenance department is committed to the planning for, and renovations of, classrooms and spaces in order to facilitate the relocation of programs currently at NWSS and the School Board Office.

The department is continuing to install the required wiring and hardware at the various school sites to support the ongoing WIFI installation.

Inclement weather has already hit New Westminster and departmental planning and preparation have made a difference in ensuring the safety of staff and students in these cooler months.

Work is continuing on lighting upgrades at Lord Kelvin and Lord Tweedsmuir. Training is also being planned to keep staff updated and to ensure workers continue to perform their duties safely.

The custodial department was busy over the Christmas break refinishing and burnishing floors. We will also be taking steps to improve our new Recycling/Composting system as we roll into the new year. On the upcoming February 19th Professional Development Day, we will be offering all crossing guards a training session related to their jobs.

Superintendent's Office

Visions for Learning: The Board of Education of the New Westminster School District is reaching out to parents to engage in a process of consultation about the future direction of our school district. The process will include:

1. Parent Advisory Council Visits from the Board Chair and the Superintendent of Schools;
2. Parent/guardian consultation through an online survey to gather feedback on parents'/guardians' vision for the New Westminster School District and asking what opportunities parents/guardians would like to see for students in the New Westminster School District;
3. District staff bringing forward to the Board of Education, an analysis of the process and summary of the parent/guardian input;
4. Utilizing the parent/guardian feedback to assist the Board of Education in setting a strategic direction for the New Westminster School District.

There are several ways that you can contribute your ideas and opinions to this consultation :

- Share the word with friends and family
- Take the survey

Please visit the District website, www.sd40.bc.ca, and follow the homepage link to the **Visions for Learning Survey** or go to www.placespeak.com/sd40visionsforlearning to access the survey.

Respectfully,

Pat Duncan