

Superintendent's Report to DPAC

May 11, 2015

At the last Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting on May 5, 2015, we had an excellent discussion on Programs of Choice which included catchment areas and the placement process. Both these items will be reviewed at our next Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting in June. We also discussed Incomplete Days and attached is a template that will be used next year.

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, drafted Belief Statements centred on teaching and learning in diverse classrooms and now has articulated some draft priorities and action plans for moving forward.

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. NOTE: If you are unable to attend the session, a feedback form will be available on the District website www.sd40.bc.ca by early next week.

École Fraser River Middle School: The Principal of École Fraser River Middle school has been appointed by the Board. We are very pleased that Ms. Debbie Jones will be the Principal. Ms. Jones started in the District in 1990 as a teacher at Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary. In 2000, Ms. Jones was actively involved with the opening of École Glenbrook Middle School where she was a Team Leader until 2004. She then returned to Lord Tweedsmuir to become the Vice-Principal and then Principal until 2010. She is now the Principal of Queensborough Middle School. Ms. Jones has also been actively involved in the planning process for the design and construction of École Fraser River School. Ms. Jones will work on the implementation of the new school now and into the 2015-2016 school year as she remains as Principal of Queensborough Middle School until the opening of the new École Fraser River Middle School in September 2016.

Presentations on the new middle school are underway for parents of students in the four catchment schools: Qayqayt, Lord Tweedsmuir, Lord Kelvin and Connaught Heights elementary schools. The key features of the middle school are discussed along with a “fly through” of the new building.

Spring staffing to fill positions for September will begin on May 8th and continue into June. Through April, we worked with school Principals, district, and student and learning services administrators, to identify the positions needed for all the programs in our schools. That staffing plan ready is now to go. The staffing process ensures that we have all teaching and support positions filled in good time for the first day of the new school year in a manner that optimizes staff assignments. This is also the time of year where we prepare to say goodbye to our retiring staff and, with much appreciation, wish them all the best in future endeavors. We are also preparing an update of our district health and safety program in preparation for the new school year. We will be working with the local schools in conjunction with the joint health and safety committees to ensure we have all the required equipment and supplies and that our procedures are up to date and in compliance with all applicable regulations.

Finally, regular meetings with our two unions continue, and employee concerns are well canvassed at such meetings. We continue to be very successful in addressing employment issues as they arise, without compromise to educational program delivery.

The maintenance department has completed the Annual Facilities' Grant requested scope of works for the current fiscal year and will have that initial process completed within two weeks. The roofing tenders will be posted on the BC Bid website in the next week and the mechanical consultants are in the design process of the boiler and furnace upgrades. The electrical upgrades are underway with the installation of LED exterior lighting. The maintenance grounds department is fully engaged with the landscaping and field works required for a quick start to the growing season. The department has again hired an additional temporary gardener position to manage the workload. The maintenance department continues to work on the Capital Projects in the district and nears completion of deficiencies and upgrades to the NLC spaces at QayQayt. Soon, we will begin to turn our focus to the middle school project requirements.

TEMPLATE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

On (Month, day, year), students at (school) will have an 'Incomplete Day'. This is a day focused on finishing and submitting overdue work, redoing tests, receiving assistance for concepts not yet mastered or working independently on projects. All students are encouraged to attend Incomplete Days.

Students who are missing a significant amount of work in their subjects are at risk of receiving an 'I' (Incomplete) report. The 'I' report (attached) is a support plan for students who are, or may be, at-risk of failing one or more subjects. If a student does not hand in or complete the assignment(s), the grade on the report card for the term may result in an 'Incomplete'.

Please ask your child or check if s/he has been assigned any Incomplete Reports since the report is expected to be signed and returned to the subject teacher. Students often misplace notices or Incomplete Reports. We need to know that you have received all of the information that the school has sent home about your child.

Our staff will not be introducing new concepts during the Incomplete Day. Staff will primarily be assisting students who need extra help in one or more of their subjects. Students who are up-to-date with their assignments and tests will be supervised and given assistance; however, they will be expected to be involved in self-directed studies or project-based work. These students will be encouraged to work independently or in groups in their classroom or in our library, if it is available.

We believe that this is an exciting change and we look forward to seeing your children on (Month, day, year).

Principal