



## Board Meeting Highlights December 9, 2020

### **New Superintendent Announced**

At the opening of the public meeting of the board, Chairperson Korleen Carreras announced that current deputy superintendent, Harry Dhillon, will be the new Superintendent of Schools with Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42. Sylvia Russell, who is the current superintendent, will retire January 31, 2021.

### **Secondary Collaborative Network and Inquiry Project**

District helping teacher Vicci Halabi presented to the board on the Secondary Teacher Inquiry Project and the Secondary Collaborative Network. The inquiry project has been corner stone of professional development in the school district for 12 years, while the collaborative network, which was formed three years ago, focuses on the collaborative development of inclusive classroom initiatives.

### **Committee Appointments**

The board received for information committee appointments for a period of one year, commencing December 9, 2020. Committee appointments are listed on the trustee page of the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/trustees/>.

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Russell provided an update on the school district's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, thanking staff for their hard work. Superintendent Russell also shared photos from schools, while Assistant Superintendent Derinzy shared with trustees student feedback from the 2020 *Imagine a Place* student forum.

### **Additional Funding to Support COVID-19 Requirements in the 2021/22 Budget**

The board agreed to send a letter to the minister of education, minister of finance, and the MLAs for Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge – Mission, requesting that the 2021 Provincial Budget include additional operating and capital funding to support COVID-19 pandemic management-related costs in BC schools at a level that, at a minimum, matches the provincial and federal grants provided during the 2020/21 school year.

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees noted the following items: trustee Dumore spoke about her work in coordinating the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign; trustee Murray spoke about community members who were finding creative ways to support their community; trustee Shaw

enjoyed seeing photos of happy students in the superintendent's report; trustee Sullivan enjoyed the professional development opportunity through the BCSTA Trustee Academy; trustee Trudeau spoke about her participation in a number of online learning opportunities; trustee Carreras attended an online vigil on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and the United Way labour awards, and also congratulated Secretary Treasurer Coughlan and the finance and communications teams on receiving the Meritorious Budget Award for the third year in a row. Finally, trustees congratulated Harry Dhillon on being selected as the new superintendent of schools for School District No. 42, thanked staff for their hard work on the frontlines, and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on January 27, 2021. The live stream will be available on the school district YouTube channel and the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/online-board-meetings>.**