



Board Meeting Highlights March 10, 2021

Presentation: English Language Learning and International Education

Helping teacher for English Language Learning (ELL) Diane Wadden and principal of international education and ELL Tricia McCuaig presented to the board on ELL and international education programs. The number of students in the district who are English Language Learners has nearly doubled between 2015/16 and 2020/21, increasing from 448 to 809 students. The school district has a settlement worker in schools who helps provide supports to newcomer students and their families, and also has 18 elementary ELL teacher specialists who support students and teachers in schools across the district. The SD42 international education program, in the meantime, provides great value to the district, stimulating linguistic diversity and multiculturalism, contributing to local and provincial economies, and enriching classrooms with perspectives from around the globe.

Policy Updates

The board approved the following policies following public consultation and feedback: *Policy 4204: Contingency Reserve*, *Policy 5310: Disposal of Surplus Assets*, *Policy 6530: Environmental Sustainability*. The policies have been posted to the school district online policy manual at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policy-manual/>.

Operational Plans

The board received for information the Operational Plans for COVID-19 Response, Board of Education, Education, Business Operations, Human Resources, and Information Technology departments. The approved plans are available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/StrategicPlan-March-2021.pdf>

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dhillon updated the board on various school events and activities. Highlights included the expression of sincere and heartfelt thanks to district staff at every level of the organization and to all partner groups for their work during the past year, and a reaffirmation of the district's support for the anti-racism work that has been undertaken by the district's Anti-Racism Committee. The Anti-Racism Committee, which includes representatives of Maple Ridge Principals' and Vice Principals' Association (MRPVPA), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Maple Ridge Teachers' Association (MRTA), and

the senior leadership team, will be making recommendations on implementing district policy around racism and equity issues.

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees noted the following items: trustee Yamamoto spoke about Chef Trevor Randle's free online cook-along on February 23; trustee Trudeau participated in the inaugural Indigenous Leadership Conference; trustee Sullivan noted her appreciation of the work that the district is doing in the area of anti-racism; trustee Shaw welcomed the approach of spring break; trustee Murray appreciated the citizenship shown by Golden Ears Elementary in their participation in the Adopt a Block program; trustee Carreras attended the virtual speaker series with Jessica Wood, Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and a strategic planning session in the Enhancing Student Learning Framework series, and also acknowledged the important work done by all staff in the school district over the past year.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on April 14, 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>.