



## Board Meeting Highlights March 9, 2022

### **Presentation: Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Program**

Principal of Riverside Centre Tricia McCuaig and district settlement workers Anna Kim, Wessal Ali, and Shabnam Momtahn presented on the SWIS Program in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. SWIS workers assist parents/guardians and their children with first-year settlement needs, including initial support and outreach to all newcomers; orientation and information workshops on school, community and settlement topics; needs assessment and action planning through settlement counselling; and referral to appropriate school programs, community services, and government resources.

### **Strategic Facilities Plan**

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan and Superintendent Dhillon presented the *Strategic Facilities Plan* to the board, reviewing the process through which the plan was developed and speaking to the facilities planning recommendations included in the plan. The final recommendations reflect the feedback the school district received throughout the public engagement process, and include clarifying revisions to recommendations in the areas of future education considerations, capital plan priorities for existing facilities, and capital plan priorities for new facilities. The board approved the *Strategic Facilities Plan* and authorized staff to implement the recommendations.

The *Strategic Facilities Plan* document is available on the school district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/STRATEGIC-FACILITIES-PLAN-March-2022.pdf>. A summary document of all public feedback received is available at <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/2022-03-04-Engagement-Summary-Facilities-of-the-Future.pdf>

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Dhillon updated the board on various school events and activities, opening with an expression of gratitude to all staff for their work during the Omicron wave and associated staffing shortages. Other highlights included updates on activities led by the Aboriginal Education department, school-based projects celebrating Black History Month, and school-based projects and initiatives inspired by and recognizing Pink Shirt Day.

### **Trustee Motion: Healthy School Food Program**

The board endorsed the efforts of the Coalition for Healthy School Food to advocate for a universal, provincially and federally fully funded healthy school food program.

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees noted the following items: trustee Sullivan reflected on the new BC graduation requirement that incorporates Indigenous-focused coursework and is expected to take effect in the 2023/24 school year. Trustee Dumore spoke about the March 29, 2022, online *Parents Night Out* event on how to navigate difficult conversations about mental health and

substance use, and also noted that the Kiwanis Club of Golden Ears is offering a new annual Youth Empowerment Grant for youth aged 12-24. Finally, trustee Dumore also spoke about her attendance at a basketball game between Thomas Haney and Samuel Robertson secondary schools. Trustee Yamamoto attended a moving online ceremony organized by Aboriginal support worker Yvonne Desabrais, thanked trustee Carreras for her role in encouraging BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) to advocate for funding to the corrections education program, and also spoke about the March 21, 2022, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination event at Memorial Peace Park. Trustee Murray noted that Assistant Superintendent Vandergugten and Deputy Secretary Treasurer Schulte had been appointed to the Ridge Meadows Educational Foundation board, and also acknowledged International Women's Day, thanking his fellow trustees for their community involvement and advocacy. Trustee Carreras spoke about her work on the BCSTA Elections Committee in anticipation of the October 2022, election. At the close of the meeting, trustees also wished students, families, and staff a happy and relaxing spring break.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on April 13, 2022.**