

April 30, 2018

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO. Box 9045, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming:

The North Vancouver Board of Education is pleased to provide the following progress report. The Board's focus, as always, has been to govern the delivery of education to enable all learners within our School District to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.

We believe we have made good progress against both the recommendations outlined in the Ministry's report on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 ("Report") and our core educational governance focus.

Progress Against Ministry of Education Recommendations:

In response to the recommendations in the Report, the Board of Education offers the following updates:

- The preparation of a new Handbook of Trustee Governance is well underway and will be ready for the election and induction of the next Board of Education (2018-2022) for their reference and guidance.
- In response to Recommendations #1 and #2, all Board meetings have been public and open, with the exception of those meetings pertaining to in-camera topics including legal, land, contract and personnel discussions as legally required for the benefit of the School District and students.
- The Chair, along with Dr. Southern, has met with all Trustees individually to reinforce their personal responsibilities related to board relations as suggested in Recommendation #3.
- In response to Recommendation #4, an offer of voluntary confidential mediation by an external professional mediator has been made to address the concerns of an unnamed Trustee. The Chair has re-confirmed to the unnamed Trustee that a written complaint must be submitted before the Board can formally act.
- It is unnecessary to address Recommendation #5 as no complaint has been put forward at this time.
- As noted in the Report, the Board has been and continues to fulfill its statutory and fiduciary duties.

Progress Towards Educational and Student Goals:

- Our Board and staff have been working closely with the Ministry on important seismic projects. With the Ministry's funding for the full replacement of Handsworth Secondary School, we have invested more than \$111 million in Capital Projects to ensure all School District schools are seismically safe. We will need to complete only one more seismic upgrade to achieve this goal and are working with the Ministry to get this project underway shortly.
- We anticipate the new Handsworth Secondary School will open and welcome students by 2021.
- Construction of the replacement Argyle Secondary School will begin imminently and will be open for the 2020/2021 school year.
- Both of these new schools will not only be seismically safe, but also environmentally sustainable, energy efficient and designed to support teaching and learning spaces that support the new curriculum and 21st century learning to give students the best possible educational experience.

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- Our District continues to follow best practices in educating and supporting our students on mental health and mental illness. We are nearing the end of the second year offering a Grade 9 Mental Health Literacy course which has been very well received. We will pilot other mental health programs to support our students' mental and emotional wellness in the coming school years.
- We have successfully introduced and implemented the new K-9 curriculum and supported teachers through both this curriculum transition and the reinstated class size and composition standards in the same school year.
- We continue to develop new strategies to communicate student achievement and student self-reflection on the core competencies.
- We continue to work on Indigenizing the Curriculum and meaningful Reconciliation with our First Nations Partners on the North Shore. We look forward to an official *kyactn* [Welcome Pole] raising ceremony on June 15th where we will celebrate this achievement with our larger community.

We thank the Ministry for your ongoing interest and support of our Board, staff and students in North Vancouver. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

NORTH VANCOUVER
BOARD OF EDUCATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christie Sacré".

Christie Sacré
Chair

cc Trustees
Mark Pearmain, Superintendent
Georgia Allison, Secretary Treasurer