

June 2022

Board Chair Broady's Year end report

Good afternoon. As I reflect back, September seems a distant memory. At times it feels like we lived through three distinct school years in the past nine months. Summer 2021 once again saw the district leadership team spend much of their summer break working through changing covid health protocols, adjusting timetables and working with school based staff and facilities to ensure our schools were safe and welcoming because we were again "back to school" under the shadow of Covid. While we continued to have enhanced health and safety procedures in place at the same time a sense of normalcy and excitement could be found in our schools

We were again able to provide our students with some of the amazing opportunities that traditionally take place in the fall. Students come to school for many reasons, but what often brings joy and engages them are the sports, the arts, the drama and music productions, the clubs and the extra-curricular activities.

Elementary Cross country meets took place at Ambleside with parents cheering their runners on. Secondary sports teams attended provincials and brought home banners which now hang proudly in our gyms.

The Honour Choir was able to welcome back families to their holiday concert and school clubs were once again up and running. Kids gathered with friends on the playgrounds and schools buzzed as they celebrated Halloween, and Remembrance Day and holiday events.

The New Year brought Omicron and with it a step backward but with the high vaccination rates in our community and the vaccine becoming available for 5-11 year olds we were soon able to ensure that programming continued in our schools and opportunities were available for our students.

This spring our first groups of students travelled out of country to the robotics world championships in the southern US. There they competed hard against elite



teams from around the world and a team from Ridgeview Elementary, who are with us today, became the world champions in small robots. Students have been to outdoor schools and participated in concerts and sporting events. The board is

finally meeting again person. We are and will continue to be agile to support families, staff and students through future challenges and changes and we will at all times ensure the health and safety of students and staff is prioritized.

The rest of the work of the board also moved forward during the 2021-22 school year.

French Immersion remains incredibly popular in WV Schools and this spring an outside consultant was engaged to undertake our 2nd French Immersion review, with the results of the review to be shared in the fall.

Over the past two years there has been a sustained focus on equity, diversity and Inclusivity with staff, parents and students taking on this important work within our schools as well as with the assistance of Aldan Habacon. This is important work will continue and will be embedded in all that we do.

The board is also incredibly proud of the work being done by the Indigenous Education Committee which is a shared decision making body, with Squamish Nation representative Sempulyan (Stuart Gonzalez) and West Vancouver Schools' Vice-Chair Sheelah Donahue. We have a strong, collaborative relationship with the Nation and together we will continue to focus on DRIPA and work together to ensure that meaningful change continues around reconciliation.

Schools across the district set their individual goals through Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL) and aligned them with the Board's strategic plan. Next steps will see us gather the data from these initiatives so that we can measure improvements and ensure we continue to best support students and improve educational outcomes.

It has been a challenging budget year. Inflationary costs, the addition of the five provincially mandates sick days, unfunded cost increases in salaries and benefits and the need to continue to budget for increased cleaning and TTOC costs are



mounting and our funding allocation, which continues to be one of the lowest in the province means that once again we are in a structural deficit and that reserves will be well below the 3% contingency that is recommended. While incredibly

challenging, we are grateful to Secretary Treasurer Leiterman and her team for their hard work in creating a budget that continues to be centred on student needs and for the careful stewardship they provide to ensure that we reduce this structural deficit in order to balance future budgets and rebuild our contingency.

Teacher and support staff contracts expire at the end of June and bargaining will continue through the summer and into the fall. This round of local bargaining was successfully completed earlier this spring and the focus is now on the provincial table.

And as we move further into June it is again a time of celebration....the District track and field meet, grade seven leaving ceremonies and sports days. Graduation banquets and commencements.

Honouring our coaches and retirees. The one constant this past year, in all its iterations, has been the return to and focus on providing opportunities, both educational and experiential, for our students. These opportunities would not be possible without the extraordinary work of every member of staff in WV Schools. To our families, our educators and support staff, our office staff and facilities team. To our administrators and district leadership team – thank you.

As you've heard me and my fellow board members say many times, it takes a village to raise a child and we are privileged to have so many amazing individuals supporting the students in our school community.

I would like to finish, by thanking my fellow trustees, Vice-Chair Sheelah Donahue and trustees Lynne Block, Nicole Brown and Dave Stevenson for ongoing dedication to the district and to our staff and students. The singular role of the trustee is to improve student outcomes, and I'm very proud of the work this board has done, through often challenging circumstances, to create the best educational opportunities for all our students. and for how they have consistently put students at the centre of every decision they make – thank you.

