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**Learning for a Lifetime**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

May 30, 2021

**CHAIR:**

Dear SD43 families,

Kerri Palmer Isaak

School District 43 and the Board of Education would like to express our deepest condolences and honour those that died at Residential Schools and those that live with the ongoing trauma of survival. Out of respect, and in recognition of the tragic discovery of the remains of Indigenous children on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, School District 43 will join the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia in lowering the Canadian flag to half-mast beginning Monday May 31<sup>st</sup> until further notice.

**VICE-CHAIR:**

Michael Thomas

**TRUSTEES:**

Jennifer Blatherwick

Each school community, based on grade level appropriateness and context, will experience and address this grim discovery and its impact differently. We encourage everyone to allow time for listening, caring and grieving. Trauma is experienced differently for every individual, and we ask that everyone be afforded the freedom to process events in a way that is best for them. The district will work with the Indigenous Education Department to provide culturally appropriate guidance and support to schools in addition to care for students of Indigenous ancestry.

Barb Hobson

Carol Cahoon

Lisa Park

Christine Pollock

Yours truly,

Keith Watkins

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM) BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Craig Woods

Kerri Palmer Isaak  
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education  
Patricia Gartland, Superintendent of Schools/CEO  
Chris Nicolls, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO