



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of November 24, 2020

Learning for a Lifetime

Serving the communities of Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody

1. On November 17 & 18 Superintendent Patricia Gartland, Assistant Superintendent Robert Zambrano, District Principal of Indigenous Education Gayle Bedard, and Zakary Myers, Education, Training & Employment Manager of Kwikwetlem First Nation attended the Jointly Convened Annual Meeting (JCAM) as required by the BC Tripartite Agreement (BCTEA) signed by the Federal and Provincial Governments and the First Nations Education Steering Committee. Topics included those relevant to Indigenous student success: Local Education and Transportation agreements, The BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act, Children and Youth in Care, consultation on the Draft Indigenous Education Targeted funding policy, changes to Indigenous Education Councils and other matters related promising practices and student success.



2. The Superintendent and Stephen Whiffin, Director of Learning Services provided a power point presentation at the virtual BC Council for International Education webinar on November 12, 2020. Titled, *A Foundation for Change: Using Technology to Support Effective Student Engagement*, this presentation covered new professional development strategies that included hybrid-learning, alternative assessment approaches and integration of STEM activities to prepare teachers and learners of the future. The Coquitlam School District has established an international reputation as a leader in K-12 technology-supported instruction and STEM education and has developed a framework for technology-facilitated practice called 'The Conditions for 21st Century Learning model'. This presentation introduced the model and explored steps to enable systemic alignment of resources to support the transition to technology-facilitated instruction and competency-based approaches to instruction and assessment. Challenges currently faced in the emerging "new normal" and how to transform these into opportunities to engage our international students were explored.



3. On November 16th Superintendent Gartland and Shawn Silverstone, Director of International Education provided a webinar presentation at the Canadian Bureau of International Education's virtual conference. The presentation titled *How to Leverage Social Media to Build Your Institution's Brand Internationally* explored how in the 21st century, the use of mobile online communications through social media platforms is the most effective and interactive method to promote the benefits of studying at your institution. Strategies were provided on how to select the best social media platforms to leverage current marketing channels to attract and engage students in various international markets to achieve strategic goals and global presence. The conference was attended by national and international delegates from post-secondary and K-12 institutions.



4. Patricia Gartland, Superintendent, Reno Ciolfi, Assistant Superintendent, Andrea McComb, Learning Services Principal, and Gayle Bedard, District Principal of Indigenous Education, will be presenting at the virtual Learning Forward international conference on December 7th. The session titled *True North: How Canadian Educators Confront Bias* will provide an opportunity to share a powerful experience in dialogue in which to surface personal biases. Challenges of equity in the current educational climate will be explored, uncovering how others might be lifted up through empowerment. Capacity for crafting conversations that count will be developed and strategies to create small moments that lift others up will be brainstormed.





5. Principal Darren Macmillan and Vice Principal Kirsten Paterson are excited to share news that they have received a \$10,000 donation from the Port Moody Foundation. In describing the project, the school administration shared the following:

“Eagle Mountain Middle School has a unique location; set and surrounded amongst a stunning forest. We wanted to use this natural element and create an outdoor classroom, which we are excited to share, is now well on its way. With the support of the SD43 grounds crew, principal of facilities, passionate teachers, students and administrators we are creating an area where students and staff can rejuvenate.

Students will cultivate awareness, knowledge, appreciation and concern for the natural environment and a place where the learning environment naturally elicits creativity and calmness. Our vision involves the students’ voice as they are helping to build and design our outdoor classrooms all while learning how to build sustainable trails and to honor the organic materials already available to us. Our vision is to have five learning classrooms, with pathways leading to each area and to have a play area where students can explore and have fun.”

The Port Moody Foundation has also provided SD43 a further \$10,000, which, with a matching contribution from Microsoft Canada, has facilitated the purchase of laptops and technology for some Port Moody families that may not otherwise have been in a position to purchase their own. Twenty grade 6-12 students benefitted from the generous donation of much needed technology. Here’s what one recipient student had to say: “I got one of the laptops that you gave out. I am very thankful, it will make school so much easier”. The thank you note also included a comment from the student’s mother, “I don’t have the words to express my gratitude...”.



6. On November 7th, Riverside Secondary School teacher, Sean Robinson, celebrated the launch of his second book in his Connection Based Learning Series called, “The Connections Lens: Teach with the Power of Human Connection” together with other educators from Argentina, USA, India, Mexico, Uganda. The book’s foreword is by Dr. Jen Williams, a global activist, and the afterword is written by Malala’s father, Ziauddin Yousafzai.



Sean writes, “I believe that this book will help transform educators’ vision to see how human connection can empower student learning and experience”. Read more about his new book release here: <http://bit.ly/CBLbook2>

7. Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry introduced new measures and restrictions for BC in efforts to 'flatten the curve' of COVID-19 cases in the province. Beginning November 19th and extending until December 7th, as cases continue to rise in BC, social gatherings have been restricted to household members only, though physically distanced walks with friends or grandparents picking up kids from school is still acceptable. Some businesses have re-vamped safety protocols and been allowed to stay open while others have been ordered to suspend operation. Safety protocols including daily health checks and restricted access to facilities continue to be employed at schools and they are continuing to stay open.



8. Registration for Kindergarten and Programs of Choice for children turning five before December 2021 begins in January. Cross Catchment Applications are accepted shortly after each student first registers for their catchment school. Parents/guardians may use the School Locator Tool on the district's website to determine their catchment school. Video presentations will be available on the district website starting in December so parents may learn more about the available Programs of Choice in a safe, accessible, and convenient online format.



9. Grade 12 Dr. Charles Best Secondary School students, Olivia Wong and Melissa Wong, shared their passion for reading with youth by building and installing a new little lending library by Rocky Point Park in Port Moody. Inspired during the COVID-19 pandemic, they applied for a \$750 grant from Rising Youth, a national program helping youth foster leadership skills and community connections.



Photo credit: [Tricity News](#)

They have also launched a new book club, Page Turner, targeted at students in Grades 2 to 5. The group meets virtually twice a month to discuss their current reads and favourite books.

To learn more about the book club, view: <https://pageturnersbc.wixsite.com/bookclub>

10. On November 6, Cape Horn Elementary School finished their new outdoor classroom. Thank you to Ms. MacKay (Teacher), Ms. Hannah Ward (PAC chair), Mr. Peter Gong (Carver from Squamish Nation) & Mr. Dave Cyr (Principal) for all your hard work in creating more spaces for learning and fun.



11. Five Gleneagle Secondary School ConX Leadership students will be supporting Shares Family Community Services this Christmas by creating a virtual auction called the Gleneagle ConXmas. This initiative is specifically targeted to raise money for Christmas food hampers this holiday season.



The five students have started to collect food items for their online auction and are hoping to get more support. The community can bid on a number of items, including coffee baskets, spa treatments and golfing packages. Items can be viewed from November 17 until December 1, 7pm here:

<https://www.conxmas.com/>.

12. Cedar Drive Elementary will be officially opening its new playground this week! The new accessible playground replaces an older wooden structure that had reached the end of its lifespan. Principal Brian Leonard is pleased to make the announcement now that it is complete and proud of the new accessible swing, spinner and other equipment, as well as the sensory games that have been incorporated. The new structure was made possible as a result of a Ministry of Education Playground Equipment Program grant totalling \$125,000.

