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April 29, 2020

Dear Grade 12 students and Parents/Guardians of Grade 12 students:

**RE: GRADUATION 2020**

As we approach May and June our attention goes to celebrating the accomplishments of our grade 12 students and soon to be graduates. For the past thirteen years, students have cultivated themselves by putting efforts into academic endeavors, philanthropic pursuits and gaining insight and experience in workplace initiatives. Students, in conjunction with their schools, teachers and parents, are working harder than ever to prepare for today's complex world. Currently, students, especially grade 12 students, and their teachers have made remarkable adaptations to remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the contributions that grade 12 students have made in enhancing the learning environments in schools over the years. That appreciation, along with the significance of earning secondary school graduation, are certainly cause for celebration. Under COVID-19 circumstances the traditional ways of celebrating graduation need to be adapted in response to the Orders and recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

This year graduates will receive written acknowledgements of their success from the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools and from the school principal. Under the oversight of the school principal, other forms of recognition may be expressed to graduates. Items to commemorate graduation will be provided to graduates in recognition of their success. These could include items such as grad caps with tassels, certificates and other items. Recognition of the graduating class and individuals in it will be done remotely either online or through video. Dry Grad Committees, supported by local police forces, may distribute gifts and prizes, under the direction of the school principal. Items will be made available for pick-up by graduates using the same safe procedures used for learning materials pick up in late March and early April.

All celebrations of the class of 2020 will be completed by June 25, 2020. Student attendance at school from now until then will be for learning purposes only, with the exception of the pick-up of items provided to celebrate graduation. Community expressions of congratulations to graduates, such as with community signage, are encouraged after June 15 and before June 29, 2020.

The Board of Education is very proud of the graduating class of 2020. This year's celebration of graduation is taking place in the context of strict limitations on social gatherings, such as concerts and sports events. We are certain we have your support in making Grad 2020 safe, enjoyable and a true celebration of the talents and achievements of our 2020 graduates.

Congratulations and best wishes!

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)**

Kerri Palmer Isaak, Chair - Board of Education