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November 18, 2015

Re: Two Non-Instructional Days for Redesigned Curriculum Training

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Next year, all schools across the province will be implementing a redesigned curriculum in grades K-9. Along with this implementation, teachers will also be preparing for the grades 10-12 curriculum that will be implemented the following year.

On September 28th, the Ministry of Education and the British Columbia Teachers Federation, supported by provincial partners in education, announced a plan to support the implementation of the redesigned curriculum. This plan includes an additional 10 hours (two days) of non-instructional time this school year to be provided to all teachers for preparing for the redesigned curriculum. The Ministry is also providing \$1M this year to provide release time for targeted training of 2,000 teachers across the province with the redesigned curriculum. The following two years will see an additional 5 hours (one day) each year of non-instructional time provided to all teachers for curriculum implementation.

School districts have been mandated by the Ministry to add the 10 hours (two days) of non-instructional time into the existing school calendar. We have met with the Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA) to agree to the selection and the use of these days. We have also met with the Board of Education at the November 17th, Board meeting and trustees passed a motion to approve two selected dates. We have intentionally placed the days later in the school year to provide parents with ample time to make arrangements for child care that may be required.

The dates which have been selected for the two non-instructional days are **Tuesday, February 9th, 2016** following BC Family Day and **Friday, May 13th, 2016**. A few schools that previously scheduled a school based Professional Development Day on either of the Ministry supported days will need to reschedule that day and will communicate that day to parents.

We thank you for your understanding and hope that this information helps explain the change to our existing school calendar.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gartland
Superintendent of Schools
School District 43 (Coquitlam)