

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, September 22, 2009

1. School Opening Report

a) Opening Week Activities

On Tuesday, September 8, 2009 the Board welcomed students, families and staff to a new public school year. Thanks to our dedicated staff schools and classrooms were ready for the arrival of our returning students and families as well as those new to the district. Included within this group were 1,500 kindergarten students starting school for the first time and 2,400 grade 12 students who are entering their last secondary school year.

The first week of school consisted of many focused and community building activities that are both rewarding and challenging as staff, students and parents proceeded through schedules, orientation activities, organizational changes and registrations. Optimism and positivity are always evident during school start up and this year's start up was no exception as our school communities look forward to a productive and successful school year. Some highlights of school opening week included:

- At Parkcrest Elementary students were engaged in multi-age curriculum related activities under the umbrella of environmental stewardship. Students painted reusable canvas bags, participated in a community clean-up and learned to pack a litterless lunch.
- At Brentwood Park Elementary students, staff and parents participated in a week long program called "Building a Caring Community" where participants visit literacy, numeracy, Mad Science and art stations to create posters showing how to respect the environment inside and outside the school.
- All of our secondary schools provided many opportunities for leadership and community building as various mentoring programs welcomed grade eight students and new international students transitioning and experiencing secondary schools for the first time.

Tonight we have two schools and groups of students, Taylor Park Elementary and Moscrop Secondary, who would like to share with the Board their first week of school experiences.

b) School Enrolment

The district projected a school-aged population of 22,959 full-time equivalent students for the 2009-2010 school year. Given the many changes that occur during the first two weeks of school, it is difficult to determine if these projections have been met. The district has experienced a stable enrolment pattern over the last few years and we anticipate that this will continue for 2009-2010. A detailed enrolment report will be provided to the Board at the next meeting.

Recommendation: That the Board receive this information.

2. Prevention is the Key

The health and well being of our students and staff is always a paramount priority for the Board of Education. School startup will soon transition into the school year and with it the “cold and flu season”. This school year the district’s message to parents, students and staff is to practice three key prevention measures to help keep our schools healthy. These prevention measures have been highlighted in a number of district communication strategies during the first two weeks of school. These include information on the school district website where health information has been posted as well as links to fact sheets that have been translated in a variety of languages. The district has sent home a “Prevention is the Key” brochure that provides a comprehensive guide for parents. In addition, the district in cooperation with the Fraser Health Authority, has produced a prevention poster that will be posted in all of our schools. It is hoped that these communication tools will assist in preventing the spread of colds and flus so that we will have a productive, healthy and safe 2009/2010 school year.

Recommendation: That the Board receive this information.