

School Trustee Update

For September 2018



KPalmerIsaak@sd43.bc.ca

I wanted to reach out and touch base with Villagers, Anmore / Belcarra as we start the new school year and to review some of the great things that have happened at sd43 over the course of the last four years.

Going into this new school year we are fully staffed and this is was directly related to the hiring that happened around class size and composition. Unlike other districts in the province we have been very fortunate, we were able to hire over 300 teachers and support staff for our schools in part because sd43 is such a desirable district to work for but also the our area is sought after to relocate to. We eliminated lay-off / recall this year for the second year in a row, meaning that teaching teams have been able to remain the same in your schools creating greater stability and continuity.

At the beginning of this term as trustee I was very concerned about the financial stability of SD43. The district was in a deficit position of approximately 14 million dollars. We are now, and for the last few years, been in a surplus position. This has been a challenging yet rewarding process, and we have since developed policy that directs our surplus to one time projects, technology, and deferred maintenance as well as reinserting funds back into operating to create a more consistent and stable budget. This Board has worked very hard to create a strong and sustainable financial position for SD43 .

This term our Board implemented **Directions 2020** a strategic goals and objectives guide. Directions 2020 was created in collaboration with all partner groups and stakeholders. All budget and SD43 initiatives must be focussed on 3 guidelines: **Achieve Student Success, Enhance Learning Through Technology,** and **Foster a Sustainable Educational Organization.** This is a project that I have found to be very helpful in that it focusses our district on our collective goals and allows us to make decisions more efficiently.

Trustees in SD43 are assigned a different collection of schools each year that they visit and learn about the diverse needs in our classrooms across our district. I very much enjoy being out in our schools, touring science fairs, visiting classrooms, seeing teachers and principals interacting and sharing the projects they are passionate about. Each school has a unique culture and community. This year I was fortunate to be able to attend a number of functions at Anmore Elementary / Eagle / and Heritage. I so enjoy learning from the students and parents and getting feedback / perspective about what is happening in their schools and community.

Every year I have advocated at the Provincial Select Standing Finance Committee for additional funding for: mental health, a review of the funding formula, LINK funding for our most vulnerable learners, and a review of the funding for new schools in areas that are growing. What I am most proud of in this advocacy role is that our partner groups: DPAC, The CPVPA Coquitlam Principals and Vice Principals Association, the Coquitlam Teachers Association have signed on to these requests and this makes our voice even louder.

You can always reach me by email at my sd43 email address KPalmerIsaak@sd43.bc.ca, I appreciate your questions, concerns and suggestions.
Thank you and have a great school year !