

September 30, 2017

Welcome back Anmore and Belcarra students and families. I just wanted to touch base and give you an update about our school start ups this year. As you may know we have implemented some significant changes in schools this September following the directions of the Supreme Court of Canada decision last year to move toward smaller class sizes and higher teacher student ratio. This resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement outlining class size and composition.

I am so happy to share with you that SD43 was able to hire 319 teachers to date and over the summer we transitioned almost 80 school spaces and made them into classrooms for this fall. •

"Numerous classroom conversions were done to meet the MOA implementation, mostly at elementary schools, and a few at middle and secondary schools. Dozens of rooms were converted, moved or otherwise impacted to make the classrooms we needed. This was not an easy task, but our district's facilities staff have done an admirable job" this is from Patricia Gartland Sd43 superintendent.

Many other districts really struggled with the challenge of hiring so many positions so quickly. I have to credit our district HR department and our exceptional relationship with the Coquitlam Teachers Association for making this huge effort possible. The school board played a role as well. In a time of political uncertainty, with an election in full swing, we kept moving forward knowing that what we were doing was for students and that it all needed to be in place for "back to school" in September.

As the chair I am proud to share these great outcomes and to let you know that they would not have been possible with out the collaborative efforts of many groups. We even had to call on our 5 mayors to help us green light the moves of portables through out the district and they all happily supported us.

On another note I am so pleased to have Anmore Elementary and Eagle Mountain in my designation of schools this year. Each year trustees are assigned a collection of elementary , middle and secondary schools so they are able to learn as much as possible about the entire district. I have thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to be in schools across the Tri Cities over the last few years and learn about their ideas, programs, initiatives and I cant wait to get back into the Village schools and see what they have been up to!

Kerri Palmer Isaak
SD43 Board Chair

Please feel free to contact me at anytime via email KPalmerIsaak@sd43.bc.ca