



June 21, 2016

STAYING CONNECTED

~ A message from Official Trustee Mike McKay ~

To North Okanagan-Shuswap School District Staff and Community:

As you may be aware from recent media reports, on June 15, 2016 I was appointed as Official Trustee for School District #83 after the Minister of Education's decision to dissolve the elected Board of Education earlier the same day.

This first bulletin is intended to introduce myself to you and assure you of my commitment to students, staff and the communities the school district serves. I also want to acknowledge the difficult circumstances the district has experienced as outlined in the Report of the Special Advisor. In moving forward, I will work hard to provide governance, guidance and support as we achieve our common goal – success for every student. On June 16, I met with partner group presidents representing parents, teachers, support staff, school administrators and shared with them a hope for collaboration and openness to create and sustain a positive learning environment.

Four years ago, when I was Superintendent/CEO in Surrey School District, I was asked to take on the Official Trustee role in Cowichan Valley School District. At that time, I shared some of the foundations that helped to guide our work during my term in office in School District #79. Those statements are as current in today's context as they were in 2012. Briefly, they include a belief that:

- all students can learn – and we need to provide them with the highest likelihood of success. Great classrooms and schools have an unwavering commitment to “every child, every chance, every day.” Our public schools are expected to do the right things for every learner and we need to work together to maximize success across the district;
- all employees want to do the best job they can – and they require support in a positive workplace where there is ongoing professional growth and a culture of high expectations. In an increasingly complex classroom and school environment, the district has a responsibility to build employee capacity, individually and collectively;
- parents and the broader community are essential partners in the education journey and schools and districts have to reach out, authentically engage and build shared vision and momentum toward a preferred future. I look forward to connecting with communities across the district in the coming weeks and months;
- there are many variables associated with successful schools and districts. In challenging and rapidly changing times, it is critically

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important to cultivate the key areas for success. I am working with senior staff to review a wide range of issues including transparency, resourcing levels, home-school connections, governance routines and many more. These areas, some of which were included in the Special Advisor's Report, will help us to identify priorities toward achieving our goals.

Individually and collectively, we have an opportunity to make a positive difference in providing the very best education for students in North Okanagan-Shuswap School District.

A Public Board meeting will be held at the District Office on Tuesday, July 5 @ 4 PM. The agenda for that meeting will be posted on the district website and will include receipt of the Special Advisor's report and other emerging issues to be addressed.

Respectfully,

Mike McKay

Mike McKay
Official Trustee,
North Okanagan-Shuswap School District

Questions? Feedback? Please send me an email at trusteefeedback@sd83.bc.ca