

From the Chair



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As the School Year Closes and We Look Ahead...

It was gratifying to close a challenging school year with a resounding “yes” to ratification of the Provincial Collective Agreement with the BC Teachers’ Federation.

The Board of Directors very much appreciated the discussion at the Wednesday Representative Council and will be in touch with boards in the early fall with information on continuing the dialogue, both with respect to a *post-mortem* of these rounds of collective bargaining and preparation for the next.

We said from the outset that negotiated agreements are always the best outcome and we never wavered from that objective — that resolve led to conclusion of negotiated collective agreements with both unionized support staff and public school teachers. We recognize, of course, that many issues important to the health and vibrancy of our public education system remain to be discussed, and resolution of those issues will be demanding. But we are hopeful that as we prepare for the next rounds of bargaining, identification of priorities, realistic expectations, and respectful dialogue will guide all parties as we seek to address these issues.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend sincere thanks to boards of education for your support throughout the year. We also want to thank district staff for their hard work in providing invaluable assistance to our bargaining teams. And finally, thanks to all those who work in the public education system, with a special thank you to principals, vice principals, and other district exempt staff who took on extra duties in addition to their regular responsibilities.

We hope all of you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer and look forward to a positive start to the next school year as we work together to ensure that the success of BC students remains our collective focus .

New Board Member

We welcome John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools in School District No. 44 (North Vancouver), to the Board of Directors. John replaces Mike McKay, Superintendent in School District No. 36 (Surrey), as the representative of the BC School Superintendents’ Association to the Board. We very much valued Mike’s thoughtful input and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Melanie Joy, Chair