

### Superintendent's Remarks

October is Foster Family Month and is a chance to celebrate those who support children and youth in care, and help them through some of the most challenging times of their lives. Thank you to those in our communities who take on these critically important roles.

Grade 1 & 2 students from BRE explored the topic of truth and reconciliation by reflecting on what they have learned about residential schools, reflecting on their own experience in school, and then engaging in a writing activity. The students' words were powerful and moving and can serve as a reminder to us all of the importance of leading forward in this work.

### Staff Presentation

SSTA Professional Development Chair, Gina McCormick, provided an overview of our district's mentorship program for new teachers.

### COVID-19 Planning Update

SD48 hosted a COVID-19 virtual information session with Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, VCH on September 30th. Over 150 questions were submitted by our stakeholders ahead of time, which were classified into themes and covered in the session. A recording of this session can be found on SD48 website.

Our Transportation department has been able to accommodate 62 courtesy riders from the Cheakamus Crossing area in Whistler. Superintendent McCullough thanked the Cheakamus Crossing community for working with the district to collect the information needed to establish this service. Superintendent McCullough will also bring forth a request by this community to have an amendment to Policy 701 Transportation of Students considered by the Board Policy Committee. They are requesting that the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood be an exception to the bus ridership eligibility due to their unique walking situation to Spring Creek Community School.

Superintendent McCullough reminded everyone about the upcoming October 30, 2020 due date, for parents registered in the short-term Transition Program, to let the district know whether they plan to have their children return to their local school for in-class instruction or to remain in online learning for the school year.

### Federal Funding Update

SD48 anticipates receiving \$1.9 million in federal funding in two installments, first in September 2020 (\$947K) and the second, contingent on ongoing COVID-19 pandemic-related needs, in January 2021 (\$947K). The categories for spending include Learning Resources and Supports, Health and Safety, Technology, Transportation, and Child Care. To date, federal funding committed expenditures are based on the needs resulting from the District COVID-19 Safety Plan, Provincial Safety Guidelines, and preliminary stakeholder consultations. Secretary Treasurer Azim and Superintendent McCullough walked the Board through the expenses that are already committed and also items for further consideration. Once the current school staff consultation is complete, any additional expenditures will be considered and prioritized within the remaining funding. Additional details can be found [here](#).