



## **Media Release**

### **Highlights of February 14, 2017 Board Meeting**

#### **Coding at Conrad School**

Principal Kerri Levelton, Vice-Principal Jit Khaira and students Hailey Helin, Aiden Brown, Tyson Tran, Alexis Hill, Kevin Phan and Ava Coveyduck-Edwards of Conrad Street Elementary School attended the Board meeting on February 14, 2017 to describe the Independent Study Group at the school. This group has been learning to code, and were excited to share their skills with the Board of Education.

“This was one of the best presentations the Board has ever received,” said Board Chair Tina Last. “The students were incredibly helpful as we each had the opportunity to learn the process of coding.”

#### **Park Avenue Crosswalk**

At the meeting of the Board of Education on February 14, 2017 a letter from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure was received. Minister Todd Stone acknowledged receipt of the Board’s letter of October 27, 2016 and described the steps the Ministry is taking to consider the need for a crosswalk at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Avenue. The Board looks forward to a successful conclusion to this request.

#### **School Calendar**

The Superintendent presented feedback on the two possible school calendars for the 2017/18 school year. One of the possible calendars reflects a 2 week Spring Break, and the other calendar would result in a return to the traditional 1 week Spring Break. 83.2% of the survey respondents preferred a 2 week Spring Break. The Superintendent also advised that a 2 week Spring Break is an important consideration in the recruitment and retention of staff.

The Board of Education provided contingent approval of a calendar with a 2 week Spring Break. This approval is subject to approval by the Prince Rupert District Teachers Union. The union is expected to consider this request near the end of March, 2017.



## **#BCTECH Summit Youth Innovation Day**

Congratulations were offered to Mr. Sebastien Paquet, the District Careers Coordinator, who has been selected as a spokesperson for the #BCTECH Summit Youth Innovation Day. Mr. Paquet will be taking a group of 10 secondary students to this event at the Vancouver Convention Centre on March 15, 2017.

## **Hartley Bay**

On Monday, February 13, 2017 School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) and the Gitga'at First Nation signed a Local Education Services Agreement for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021. This agreement will continue the provision of education services at the Hartley Bay school for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

## **Prince Rupert Middle School**

The District expects the Ministry of Education will be making its final decisions on the capital plan in the near future. In order to provide further support to the request for the replacement of Prince Rupert Middle School, the Chair was directed to write a letter to the Minister of Education urging approval for this replacement.

## **Annual Budget Consultation**

The final public meeting for this year's Annual Budget Consultation will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Hays Secondary School multi-purpose room. Updates on the budget will be provided. This will be the last opportunity to provide the Board with your input on the changes you would like to see in the budget.

Please come out to this meeting to provide your input to the Board of Education.

## **March Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. This is one week earlier than normal as a result of the 2 week Spring Break commencing on March 13, 2017.



## **Policy Committee Work**

3 policies were approved by the Board of Education to be sent to partner groups for their input:

- Student Medications Policy
- District Discipline Committee Policy
- Acceptable Use of Technology Policy

3 policies were approved by the Board of Education to be updated in the policy book:

- Employee Conduct and Political Activities Policy
- Making Policy
- Records Management Policy

1 policy was approved by the Board of Education to be deleted:

- Student Program Options Policy

Feedback from partner groups on draft policies is welcomed by the Board, so that approved policies will meet the needs of the district's students and staff.

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