

2013.06.03

District Parent Advisory Council

SUPERINTENDENT'S SPEAKING NOTES

1. Thank you!

On behalf of the senior administration and countless others in our school district, thank you for your dedication to learning, thank you for your donation of time and expertise to improve school experiences for youth and thank you for your many contributions. Your partnership is appreciated!

2. Principals and Vice Principals

School principals are moved to build organizational strength and nimbleness especially in a culture of change and significant movement. Principals and Vice Principals are moved to enhance individual capacity, shape professional pathways, assist school growth and enhance student learning.

Please be aware that a number of senior and junior administrative staff are “in opportunity process” re career choice. It is not expected that decisions made outside our district will be known by June 30, 2013. As a result, it is likely that moves (range of a few to significant numbers) will take place during the summer months.

A few Principal and Vice Principal announcements will be made later this week or early next week.

3. Labour Relations

We are beginning to hear strong statements about labour action beginning in the near future.

Our approach is to focus on student learning. With regard to staff, our approach is to be hard on issues and soft on people.

I will keep you informed as I am made aware of definitive action in this regard.

4. District Achievement Contract (Draft)

It will be made available to you later this week or early next week. Individuals wanting to make comment will be welcome to do so. We will establish a mailbox for feedback. Please ensure that your e-mail address, name and contact information is provided (we may want to contact you).

5. PGDTA President and CUPE Local 3742 President

Thank you to Matt Pearce and Lorraine Prouse for their service to employees in their respective unions. From my vantage point, the position of president is complex and exhausting. While I don't know the specific qualifications of the president's position, I do know that senior staff in our district interface with these individuals on a regular basis. Interactions over the years have been spirited and at all times: respectful. Best wishes to Lorraine and Matt!

6. Passion, Perseverance, Priorities and Legacy

I spend a great deal of time answering questions about the Board of Education. The following is a personal observation as the Superintendent.

Each Board brings a passion for the primacy of student learning – a non-negotiable in my opinion.

In addition, Boards provide specific instructions that shape the behaviour of school district staff. Our last Board of Education felt it was very important that our school district work collaboratively with others in our community and across the province. Staff took this direction to heart and today we have hundreds of community partners. More than just passive involvement, school district representatives are key members of many community planning tables. School District #57 input is helping to shape not only learning opportunities for youth but the communities we live in.

Our current, Board of Education is committed to greater involvement with partner groups. This is a most positive direction! Like all new initiatives, expect some "bumps" but continued support of and involvement in this direction will definitely lead to an ongoing legacy of organizational excellence for the benefit of students.