

Simon Fraser Principal Report to PAC

September 18, 2018

I acknowledge that we are learning and working together on the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh Coast Salish people.

Thank you families, for a great welcome. I'm really enjoying getting to know the community here at Simon Fraser and looking forward to getting into classrooms and having the opportunity to connect with the students more now that the initial business at the start of the school year is slowing down.

At each PAC meeting I hope to use my Principal's report to update parents on District news, exciting activities that are happening in the school and also to address parent issues and concerns that have been brought to me by the PAC Executive. I do not see this as the place to discuss individual student needs. I always encourage parents to speak to their child's teacher first with any concerns and then to see me if they still have concerns. Since arriving here, I have been struck by how positive, proactive and professional the staff here at Simon Fraser are and I feel fortunate to be working with such a great team.

School Organization

Every September, the first item that I talk about is school organization. At the moment we have 321 students registered in the school in 15 divisions. In the first week's newsletter I introduced the new staff and the staff who are covering leaves. This year the Library has two days allocated and the Resource Team allocation is the equivalent to 2.06 teachers- a reduction in the support from last year due to the staffing of resource now in adherence to the original language in the teacher's contract in 2002. There are 11 full time support staff. There are fewer students with designations that generate SSA support and fewer students who are English Language Learners, which generates resource teacher time.

Lunch room

Lunch time is working well. I have received positive feedback from students, staff and parents about the split lunch times. The Intermediates are eating first- straight away at 12:10pm and can stay in the lunchroom until the primary students enter at 12:35pm- although most finish by 12:25pm. The Engineer has

time to wipe tables down before the primary students eat and they have until 12:55pm and are collected from the gym by their teacher at the end of lunch. Fewer children in the lunch room for each sitting has meant a relatively calm environment. Some of our students who are sensitive to sound have been able to join their peers in the lunch room. It is taking the Engineer half the time as it was previously to sweep the floor, wipe down and put away the tables. This means that only 10 minutes of gym time is overlapping with the cleaning away, but with half the gym available and the stage space, Mr. Hunter is able to get classes started.

School grounds

Unfortunately since the start of school, there have been several needles and a range of drug paraphernalia found on the school grounds as well as clothing and blankets which suggest that someone is sleeping here. Our Engineer is out every morning clearing up what he sees- he collects dog faeces off the ground and in bags, broken glass, empty bottles and cans each morning. He is actively looking for needles etc. A couple of our students have seen needles and knew to bring it to an adult's attention. Teachers have been asked to talk to their classes about reporting these items and not to touch them. During grounds clean up especially, all teachers are reminding students that they are to be collecting litter, such as the snack wrappers that are dropped on the ground after recess.

I have contacted the VPD School Liaison Officer and asked for additional overnight patrols and the VSB security company will be doing patrols on the grounds each night too. Please talk to your children about what to do if they see a needle on the ground- this is not just an issue that happens in our school but in schools across the District and in many public spaces in the city.

Technology

Thanks to the generosity of the families here at Fraser we have \$16,000 to spend on technology. As you know the teachers created their wish list and tried to place the order at the end of the school year, however the electronic procurement system had been locked down. The Technology Committee will be meeting tomorrow lunchtime and we plan to have that order placed this week so that we can be using it in classrooms as soon as possible. Thank you so much to all of you for your support with this project.

Water fountain

The water fountain by the gym has been upgraded and re-piped from the water source and is back in use. I am now investigating the possibility of a water bottle filling station although these can be expensive- \$5,000- \$7,000 according to the report being delivered by staff to Committee II the Planning and Facilities Committee tomorrow evening, Wednesday 19th September, 2018.

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Board-of-Education/Meeting_Minutes/Documents/agendas-files/18_09Sept19_op_commlI_agenda.pdf

We may be able to reduce the cost if it is located using the same re-piped line that has just been installed.

Finally as you saw in the email that sent out this afternoon- there are many exciting things for us to look forward to- Terry Fox and Cross Country next week. I hope you are able to come to the Meet the Teacher night on Thursday. I would like to thank the PAC Executive for the support that they have provided me and I want to say how much I look forward to collaborating and working with all of you to ensure that your children have a positive learning environment- and to be in place where they know that they matter and are important to all of us here.