



## Media Release

### Highlights of November 10, 2014 Board Meeting

#### **Bread Loaf School**

At the November 10, 2014 meeting of the Board of Education, teacher Penny Hasell reported on her studies at the Bread Loaf School campus in Vermont this past summer. This visit was sponsored by a generous donation from Ridley Terminals Inc.

Bread Loaf School provides graduate level courses for students from all around the world. Ms. Hasell took two courses. One focused on the use of drama in other subject areas. This is a great resource for kinesthetic learners. The other course focused on the use of imagination.

Ms. Hasell highly recommended the program to other teachers, and sponsorship for two teachers is available for next summer.

“It is wonderful to hear how this generous donation from Ridley Terminals Inc. will provide real benefit to our students,” said Board Chair Tina Last. “The Board is pleased to know that Ms. Hasell is working in a district position this year, enabling these lessons to be shared with all of our elementary teachers.”

#### **Voting Day this Saturday, November 15, 2014**

Election of trustees for the Board of Education will take place on Saturday, November 15, 2014. There are 10 nominees for the 6 trustee positions in area 1 (City of Prince Rupert). The rural trustee, Janet Beil, who represents area 2 (rural areas) was elected by acclamation. Residents of Prince Rupert are encouraged to head out to the polls this Saturday and cast their votes.

#### **Student Enrolment Decline**

As expected, enrolment at the start of the school year is slightly lower than last year. The official student count for the 2014-2015 school year took place on Friday, October 17, 2014. The count indicates there are 2,066 students in the district. This is a decline of 37 students from the official headcount on September 30, 2013 of 2,103. 147 of those students are in kindergarten, an increase of 1 from last year’s kindergarten enrolment of 146.

## **Co-Governance Framework**

BCSTA has asked district to review the proposed Co-Governance Relationship Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and the BCSTA. This memorandum is intended to update and clarify the roles of the two parties. The Board of Education passed a motion to support the proposed memorandum. It is expected that the decision of the parties on the approval of this memorandum will be announced at the BCSTA Academy in Vancouver in early December.

“There have been a number of situations in the last few years where the Ministry of Education made decisions without first consulting boards of education,” said Board Chair Tina Last. “The board is hopeful that this new memorandum will lead to an effective co-governance process in the years ahead.

## **Policy Committee Work**

Two new policies was approved by the Board of Education at their meeting on Monday, November 10, 2014:

- Security and Protection of Buildings Policy
- School Funds Policy

The Board has now substantially completed the review and updating of its policies, and thanks Ms. Elizabeth Wilson for her support in this process. Policies will now be reviewed on a scheduled basis, and the remaining regulations will be brought up to date through the coming year.

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