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## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, April 3, 2020

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT 78 APPOINTS NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

For immediate release:

The Board of Education is pleased to advise that they have appointed Mr. Balan Moorthy as Superintendent of Schools, effective August 1, 2020.

Mr. Moorthy is currently the Principal of Walnut Grove Secondary in the Langley School District (SD35). Balan has a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education in Educational Administration, both degrees are from the University of Victoria. He has also completed a Certificate in Indigenous Education from UBC and is currently a Doctoral student at Nipissing University, with a focus on Truth and Reconciliation.

Balan has 25 years school administrative experience, at the K-12 level, and extensive community involvement, most notably his role as Co-Chair of the Fraser Valley Human Dignity Coalition.

Balan is married with four adult daughters (one of whom is a teacher) and three others who are involved in Graduate or undergraduate programs. His wife Shalegh, is a Primary Teacher and Instructional coach in the Langley School District.

Balan noted that in accepting this appointment "The values of the Fraser-Cascade School District resonate very deeply with me personally and professionally. I can't wait to join this community of passionate, caring and dedicated people."

Ron Johnstone, Board Chair, stated that Mr. Moorthy will take over the position of Superintendent on August 1<sup>st</sup> from Dr. Karen Nelson, who has made a decision to retire after serving in the top position in the district for more than a decade. Thanks to her leadership and hard work, Balan will take over a high functioning, collaborative district where everyone matters. Chair Johnstone, also noted that hiring a Superintendent is one of the most significant responsibilities of the Board of Education. "In selecting Balan as our Superintendent, the Board of Education appreciates his deep commitment and passion for student success. He has a proven track record of building meaningful community connections and the Board has no doubt that through his strong leadership he will effectively collaborate and inspire trust among students, parents, staff, administrators and community alike".

The entire Board extends its sincere appreciation to the staff, administrators and partners who provided insights into the recruitment process, including building the candidate profile and participating in candidate interviews. The contributions and the input provided was very insightful and the Board wishes to thank each participant for their time and thoughtful contributions.

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