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April 2, 2020

Dear employees and parents/guardians of School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade):

On behalf of the Board of Education and senior management, we would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to all employees and parents/guardians for your cooperation during these challenging and unprecedented times. During the past week, we have been impressed with the high level of dedication and hard work demonstrated on behalf of all employees throughout our entire district.

Our principals and vice principals have spent countless hours planning and consulting during and following spring break in preparation for supporting the continuity of student learning. We want you to know how much we value your leadership during these challenging times.

We have witnessed an extraordinarily high level of kindness, compassion, commitment and caring on behalf of our teachers and support staff. We asked that you provide learning opportunities in a new way to support our students during a time of uncertainty, and you have stepped up to this challenge in a manner that has exceeded all levels of expectations. You have reached out to our students, our parents/ guardians and our community members and have shown them first and foremost that you care. You have shown them that not only is the continuity of academic learning important, but most of all that the health, safety and social and emotional well-being of our students is of primary importance.

We continue to recognize the importance of supporting our Indigenous learners and appreciate the expertise, support and guidance provided by representatives from our Aboriginal Education Council (AEC), District Aboriginal Education Coordinator (DAEC), First Nation Support Workers (FNSWs), the First Nation Education Steering Committee (FNEESC) and the First Nation Schools Association (FNSA).

It is important to recognize that during this time we will be relying heavily on the support and expertise of our Information and Technology department. We are now navigating through the world of online learning, as we have never done before. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the staff members in this department for working diligently to support our ongoing needs in such a timely manner.

We wish to extend a huge thank you to our maintenance and custodial staff for your dedication in ensuring that our schools and classrooms are clean and well maintained during this critical time. We want you to know that your hard work, including the long hours spent before and after school, on weekends and over spring break have not gone unnoticed. You are attending to our first priority: *Ensuring a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.*

We certainly appreciate the effective working relationships that have been established with each of our educational partner groups: [Aboriginal Education Council (AEC), Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers (CMAW), District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), Fraser-Cascade Principal and Vice Principals' Association (FCPVPA) and Fraser-Cascade Teachers' Association (FCTA)]. Thank you for working together so effectively in supporting all students during this critical time.

The dedicated support of our school-based clerical and district education office staff are greatly appreciated and essential in ensuring the continued smooth operation of school district business.

We understand that this has been a time of uncertainty for our parents and guardians. We wish to thank you for your patience, understanding and for working so effectively with staff members in each of our schools. Our teachers and support staff will continue to be in contact with you to provide further information regarding continuity of learning opportunities for your child or children. Please visit the following website for updated information for parents and guardians: <http://sd78.bc.ca/parents-students/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-parents/>

In closing, we wish to remind everyone that the challenges of moving a learning system out of the classroom cannot be understated. We are confident that as we continue working with our students, we will all find strength from a collective sense of purpose and direction, which has been demonstrated throughout the last week. Once again, we would like to thank everyone for going above and beyond during these challenging and unprecedented times.

Most sincerely,



Board Chair



Superintendent