North Vancouver School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

February 12, 2008

1. Sustaining Schools Working Committee Report – January 29, 2008

The challenges of declining enrolment, reduced funding, increasing costs, and diverse educational programming have created an opportunity for innovative and creative initiatives to sustain our schools and programs. At its Public Meeting on February 27, 2007, the Board of Education established the Sustaining Schools Working Committee to assist the Board in addressing the challenges and opportunities of providing exceptional educational programs and services to students in a restrained fiscal environment.

At the recent Education and Programs Standing Committee meeting on February 5, 2008, a report of the Sustaining Schools Working Committee was presented. The report contains an update on enrolment, programs of choice, cooperative-use of facilities, and initiatives to sustain schools throughout North Vancouver School District. A copy of the Report is provided.

2. An Update on Legislation

During the past year, the Provincial Government and the Ministry of Education have introduced several legislative changes and initiatives:

- Bill 20 – *Boards of Education*
- Bill 22 – *Codes of Conduct*
- Increased emphasis on Student Achievement
- Bill 20 – *Superintendents of Achievement*
- Bill 21 – *Teacher Discipline Registry*
- Bill 16 – *Criminal Records Review Act*
- Funding of Summer School courses that lead to graduation
- Expansion of the *StrongStart BC* program
- Changes to the *Tobacco Control Act*
- Daily Physical Activity (DPA) requirements for students
- Accelerated implementation of the *BC Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools (2007)*
- The *Education Guarantee*, tuition-free adult basic education
- The *Anaphylaxis Child Health and Safety Framework*
- Expansion of the *School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program*
- A new *Disposal of Land or Improvements Order*
- Amendments to the *School Board Fees Order* and definitions of 'educational resource materials' and 'goods and services'
- Amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Regulation* requiring mandatory use of booster seats
- The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* requiring boards of education to be carbon-neutral by 2010
- Amendments to the mandatory retirement legislation in the *Human Rights Code*.

On January 22, 2008, at a Joint Advocacy meeting of the Board of Education's partner groups, a profile of the legislative changes was presented. The members of the working group were provided

with an overview of current practices in the School District and the process for implementing the new legislative acts and initiatives, amendments, and revised schedules.

3. Environmental Education – A Pacific Partnership

We have on display this evening a very attractive and colourful flag that was presented to Victor Elderton, Outdoor School Administrator, by Dr. Abe Yoshitaka, the Executive Director of the Aquamarine Fukushima, an environmental learning centre in Japan.

Victor Elderton has established very strong and respectful alliances with his counterparts in Japan. He has participated in workshops and presented lectures on experiential environmental education and salmon enhancement projects at North Vancouver School District's Outdoor School. On Victor's most recent visit to Japan, Dr. Yoshitaka presented him with this flag to display at the Outdoor School. The flag celebrates environmental stewardship and prosperity of the world's fishery.

The script on the flag is written in the traditional kanji pictograms, and katakana, a syllable-based writing system. Vlad Krivenko, a Japanese speaker and one of the School District's Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS), very kindly came to our assistance and provided a translation of the two scripts on the flag. The kanji characters translate as "many fish and good luck" and the present year of the Emperor of Japan, a traditional format for writing dates in Japan. This is followed in the centre of the flag with "International Festival of Environment and Art." The katagana script across the bottom of the flag reads "North Vancouver Outdoor School."

The flag will be displayed in a special location at Outdoor School. It is a colourful representation of an educational partnership that extends across the Pacific Ocean.