North Vancouver School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

September 25, 2007

1. *Elementary French Immersion Service Delivery Model*

Following the consolidation of the Secondary French Immersion program in September 2004, the North Vancouver School District published a *Secondary French Immersion Service Delivery Model*. This service delivery model made specific recommendations aimed at strengthening and enhancing the French Immersion program at the secondary level.

In response to French Immersion programming issues at the elementary level and to a growing need for consistency in the delivery of the French Immersion program at elementary schools throughout the School District, teachers, parents, and administrators requested that an *Elementary French Immersion Service Deliver Model* be developed**.**

On September 13, 2007, Joanne Robertson, District Principal, Student and Program Services, hosted the launch of the new *Elementary French Immersion Service Delivery Model*. It was developed in consultation with a number of committees and individuals who provided valuable feedback and expertise for key areas of the document. The following administrators, teachers, and parents were acknowledged for their contributions: Sue Altman, Jeff Ballou, Judy Blake, Aline Burlone, Lisa Cartwright, Marcia Garries, Thomas Godin, Catherine Hamilton, Ellen Lauder, Phil Marshall, Heather McTaggart, Ian McWilliams, Dave Mongomery, George Monkman, Julie Parker, Cathy Piteux, Kelly Pope, Sue Saliba, Barb Scobie, Katherine Ross, and Tracey Todd.

2. International Walk to School Week

October 1 to 5, 2007 is *International Walk to School Week*. Parents often drive their children to school out of concern for safety. Adults and children walking and biking together create an ideal opportunity for students to be active and learn about safety through awareness and experience. Fewer cars near our schools will prevent traffic congestion, safety concerns, and improve the air quality.

Translink estimates that 20 to 25 percent of rush hour traffic in BC is caused by driving students to and from school. In support of *International Walk to School Week*, Translink is contributing to the effort by allowing students to ride free of charge during the week of October 1 to 5 on Coast Mountain and West Vancouver buses, Community Shuttles, SkyTrain, SeaBus, and West Coast Express. High school students will need to present their GoCard as proof that they are in school. Fare-paying adults should accompany younger children.

On behalf of our community, I would like to thank Translink, the *Way to Go! School Program*, and the BC Autoplan Brokers for their support.

3. *Vancouver School* Documentary Premiere

A documentary film of the transformation of the Lonsdale School Gymnasium into *Vancouver School*, the *Artists for Kids Trust* major exhibit in 2006, will have its film premiere on the Bravo national television network at 4:30 p.m. (PST) on Sunday, September 30, 2007. The *Vancouver School* documentary film, directed by Mike Bernard, will feature the work of artists Douglas Coupland, Graham Gillmore, Attila Richard Lukacs, Angela Grossman, and Derek Root. Special thanks go to the Vancouver Foundation, Audain Foundation, and RBC Foundation for their financial support.

4. Professional Development

Our School District is a conference partner in the Summer Leadership Conference in Penticton during August of each year. At this summer's Conference, Judi Israel and Barb Mathieson presented the School District's *Our Turn to Talk* program and Audrey Van Alstyne and Murray Bulger presented *Express Yourself Digitally!* I had the opportunity to sit in on our District's presentations and it filled me with a great sense of pride in the quality of professional development that was presented by Audrey, Barb, Judi, and Murray. It was rewarding to hear the enthusiastic comments from their audiences.

We have received a very encouraging response to North Vancouver School District's 1st Fall Professional Development Conference scheduled for October 1 to 5, 2007 at the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre. We have workshop registrations from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and numerous BC school districts.

5. Ministry Initiatives

Attached to this Superintendent's Report is a document that summarizes some of the recent Ministry announcements and initiatives. There have been significant changes in Legislation that will impact the operations of schools. The Policy Review Committee will be faced with considerable demands to review our current policies to ensure that they align with revised Ministry requirements. In most instances, our School District has been well ahead of the initiatives that have been recently advanced by the Ministry of Education. As a result, many of our policies may require minor amendments.

6. Vision Statements and Supporting Action Items

Advancing the work done in the spring on the School District's Visioning process, a number of input sessions have been held, or are planned to take place in advance of the Community Forum to be held on November 1, 2007 at Carson Graham School. These sessions will provide an opportunity for input from the Management and Leadership groups, the Teachers Association, the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, and the Student Leadership Council. This input will be incorporated into the materials to be used within the Community Forum at which time all members of the School District and the Community will be engaged.

7. Preliminary Enrolments

While our enrolments are still preliminary at this time, we anticipate a total enrolment of approximately 100 greater than our forecasted total of 15,750 funded FTE (full time equivalent) students. Final enrolments are based on the September 30, 2007 count within schools. All class size provisions of the School Act have been met and will be reported at the Special Board Meeting scheduled for October 11th.

MINISTRY INITIATIVE	NORTH VANCOUVER CONTEXT	IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
Bill 20 - Boards of Education – legislative changes were introduced and school boards are now called "Boards of Education," renamed to reflect a broader mandate that includes early learning and literacy.	The School District has been actively involved in the provision of Early Learning Initiatives and continues to provide a leadership role within the community.	The School District will actively engage partner organizations and service providers in the development of a Community Literacy Plan. No additional resources have been provided to support the expanded mandate of Boards of Education.
Bill 22 - Codes of Conduct – legislative changes require all boards of education to establish codes of conduct for students in their districts, to help prevent bullying and harassment. The codes of conduct must meet the provincial standards set out in the *Safe Schools Strategy* introduced in March 2004.	First published in 2002, our *Safe and Caring Schools Guide for Schools* has served as a highly effective quality educational resource for schools to review and revise their Codes of Conduct in consultation with their respective school communities on an annual basis. The School District has consistently demonstrated its commitment to creating safe and caring learning environments through the provision of materials and resources to schools.	Our schools will further refine their existing Codes of Conduct to align with the provincial safe school standards set out in the Safe Schools strategy. Refinements will be made in consultation with school community. *Policy 301 - Student Safety* and *Policy 302 - Student Conduct* will be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary to ensure that School District Policy meets, or exceeds the required provincial standards.
Student Achievement - The Ministry of Education has expressed increasing concern that the six-year completion rate of students and the Provincial Graduation rate has 'plateaued', or 'stalled' at 79%.	Graduation and Completion Rates - The Six-Year Dogwood Completion Rate for 2005/06 for all students in North Vancouver has made steady progress during the past five years (79%, 79%, 79%, 81%, 83%) and is now at its highest level in the past decade at 83%.	North Vancouver has continued in its efforts to support student success towards completion and graduation. Student success rates are carefully monitored in relation to the School Plan and District Plan. District initiatives have also been introduced to increase opportunities for student success (i.e. Distributed Learning).
Bill 20 - Superintendents of Achievement – four new positions created to help boards reach their performance goals, and support districts to improve student achievement, early learning and literacy programs and develop leadership at the district level.	The School District has recently completed its second District Review and has well-developed structures and supports for the development of District and School Plans. A transitional Accountability Contract will be submitted to the Ministry of Education by October 31, 2007.	The School Services Leadership Committee and the School Planning Council Steering Committees will review the changes to the Accountability Framework and will provide leadership in making the necessary adjustments. This process will also engage each SPC in place at each school. The Board will review appeals bylaws and procedures for compliance with section 11 of the School Act.
Bill 21 - Teacher Discipline Registry – legislation to protect B.C. students and provide the public with information about educators who have been disciplined by the B.C. College of Teachers.	The School District fully meets the reporting requirements to the BC College of Teachers. Our Human Resources Department is now able to check prospective teachers through the registry.	Any discipline reports are addressed directly by the Human Resources Department in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools.

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Bill 16 - Criminal Records Review Act - Registered members must provide a criminal record check authorization to his or her governing body at least once every five years.	The School District has established processes for Criminal Records Checks for employees, student teachers and for volunteers to help ensure student safety.	There will be an increased frequency for the completion of Criminal Records Checks and resources will need to be applied to this requirement.
July 3, 2007 - SUMMER SCHOOL The Ministry of Education announces that courses leading to graduation that are offered through Summer School must be provided free to students.	Our School District is pleased that the Ministry of Education will now provide full funding for the continued operation of our very popular summer school program that has been in operation for more than forty years. We are optimistic that we will be able to expand our offerings to students to continue to increase our students' access to educational opportunities and to further enhance our graduation and completion rates.	The Ministry will engage in consultations beginning in the fall of 2007 with education partners to determine how summer school will be funded in the future. The ability of the School District to continue to provide Summer School programs will be dependent upon funding from the Ministry.
StrongStart BC expansion – up to 80 StrongStart BC early learning centres will be open by the end of 2007, helping to ensure pre-school children are ready to learn when they reach kindergarten. A province wide expansion of StrongStart BC early learning centres highlights several changes in education for the upcoming school year.	The School District has been actively providing Early Learning Programs since the establishment of *Inspirations 44 - A Kindergarten Extension Program* in 2004 and the launch of *Early Learning Foundations (ELF)* in 2005 to help preschool-age children ready to enter school ready to learn and to succeed in Kindergarten and beyond. The *ELF* program has now been extended to twelve centers across the School District.	The first *StrongStart* program has been established this September at Westview Elementary. This program will be monitored and evaluated for its effectiveness in meeting the needs of our community. Consideration for expansion of the *StrongStart* program in North Vancouver will be based upon experience and the long-term commitment of resources from the Ministry of Education.
Sept. 2, 2007 - Anti-tobacco Legislation came into effect for a province wide tobacco ban on public school property to create healthier, safer school environment for students. On March 10, 2007 the provincial legislature passed Bill 10. This legislation prohibits smoking and any other tobacco use on any school property.	In 2001 our Board adopted *Policy 804 - Smoking on Board Premises* to ensure that our schools and grounds would be smoke free environments. Policy 804 provides that each employee, student and visitor to any School District Property or facility should have the opportunity for full participation for employment, instruction and other activities in an environment free from tobacco smoke.	We are very pleased that the Ministry of Health has now introduced new legislation that will extend our practices throughout this province. Signage has been ordered from the Ministry for each of our facilities and will be posted once we have received our order. Our Policy Review Committee will also examine what other measures we may take to further strengthen our commitment to smoke free environments in all of our facilities.

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Sept. 4, 2007 - B.C. SETS NATIONAL STANDARD IN PROMOTING STUDENT HEALTH – The Province will require 30 minutes of daily physical activity for students. By requiring that B.C.'s students have daily physical activity, we are helping to create a culture of health in our schools and for our children. Our schools are a vital link in demonstrating to families that healthy choices in physical activity can really improve their children's quality of life.	Our elementary schools have embraced the Action Schools BC program as one component of their healthy schools initiatives and are providing daily physical activity in their classrooms and schools. We presently have 95% participation among our elementary schools and one participating Secondary School (Argyle). Our Secondary Schools provide an extensive offering of extra-curricular athletics programs to our students and experience a high level of students participation.	We anticipate achieving 100% participation of our elementary schools in Action Schools BC and an increase in participation by secondary schools. In addition to physical education and classroom based activity, our schools provide an extensive array of extra-curricular programs that encourage high levels of participation by all age groups.
Sept. 4, 2007 - B.C. SETS NATIONAL STANDARD IN PROMOTING STUDENT HEALTH – The Province is fast-tracking the removal of junk food in schools. By removing junk food sales in schools we are helping to create a culture of health in our schools and for our children. With full implementation of these programs across all schools by September 2008, these ActNowBC strategies help support the Province's Pacific Leadership Agenda of improving health for British Columbians and renewing the public health-care system.	Policy 305 - Health Promotion in Schools was adopted in June, 2006. The North Vancouver School Board recognizes schools play a role, as part of a larger community, to promote health for its students. The Board recognizes an important connection between health and the many benefits to students, including a student's ability to learn, grow, and maintain good health. The North Vancouver School District has been recognized for its leadership in establishing policies for healthy foods in schools, receiving the BC Provincial Health Officer's Award for Excellence in Public Health.	The School District has been actively implementing procedures to ensure full compliance with the Ministry standards for the removal of junk food in schools set out in the *2005 Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools*. The School District will continue to work in close cooperation with Coastal Health, service providers and PACs to ensure that healthy food choices are readily available for our students and in accordance with the *2007 Revised Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools.*
Sept. 7, 2007 ADULT BASIC EDUCATION TO BE TUITION-FREE IN B.C. VANCOUVER – The Province is investing $17.5 million under the second phase of ReadNow BC to make adult basic education tuition-free for all students, offering free tuition for adult basic education, whether students have graduated from high school or not.	Effective immediately, all students can take courses free of charge through the Province's virtual school, LearnNowBC, at www.LearnNowBC.ca. Starting January 2008, all students will also have access to tuition-free adult basic education courses at 18 public post-secondary institutions around B.C. The third stage, starting September 2008, will allow all students to take free adult basic education courses through school districts.	Continued operation of Adult programs will be dependent upon funding allocations from the Ministry. As there will be no fee for adults who have graduated (effective September 2008), there may be increased competition for resources. Changes in funding may effect enrolment in Adult programs currently provided through Continuing Education as other institutions will provide these programs at no charge.

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Sept. 10 - MORE PROTECTION FOR STUDENTS WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES School districts are required to develop and implement anaphylaxis policies that meet new, rigorous provincial standards. Boards of education will now be required to have school-based anaphylaxis policies and practices that meet rigorous provincial standards. The Anaphylaxis Child Health and Safety Framework will direct districts as they develop school-based policies for managing anaphylaxis in schools.	Board Policy 304 - Anaphylaxis has been in place since November, 2005. The School District is committed to the principle of providing as safe a learning and teaching environment as possible for its students, staff and volunteers. While the School District cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, it is expected that school staff, parents and children will take important steps to minimize the risk of potentially fatal anaphylactic reactions, without depriving the anaphylactic child of normal peer interactions or placing unreasonable restrictions on the activities of other children in the school.	The Policy Review Committee will analyze the new Ministry standards, once they are available, to determine what, if any, changes may be necessary to the School District Policy to ensure that it fully satisfies, or exceeds the provincial standards. Policy 304 will be reviewed at a Principals meeting.
Sept. 12 FRUIT AND VEGGIE PROGRAM EXPANDS TO 164 SCHOOLS The School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program is expanding to include 164 schools. ActNow BC has committed to providing the fruit and vegetable program to an additional 113 schools, for a total of **164** schools, this fall. The goal for the program is to offer every public school in B.C. the opportunity to participate in the program by 2010. The School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program is part of the Province's ActNow BC initiative to make B.C. the healthiest jurisdiction ever to host an Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.	Ridgeway School is the only school in North Vancouver presently registered with the School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program. The School District has committed Community Link funding to support school meal programs at Norgate, Queen Mary, Ridgeway, Westview and Keith Lynn for over five years. A number of schools have initiated some local programs to help address nutritional needs for their students.	Information will be provided to schools as a means to ensure that schools that may benefit from this program are aware of this opportunity. This information will be provided in the context of healthy food choices at school.