



Vancouver School Board

School District No. 39

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September 8, 2017

Dear parents, guardians and staff:

The start of the school year is an exciting time as we think about what the year ahead has in store. This year we'll see recent changes settle in and new changes take place. I'm writing to discuss some of the changes that will be happening and assure you that through it all our focus will not waiver from delivering a quality education to our students.

I was appointed last year to oversee this district until the time was right to bring back an elected board of trustees. I have worked hard to bring stability and restore public confidence in the Vancouver School Board, to develop long- term financial planning for VSB and to create a healthy work environment for all district staff. This summer, the new Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, announced there will be a by-election on October 14 to elect trustees to the Vancouver Board of Education. I have agreed to stay on, at the minister's request, as a special advisor to help the new board settle into their roles after the election and continue the good work we have started. The new trustees will have to address some significant matters, including the new agreement on class size and composition, continuing budget pressures and how best to respond to changing population trends.

The by-election will be held on Saturday, October 14, and all registered voters in Vancouver (including the University Endowment Lands) can vote for school trustees. There will also be advance polling on October 4 or October 10. Please note there will be no voter information card sent to each registered voter for this by-election. If you are registered on the most current provincial list of voters, you are automatically on the voters' list. Full details of the by-election—including how to register, a lookup tool to see if you are on the voters' list, and the location of voting places—can be found at vancouver.ca/by-election. Candidate profiles will also be posted there after September 17.

Your vote is important because trustees provide the governance required to ensure schools offer students a quality education. They set education priorities and policies that reflect the aspirations of the community and that are consistent with overall provincial guidelines. I hope you will use your vote on October 14.

VSB is experiencing a fresh start, with many enthusiastic new staff joining our talented team both at the district level and in our schools. We're preparing for a positive future with student success at the heart of everything we do and we look forward to sharing that future with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Turner".

Dianne Turner
Official Trustee, Vancouver School Board