

June 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the Board of Education and the staff of Rocky Mountain School District, I would like to thank you for your partnership and your support as we close this school year. We are all very grateful to you for staying with us as we managed the uncertainty and learned how to deliver educational services in a completely different way over these past months. And your support for the students was an essential part of keeping them engaged and connected. We have moved forward because we have done this together.

The expansion of in-class learning we experienced in the month of June was a huge milestone for our District. I visited every school, and it was an incredibly positive experience. Students and Teachers were so happy to be together again, and the scenes were uplifting. One staff member said – “just listen!” – she was speaking about the sound of the children echoing outside as they were playing. It’s amazing that we were remarking on that joyful sound, something that under normal circumstances we might have heard as background noise or just tuned out. It underscores what a privilege it is for us to have your children in our lives. June helped us renew ourselves as a system; it allowed us a dress rehearsal for September and built back our confidence that we can do this, and we can do it safely.

A word about this year’s graduates. No one would blame them for feeling cheated. But in the virtual, alternative ceremonies that took place this week, that is not what comes through. This group of young people has responded to these circumstances in the most positive way, and they are a source of pride for all of us. Thanks to Grad parents for your support, and thanks to our secondary schools and the planning committees for the innovative ways they found to celebrate the accomplishments of these students. Best wishes to the Class of 2020!

It’s not typical as we commence our summer break, but this year, September is on everyone’s minds. A few things to be aware of:

- The Ministry of Education continues to work closely with the Provincial Health Officer
- SD6 will follow the directives of the Ministry, advised by the PHO
- We will be prepared for several scenarios based on the evolving situation over the summer
- The goal remains a full return, as soon as possible, as long as it is safe to do so
- We will have clarity on what September will look like, on or around August 20

Please take the time to read this letter from Minister of Education Rob Fleming, and BCCPAC President Andrea Sinclair. You will find this to be helpful information and it may answer many of your questions. In particular please familiarize yourself with the 5 stages which are linked at the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> page. In June, we have been operating in Stage 3. In September it is possible that we could be in Stage 3, 2, or 1. Please have a look:

<http://www.sd6.bc.ca/Parents/COVID-19%20Communication/Documents/June%2025%2c%202020%20Letter%20to%20Parents%2c%20Guardians%20from%20Minister%20of%20Education%20and%20BCCPAC.pdf>

As you may be aware, I am retiring in a few short weeks. I came to the District in 1998 as a Principal, and I have had the pleasure of working with the Board of Education and District staff on behalf of students and families in a number of roles, including the last 10 years as Superintendent. It has truly been an honour, and I express my deep appreciation to you for your support and involvement over the years. Your new Superintendent, Karen Shipka, begins her new role on August 1.

Have a happy and healthy summer.

Yours truly,

Paul Carriere, Superintendent of Schools