

Dear Valhalla School families and community,

June/2014

On behalf of the Charter Board, it is my pleasure to extend a final greeting and fill you in on a few information items, as we wrap up the 2013-2014 school year.

As you may be aware, this spring our board and administration has been undergoing some changes. In April, John Moutray agreed to take on the position of Transportation Director and therefore, in order to comply with the bylaws, resigned as a Charter Board director. We would like to thank John for his time on the board and convey our appreciation for his willingness to now serve the school as Transportation Director. Though his input on the board will be missed, his service as TD is invaluable. We are also very grateful to Monica Modrall, who expressed her willingness to become a Charter Board director and, at the May 29 regular meeting, the board moved to elect her to fill this vacancy until the next AGM, at which time this position can be re-elected as specified in the Bylaws.

May brought us to the end of our time with Secretary- Treasurer, Linda Appleby, as she and her husband moved to BC to be closer to their grandchildren. Linda made an amazing contribution to our school and will be missed. We now welcome Karen Rosvold into this position. We look forward to working with her and wish her all the best in this new role.

As of September 1, 2014, we will be experiencing a change in our superintendent agreement. Due to changes in his contract with his primary employer (FFCA in Calgary), John Picard will need to reduce his time commitment to his position with Valhalla. With this in mind, the board has moved to accept a reduced contract for the next year, with the understanding that the effectiveness of this arrangement will be evaluated after 6 months. His work will continue this summer, nonetheless, with particular focus on our 15 year charter renewal application.

You will remember that in March we made a commitment to have a full review of our transportation standards and procedures; in May, both an AB Ed representative and our requested independent transportation safety auditor had occasion to review our system. We are very pleased that, in both cases, the experiences were positive, we passed the audit measures, and we were given very good information for the future. This experience has proved very helpful for ensuring that our system is operating with best practices. Thank you to all of our people who are involved with this important work.

Recently, we had a buildings representative from AB Ed touring our building for the first time. Only a few steps down the hallway, he stopped to exclaim that we have a great school, he could feel it. He visits schools all over the province and said he can always tell right away. He also specifically mentioned we must have found an excellent custodian, to which we heartily agreed. Thanks to Don Morton! Thank you to all our parents, staff, students, and community supporters for choosing our school, for offering support, and for tirelessly giving of yourselves. Our visitors recognize our great little school because of each one of you. As all of you work to carry out our charter vision, each individual effort functions together to create the wonderful whole.

Finally, congratulations to our outgoing Grade 9's, we wish you all the very best in high school and have a great summer everyone!

Jolene Kochendorfer  
Charter Board Chair, Valhalla School Foundation