

## **Back to school message from Board Chair September 2015**

Another school year is here! On behalf of the Board of Education, welcome to all new students, staff and families to the 2015-2016 school year. To returning students and staff, welcome to a new school year; it's great to have you back.

This is a very different and exciting school year as we open the doors to two new high schools. Joining the ranks of our Edward Milne Community School in Sooke, these two schools will be home to West Shore students for decades to come. With large upgrades taking place at Dunsmuir Middle School and the construction of new Facilities and Transportation buildings, great developments are happening in SD62.

A special thank you to all district staff for pulling together to make the start of this school year one of the best yet. To parents and our school communities, thank you in advance for your patience as we undergo many changes this year. We know that a lot of schools and students need to adjust to these changes and we want to ensure you that your child's education is our number one priority.

As trustees, our role is to guide the district by understanding the needs of our community; to establish district policies; to inform our community through public consultations like Education Committee of the Whole (ECOW) and Board meetings; and to make sure that each one of our students has the opportunity to succeed.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we look forward to collaborating with you this year as we enter into another era filled with positive changes in SD62.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hobbs,

Chair, Board of Education

Wendy Halls

Sooke School District

Trustees: Ravi Parmar, Bob Phillips, Neil Poirier, Denise Riley, Dianna Seaton, Margot Swinburnson