



Thursday, September 10, 2009

To Parents & Guardians:

Yesterday Board of Education Chair Joan Bech, Secretary Treasurer Wayne Braun and I held meetings with administrators, partner groups and the media with regard to a serious deficit that must be addressed by Langley School District.

In June the district announced preliminary findings of the accounting firm Deloitte, which had been hired to conduct an independent review of accounting practices. Deloitte has confirmed in its final report, released yesterday, that accounting errors resulted in a \$4.8 million deficit in the district's 2008-09 centralized operating budgets. As well, the 2008-09 financial audit, which looks at actual spending throughout the system and will be received by the Board Sept. 22, will identify an additional \$3.5 million in overspending. Our total deficit from the 2008-09 operating year is \$8.3 million.

It is important to note that, although overspending did occur, all of the money was used to provide programs and services to Langley students. It was used to hire staff, buy equipment and to pay for other operations.

It is also important to note that the deficit did not result from decisions of the Board. The Board adopted what it believed was a balanced budget based on projections and information provided by the Finance Department. That information was seriously flawed.

The \$8.3 million deficit is a very large number, which the district will have to pay back in the coming years. The Board of Education will keep programs and services to students as its top priorities and do its best to reduce in other areas.

Langley School District will be approaching the Ministry of Education immediately to work out a repayment plan that mitigates the impacts of this deficit on students. We will work with our partners over the coming months to address this issue. An FAQ will be posted at www.sd35.bc.ca under the QuickLinks heading, along with the Deloitte report and other information.

I wish we did not have to deliver this news to you. I assure you we will do our best to keep you informed and to mitigate the impacts of this deficit on our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Beaumont".

Cheryl Beaumont, Superintendent of Schools