

## **Trustee Ferris – Aboriginal Ad Hoc Committee Report**

The Aboriginal Ad Hoc Committee met on four occasions in the 2019-20 school-year before COVID-19 brought our meetings to an end for the remainder of the academic year:

- October 9, 2019
- December 4, 2019
- January 29, 2020
- March 11, 2020

As this was the committee's inaugural year, early meetings focused on discussion of our Terms of Reference and a review of the demographic and achievement data pertaining to Indigenous students in School District 61.

Our meetings in 2020 were dedicated to an in-depth analysis of the goals of the Board of Education's draft Strategic Plan, with particular concentration on the goal for Indigenous Education. The committee was among other partner groups that proposed substantial revisions to the original draft, and the group expressed general approval for many of the revisions that had been put forward by members of the broader Indigenous community.

On behalf of the District I thank the Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, and Metis Nation for providing representatives to work on this committee, along with a representative from the parent community, student body and the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association.

Additionally, I thank the Songhees Nation for hosting recent meetings, and Patrick Harriott of the Metis Nation for being Chair of the committee.

Looking ahead to 2020-21, we hope to be able to continue to draw upon the insight and expertise of committee members when we seek to bring the goals of the strategic plan to life.