

## Info for Le Phare families from Superintendent Farrish

Hello Friends of Le Phare School Council,

*You're receiving this email as you had previously signed up for our Friends of Council email list. To unsubscribe, just reply to let us know.*

Part of the role as Council Co-Chair is to act as a liaison to Le Phare's OCDSB Superintendent on occasion, when there is info to share with parents/guardians.

Yesterday (Tuesday) our Superintendent, Mary Jane Farrish, called us to let us know that Principal Juliet Robinson will be leaving Le Phare for a new position at the OCDSB in the Equity portfolio. Her last week at Le Phare will be this week. The staff at Le Phare just learned about the change Tuesday afternoon, so it will be new to them too.

Mary Jane was clear that continuity at Le Phare is important to her, and to have an interim plan in place in the meantime. She told us about her plan to fill the Principal position:

- First, Brenda Spearman will return from retirement to cover the job until the Winter break. Brenda has spent time at Le Phare in recent years when our previous Principal was away.
- Then, a new Principal will be appointed from the OCDSB's most recent promotion process.
- Our understanding is that Deirdre Sims will continue as VP, which is wonderful.

We're so pleased for Juliet and also glad for the important work she'll do in the Equity portfolio.

Unfortunately, though, this is another of several Admin changes for Le Phare in recent years. We're disappointed that the transition will be so rapid, and we shared this concern with the Superintendent.

Mary Jane heard our concerns and agreed that she wouldn't want this change to appear as if she prioritized the Board position over the school and its families. She said schools are her core responsibility. She was very open to any opportunities to

spread out the transition to make sure Le Phare is well supported. For example, we suggested that both Brenda and Juliet:

- consider a virtual "open house" with parents from Le Phare to answer questions;
- attend our Council meeting on Sept 19th; and
- ensure the staff feel supported by Council, so parents can work even more closely with the school during and after this leadership change.

Jaya and I would be happy to receive your comments, questions, ideas or concerns and round them up to share with Juliet, Brenda, Mary Jane and/or our Trustee Cathrynne Milburn - anonymously of course.

If we hear any other updates, we'll share them with you.

Marianna

Co-Chair (interim)