

December 18, 2014

Recognitions: Former Trustees

This is our new board's first regular public meeting since last month's election. As with many other elected bodies across the province, we have seen some changes.

Tonight, we would like to recognize the contribution of our former colleagues, and thank them for their involvement and influence during their terms as trustees of the Surrey Board of Education.

Pam Glass

First, Pam Glass—who couldn't be here tonight—completed her fifth term as a trustee last month before choosing to retire after 15 years of service to the Surrey School District.

Pam has served the public for much of her career and, as a trustee, she contributed in many, varied ways. She was a great supporter of school athletics—particularly cricket. Her partiality to sports shouldn't be surprising since she is a former track and field Olympian and was also a member of Canada's national field hockey team.

We will miss Pam as a great ambassador for our board. She had a way of making people she met feel at ease and important to her. Indeed, she would amaze people when meeting them for only the second time, asking how family members were doing...and remembering each name and the pursuits they were involved in.

The Surrey Board of Education recognizes former Trustee Pam Glass for your 15 years of service in support of public education in the Surrey School District.

Reni Masi



Also choosing to retire was Reni Masi (*pictured above, left*), after three terms—or nine years—serving our district. During his time, Reni was vice-chairperson before leading our board for a year as the chairperson. He also served on numerous district and community committees.

He brought to the board a unique and valued perspective, as he once had been a teacher and secondary school principal in the Surrey School District. This experience often served to help our board better understand the potential implications of decisions.

Reni also brought to the table his passions, and he was successful in championing them.

He worked hard to make the district's popular International Baccalaureate program more accessible, specifically in the north area of our district. With his support, a Grade 8 IB program was established at Johnston Heights Secondary school last year.

Reni also championed physical education programs. And, he was known for a related area...his advocacy for the best in gymnasium playing surfaces for our students: it had to be high-quality wood. I think it's fair to say that when it came to board discussions about new or rebuilt school gyms, Reni always had the floor.

The Surrey Board of Education recognizes former Trustee Reni Masi for your nine years of service in support of public education in the Surrey School District.

Charlene Dobie

And finally, we recognize tonight the work of former trustee Charlene Dobie.

Charlene has been supporting children and child learning over much of her career and continues to do so, working as an education assistant.

While she served one, three-year term as trustee, Charlene was a very active and tireless advocate for students...and many other stakeholders.

Charlene volunteered much of her time to participate with and assist student events in the district; from our early learners to our secondary student leadership forums.

Charlene was always passionate and vocal in her views.

She has long been active in community social causes and I'm sure she'll continue her work in support of students and learning in a variety of ways beyond her professional role.

The Surrey Board of Education recognizes former Trustee Charlene Dobie for your service in support of public education in the Surrey School District.