



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

# The Board Update

News from the May 15, 2012  
School Board Meeting

**Our Mission:**  
*To ensure quality  
learning opportunities for  
all students of all ages.*

**Melissa Hyndes**  
*Board Chair*

**Judy Shirra**  
*Board Vice-Chair*

Gail Alty  
Holly Butterfield  
John J. Keryluk  
Brian Robinson  
Diane Sowden  
Gerri Wallis  
Keith Watkins

**Tom Grant**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Rick Humphreys**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

## DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Amy Lynn Taylor, Program Manager of Best Buddies Canada spoke to a PowerPoint presentation of this program, which matches students with challenges with a peer “buddy”. Currently, four schools in SD43 participate in the program, with far-reaching effects for all students involved

## DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant reported on a number of initiatives and accomplishments:

- Congratulations to Board Chair Melissa Hyndes, who was once again re-elected to the BC School Trustees’ Association Board of Directors
- May 15 marked the annual Learning Team Celebration, in which 50 teams showcased their projects
- \$24,000 will be distributed to secondary schools in SD43 from the provincial annual Dry Grad Campaign
- Board office staff are participating in the PEN project by four Port Moody Secondary students, hoping to raise one million pennies to build a school in Sierra Leone
- Board office staff also raised \$623 for the annual Jeans Day initiative, in support of BC Children’s Hospital
- On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Pinetree Way Elementary held its annual Empty Bowls event. The entire school population had a simple lunch of bread and soup – eaten out of bowls hand-made by the students themselves. Hundreds of pounds of food for SHARE was collected as part of this event
- Kudos to Ms. Jasinski’s Grade 1/2 class and Mr. Wilks’ Grade 4/5 class at Seaview Elementary for being recognized by the Sierra Club for their sustainability projects
- A partnership between Como Lake Middle and Charles Best Secondary has partnered 16 Grade 6 and 7 students with senior students in the Joinery Ace-It program to build bookshelves for the middle school and its feeder elementary schools

Secretary-Treasurer Rick Humphreys noted the recent announcement of a major seismic upgrade at Banting Middle, and provided a brief report of those schools awaiting similar announcements, including Minnekhada and Montgomery Middle. So far, 15 seismic upgrades have been completed in our district.

District Principals Sarah Husband and Stephen Whiffin reported on the changes announced by the Ministry on the fee structure for graduated adults. Fees will now apply to some courses taken by graduated adults, who are 19 and over as of July 1. The Board moved to draft a letter to the Ministry and copied to surrounding districts, advocating the re-instatement of several courses which now have charges attached.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board passed the 2012-2013 Annual Budget bylaw, which ensures that the annual budget is presented in the format required by the Ministry of Education.

Secretary-Treasurer Rick Humphreys reported that Minister of Education George Abbott will lead a sod-turning event for the new middle school on Heritage Mountain at 1:00 pm Friday, June 1.

## NEW BUSINESS

The McCreary Centre Society has once again asked for approval to administer its Adolescent Health Survey. While Trustees appreciate the value of the survey to better define services needed for students, they have asked that a representative provide a presentation to the Board to learn more about the current survey. SD43 has participated in the 1998 and 2008 surveys, and has required parents to return a signed consent form prior to their children participating.

Superintendent Tom Grant provided more information on Bill 36 – the School Amendment Act 2012, which according to the Ministry, “Support’s BC’s Education Plan by removing barriers to personalized learning and allowing greater flexibility and choice.” For more information visit [www.bcedplan.ca](http://www.bcedplan.ca).

Trustees expressed concern over the City of Coquitlam’s plan to establish a dog park bordering Glen Elementary School. They will be seeking a meeting with the City as soon as possible to discuss the issue further.

## TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Gerri Wallis enjoyed the Middle School Band Day at Pitt River Middle, as well as the Talking Circle at Moody Elementary; she and Trustee Holly Butterfield attended an “Eminent People” event at Hillcrest Middle; Trustees Wallis, Keith Watkins and Vice-Chair Judy Shirra enjoyed Gleneagle Secondary’s presentation of Seussical; Trustee Wallis attended the DPAC meeting and noted that the BCCPAC annual meeting will be held in Coquitlam May 25-27, providing an excellent opportunity for local parents to participate; Trustee Butterfield enjoyed taking part in the Como Lake Middle School Garden Project.



### Mark Your Calendar!

#### Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

7:30 pm

Board Office

550 Poirier St., Coquitlam

For more information  
on the Board Update

Contact:

Cheryl Quinton, Manager  
of Communications  
and Corporate Services  
at 604-937-6775 or  
[cquinton@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:cquinton@sd43.bc.ca)