



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the November 8, 2011
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

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant noted a number of events and initiatives:

- SD43 has achieved its highest ever overall completion rate of 90.6%. Of particular note is the 12.5% increase in the completion rate for students with special needs, over the past five years
- Three secondary schools – Dr. Charles Best, Riverside and Terry Fox – have been chosen to participate in the 2012 PISA (Program for International Student Assessment)
- SD43 will also participate in the Quality Review Process as part of the Distributed Learning Agreement between DL schools and the Ministry of Education
- Our district is one of four in collaboration with UBC in an M.Ed. Program in Special Education
- November 2nd marked the annual *Take Your Child to Work Day* for grade 9 students
- Two of Centennial Secondary's Biology 11 classes took part in a national Virtual Classroom Web Stream, sponsored by the National Film Board at the David Suzuki Foundation
- A friendly competition between Terry Fox and Centennial Secondary schools has resulted in 600 pounds of pennies for the KidSport Tri-Cities Program – equating to over \$1140
- Riverside Secondary teamed with Castle Park Elementary to collect 6,600 pounds of food for SHARE's Food Bank under the Halloween for Hunger Campaign

Secretary-Treasurer Rick Humphreys noted that there were minimal incidents at the school sites during Halloween. There were three occasions where large groups of people gathered on school grounds, but they were dispersed by either security staff or police.

EDUCATION

Coordinator Jill Reid presented, via YouTube, a powerful example of the benefits of the EPIC Program – Elite Performers in Coquitlam. By enabling a grade 11 Port Moody student to continue his education online, Ben Freemantle was able to accept a prestigious two-year scholarship from the San Francisco Ballet School where he is currently attending. Here is a sample of Ben's amazing dance ability: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQdCaNAoDzc>

NEW BUSINESS

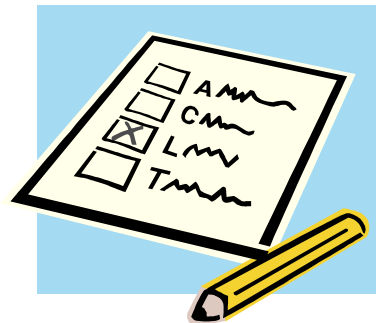
The Board adopted a Capital Project Bylaw to enable the release of \$200,000 from the Ministry to fund new playground equipment at four middle schools – Citadel, Como Lake, Kwayqquitlum and Maillard. This is part of a new \$8 million capital program to fund the acquisition of new playground equipment and the repair or replacement of existing playground equipment at various schools around BC.

BCSTA ITEMS

Board Chair Melissa Hyndes reported out on a report submitted to the Education Minister - *A Commentary on the Operating Grant Allocation Process*. The report and accompanying submissions was in response to the Minister's request for direct input from Boards of Education on the funding formula for public education.

TRUSTEE CALENDAR PLANNING

Trustees reviewed their various calendar commitments, including the laying of wreaths at various Remembrance Day ceremonies.



Mark Your Calendar!

INAUGURAL MEETING

Tues., Dec. 6, 2011
7:00 pm
Winslow Centre
Gallery Room
1100 Winslow Ave.
Coquitlam

Regular Board Meeting

December 13, 2011
7:30 p.m.
School Board Office
550 Poirier Street
Coquitlam

For more information
on the Board Update
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