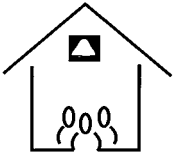


School District 43 (Coquitlam)



The Board Update

*News from the Board
meeting of
Tuesday,
April 1, 2003*

**All
ABOARD!**

Trustees

Holly Butterfield
Chair

Brian Robinson
Vice-Chair

Gail Alty
Debra Burton
Melissa Hyndes
John J. Keryluk
Julie Rogers
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Administration

Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer

Response to Previous Delegations

The Board sent letters of response to Dave Allen, Vice-President, District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) and Dave Ginter, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 561, who presented at the March 11, 2003 Board Meeting.

District Staff Reports

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen presented highlights since the last Board meeting as follows:

- SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) concerns have been addressed via a number of documents provided by the Simon Fraser Health Authority, including a Q & A document sent home to parents regarding symptoms and how to respond. Students need to be quarantined only if they are exhibiting symptoms. Many families who have recently traveled to Asia are voluntarily staying at home. A Chinese translation has been provided to schools. Students and staff are being encouraged to wash their hands regularly to prevent infection.
- The Ministry of Education is moving to a twice-yearly snapshot for the student enrolment report. In this year's trial run we had a 250 FTE decrease in enrolment from September 2002 to February 2003.
- A one year extension in exemption for school psychologists qualifications has been granted. The Ministries of Health and Education continue discussions for next year.
- The Fraser North Society will provide funding to Mary Hill, Lincoln, Miller Park, and Mountain View Elementary Schools to teach parents how to support their children in early reading.
- The Ministry of Education's District Review Team was in the school district last week. The role of the district review is to provide feedback and recommendations to the school district on ways to improve student achievement. The team visited 30 schools, reviewed the district accountability contract, and identified promising practices. In the preliminary report, the school district was commended for the open, enthusiastic, and professional approach of staff. They said that we set clear goals, focused on student learning, and improving student achievement. Other strengths identified were our demonstrated ability to:
 - value diversity and autonomy of school communities
 - aligning of school and district goals
 - using data in strategic and thoughtful ways
 - considering evidence over time to ensure success

District Staff Reports—cont'd.

The team said that our school district is:

- thoughtful and thorough in supporting schools using a creative and varied approach towards shifting resources to support schools. They further noted that communication is open and involves all in a sense of teamwork toward success for students. They observed: leadership and teamwork at all levels of the system; effective assessment and teaching practices to achieve early success for students; shared leadership by teachers and administrators; and thoughtful articulation between and among schools.

We employ collaborative models such as the Aboriginal and Student Services Advisory Committees, middle school collaborative school curriculum planning, focus groups, and shared non-instructional days.

The full report will be available on the Ministry of Education website on Friday, April 4, 2003, along with a news release.

Superintendent Doerksen expressed congratulations to students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators included in the district review. She said that we can be very proud of our achievements.

Trustee Holly Butterfield said that the Board is very pleased with the results of the review and will be sending a letter of thanks to all of our schools and to our senior staff.

- Assistant Superintendent David Osborne described a first year Computer Technician Diploma program to be offered at Riverside Secondary School in partnership with the B.C. Institute of Technology (BCIT). The first year of this two-year program will be offered at Riverside and the second year at BCIT. Sixteen high school graduates will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to begin their post-secondary studies. The Board approved the implementation of the program.
- Assistant Superintendent Julie Pearce presented the criteria for School Improvement Plans. The Board approved the document as proposed.
- Secretary-Treasurer Locan O'Melinn reviewed the proposed budget for 2003-2004 and estimate of the deficit position. The original projected shortfall of \$8.7 million was reduced by a combination of under expenditures, a provincial one-time grant, and increased international education revenues. The school district is anticipating another decline in student enrolment next year. Savings will be made through a buffer grant phase out, school consolidation, BCPSEA fees elimination, and benefit cost adjustments. Again, international education revenues will add to our operating budget next year. Mr. O'Melinn cautioned that the Ministry of Children and Family Development funding is not yet confirmed for 2003-2004.

As part of the Ministry of Education's funding allocation to school districts, the ministry identified \$46 million as an enrolment reserve. The school district's possible share of the Provincial holdback is \$2.5 million. The actual amount may not be known until December 2003. The Board approved a motion to provide direction to staff that 100% of the enrolment reserve be applied to the projected shortfall of \$3.4 million.

A motion for the Board to direct staff to prepare a 'Needs Budget' to be included with the legal budget that will be sent to the Ministry in April was postponed to the April 22nd meeting for discussion.

New Business

The Board considered and approved Property Bylaw No. 2003-2 to approve the granting of a Statutory Right of Way easement to BC Hydro and Power Authority adjacent to Aspenwood Elementary School.

The Board considered and approved Property Bylaw No. 2003-3 to approve the granting of a Statutory Right of Way easement to the City of Coquitlam concerning the southeast corner of Alderson Elementary School site.

The Board considered and approved Property Bylaw No. 2003-4 to approve the granting of a Section 219 Covenant Agreement to the City of Port Moody as part of the development of the secondary school to be located on Heritage Mountain in Port Moody.

BCSTA Items / Business

Trustee John Keryluk and Trustee Debra Burton are representing the school district at the BCSTA AGM in April. Trustee Keryluk will attend the BCSTA Metro Meeting and Trustee Debra Burton will attend the BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting.

Trustee Reports

Trustees reported on the District Parent Advisory Council Annual General Meeting of March 5th. They congratulated Porter Street Elementary School on the dedication of new playground equipment, purchased through the efforts of the Parent Advisory Council that raised \$26,000 over five years.

Trustees congratulated the Superintendent on her leadership role in the very positive report from the Ministry of Education's District Review Team.

Trustees encouraged participation in the CPVPA Cancer Run to be held on Sunday, April 6 at Terry Fox Secondary School.

Mark Your Calendar!

Special Public Board Meeting (Budget)

Tuesday, April 15, 2003
@ 7:00 p.m.—Winslow Centre

Next Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2003
@ 7:30 p.m.

Special Public Board Meeting (Budget)

Tuesday, April 23, 2003
@ 7:00 p.m.—Winslow Centre

Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2003
@ 7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room

Tuesday, April 8, 2003
Education Committee Meeting is
cancelled

For more information on
The Board Update
contact:

Patricia Gartland
District Principal
District Programs

or visit our website at www.sd43.bc.ca