

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

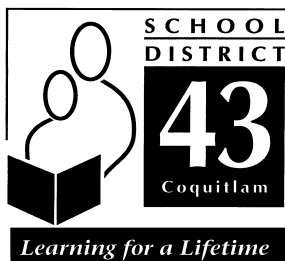
**Melissa Hyndes**  
*Board Chair*

**Holly Butterfield**  
*Board Vice-Chair*

Gail Alty  
Debra Burton  
John J. Keryluk  
Brian Robinson  
Julie Rogers  
Gerri Wallis  
Keith Watkins

**Laureen Doerksen**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Lorcan O'Melinn**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*



*School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)*

# *The Board Update*

*News from the April 20, 2004  
School Board Meeting*

## **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS**

Letters of response were drafted to the Coquitlam Foundation Board and the District Parent Advisory Council, from earlier requests to reconsider trustee representation. Discussion ensued later in the agenda.

## **DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS**

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen reported on a long list of accomplishments and initiatives underway in District 43 schools including:

- The movement of seven classes back into Eagle Ridge Elementary has been a smooth transition. Response by colleagues, parents, businesses and the public at large has been tremendous in the wake of the fire.
- A grade 4-5 team from Coquitlam River Elementary will be heading to the Worlds competition in late May for the Odyssey of the Minds competition.
- Two Gleneagle Secondary students have advanced to the nationals in the Canada Skills competition in Winnipeg, having won gold in Mechanical CAD and Graphic Arts.
- Students in the Challenge program at Heritage Mountain Elementary have organized a Science Fair for May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Grade 8 students at Montgomery Middle School will take part in a full day Leadership Conference April 28<sup>th</sup> dealing with wellness, healthy choices and a positive lifestyle.
- Castle Park and Irvine Elementary Schools, in conjunction with the City of Port Coquitlam, are working on a project to decorate the overpass at Shaughnessy and Lougheed Highways.
- Panorama Heights Elementary recently hosted some special guests from Shanghai, China, as they marked a Sister School ceremony.
- A grade 5 enrichment group from College Park Elementary, in an assignment to investigate current social issues focused on the homeless and supported the Salvation Army by organizing a food, clothing and blanket drive at their school.
- Lincoln Elementary School recently took part in the "Give it up for Reading" celebration, where a number of students gave up TV and video games for five days during a three-week span and replaced that time with reading.
- Blakeburn Elementary School held an Aboriginal celebration complete with a potlatch luncheon, various work stations, a cedar "longhouse" and a simulated fire pit. Planning for the day was almost entirely done by Blakeburn PAC's multicultural committee.
- Mountain View Elementary is planning a series of three Aboriginal Focus Days where Aboriginal culture will be explored through music, art and literature.
- Baker Drive Elementary raised over \$1900 in Jump Rope for Heart and Stroke Month.
- Two Riverside Secondary students won first prize in an anti-smoking TV public service announcement contest.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> marks the Third Annual Coquitlam Principals and Vice-Principals Cancer Fundraiser Run.
- The Annual Como Lake Relays will take place April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- A number of schools are in the midst of or are preparing for spring musicals, showcasing a wide array of fine arts talent in our schools

**SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lorcan O'Melinn reported on the 2003/04 year-end forecast. The previously identified surplus continues to stand and will be carried forward to help balance the 2004-05 budget.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facilities and Finance Committee Chair Brian Robinson reported on an April 1st meeting, where the committee recommended acceptance of a proposal by the Terry Fox Theatre Advisory Committee (TAG) to manage the operations of the theatre. Discussion by the Board ensued, with late notice from the partner employee groups that they had concerns. The Board voted in favour of the proposal.

**EDUCATION REPORT**

Maureen Dockendorf, Director of Instruction (Curriculum/Assessment and Staff Development) and Bob King, Administrator of Special Projects, brought forward a number of requests for Board approval of Proposed Board/Authority Authorized Courses. Over the last three months, 29 grade 10, 11 and 12 courses have been converted with more to come. The Board approved the requests.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2004-05 budget recommendations from the Senior Leadership Team were endorsed by the Board. The recommendations included that 50% of the enrolment reserve amounting to \$1.260 million be recognized and that \$840,000 be used to balance the budget and that the remaining \$420,000 be allocated to:

- a) improve the Student Educator Ratio (SER) from 17.5 to 17.45, resulting in the addition of 5 FTE teaching positions, and
- b) increase the per pupil allocation to schools by \$4, at a cost of \$132,000. The \$132,000 would be frozen until December when the enrolment reserve funding will be released.

The Board voted to retain trustee representation on the Coquitlam Foundation and the District Parent Advisory Council

**NEW BUSINESS**

Policy and Regulations 1-A-16 (Trustee Filing Cabinets) was repealed.

**BCSTA ITEMS**

Trustees reviewed the motions which will be voted on at the upcoming BCSTA AGM and Provincial Council meetings and indicated their voting preference.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

Special public budget session to pass the budget bylaw is scheduled for:  
 April 27, 2004  
 7:30 p.m.  
 School Board Office

The next regular Board Meeting will be  
 Tuesday, May 11, 2004  
 7:30 p.m.  
 School Board Office

For more information on the Board Update Contact:  
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