



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

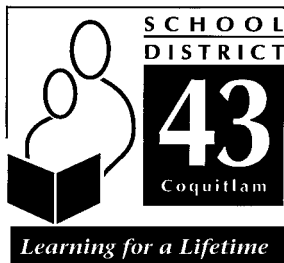
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Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

*News from the April 5, 2005
School Board Meeting*

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATION

Budget Presentation: Kathy Fester, Music/Drama Teacher from Scott Creek Middle School and Jim Bryson, Music Teacher from Pinetree Secondary School.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen reported on a number of school district events:

- Final preparations are underway in preparation for the **Encompass Conference** April 21st to 23rd at Heritage Woods Secondary
- There are literacy initiatives underway at virtually all schools. Amongst them are some Early Literacy opportunities at **Alderson Elementary**. Alderson is preparing for its second *Ready, Set, Learn* event April 29th and will be teaming it with the PALS program. Also, over the last three months Alderson has hosted the Tri-cities Family Pre-School program, and the school runs a weekly parent and tots library program
- **Riverview Park's** students, staff and parents are participating in a month-long reading festival called "*Wild About Reading*" where students engage in a reading bingo game. Students will take part in a school-wide reading train April 25th

There are several initiatives underway in the Arts as well:

- **Citadel Middle** has an Artist in Residence working every Friday with 30 students until June to create a large mosaic that will exemplify school spirit, VIRTUES and diversity
- **Panorama Heights Elementary** will hold a special concert April 7th
- **Hampton Park Elementary** will present its "Broadway Junior" version of "*Dear Edwina*" April 27th and 28th
- **Minnekhada Middle** is into final rehearsals of "*Groovy*" April 19th and 20th, featuring a cast of over 300 students
- **Summit Middle** will be focusing on a district choral celebration April 14th

During the month of April, **Lord Baden Powell Elementary** is celebrating the Aboriginal culture school-wide with a number of classroom activities, ending with a potlatch and students performing amongst their Family of Schools

Mountain Meadows Elementary will celebrate Earth Week by demonstrating how much garbage we create now and showing how easy it is to cut back on that amount

Mountain Meadows Elementary will host a "litterless lunch picnic" with family groups in the gym

Water conservation was on the minds of **Rochester Elementary** students, as they viewed a theatrical presentation sponsored by the Coquitlam Engineering Department

Just prior to spring break, **Moody Middle** held a hands-on Leadership conference for grade 8 students. Speakers and workshop presenters included Mayor Trasolini and representatives from the fishing, business and entertainment and resource industries. The day ended with a presentation by the Esteem Team

Elementary students are looking forward to the Como Lake Relays which will be taking place on April 20th and 21st

Global Perspectives courses at **Pinetree Secondary** developed project work this year around Vietnam. This year, 25 students recently traveled to Vietnam with three teachers for two weeks. Their project was to take over supplies to equip a pre-school in Northern Vietnam

SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn reported that last week the government announced the dispersal of another one-time grant. Our school district's portion was approximately \$814,000, which will be targeted towards funding the unfunded employee liabilities related to GAAP.

EDUCATION REPORT

Bob King, Vice Principal of Pinetree Secondary School, presented eight proposed Board/ Authority Authorized courses that meet the BAA requirements. All received Board approval:

- Recording Arts and Sciences 10
- ESL Composition 11
- ESL Skills 11
- Desktop Publishing 12
- Journalism 12
- Peer Tutoring 12
- Recording Arts and Sciences 12
- Vocal Techniques 12

Aileen Kirkham, Administrator of Special Projects, reported on two early literacy initiatives in our school district designed to help young children with the transition to school: *Ready, Set, Learn* and *Parents as Learning Supporters (PALS)*.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

As a follow-up to an earlier presentation by Mr. Clift "*Opening Doors for Every Student*", the Board directed staff to send a letter to Mr. Clift requesting additional information with respect to how BC compares to other provinces for the statistics provided at his presentation, and of any updated information he may have.

NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the 2005/06 Preliminary Financial Estimate that summarized the changes in provincial funding, the amount of one-time funding in the budget, the impact of a 500 student decline projected in September 2005 and the suggested inclusion of 50% of the 2005/06 enrolment reserve.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Preliminary 2005/06 Budget Recommendations are grouped by the four performance plan goals and other initiatives. A prioritized listing of the recommendations will be provided for the April 19th Special Budget Meeting.

Members of the SLT provided detailed information on its recommendations for the funding allocations.

The Board will provide \$1950 for funding 10 delegates to attend the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Council's Fall Leadership Conference and the BCCPAC AGM.

BCSTA ITEMS/BUSINESS

The Chair reported on the BC School Trustees' Association AGM and Canadian School Boards' Association Congress that took place in Vancouver March 31st to April 3rd.

Trustee Julie Rogers was elected as director on the BCSTA Board of Directors. Trustee Rogers advised trustees of the following information:

- That the Metro Branch notice that was brought forward to the AGM to change the electoral process passed
- The Coquitlam Board's motion brought forward to the AGM around utilization rates also passed
- All other motions passed with the exception of the request for a fair share of the surplus. She also noted that a Vancouver School Board request that the grade 10 exams be dropped was defeated



Mark Your Calendar!

Special Public Budget Meetings will be held at Winslow Centre (Gallery Room)
 Tuesday, April 12, 2005
 Tuesday, April 19, 2005
 7:00 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting will be
 Tuesday, April 26, 2005
 7:30 p.m.
 School Board Office

For more information on the Board Update Contact:
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