

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

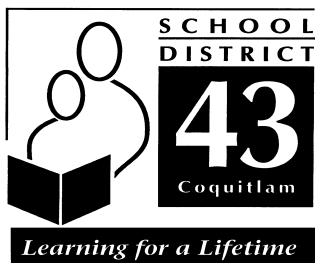
Melissa Hyndes
Board Chair

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 December 9, 2003
School Board Meeting*

BOARD ELECTIONS

Melissa Hyndes was acclaimed Board Chair for 2004, while former Chair Holly Butterfield was elected Vice-Chair.

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The board heard presentations from three delegations:

- Suzanne Kyra, M.A. Registered Clinical Counselor, Pinetree Secondary PAC, outlined her concerns about students moving to new catchment areas.
- Cydney Smythies, PAC Chair of Como Lake Middle School, proposed recommendations for that school's school catchment/boundaries.
- Gwenda Woodbury, PAC Vice-chair and Nancy Doucette, PAC Treasurer of Lord Baden Powell Elementary, requested that the board assist with an "up front" PST tax for playground equipment for which the board would be later reimbursed. The issue was deferred to later in the agenda, at which time the request was approved.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS

A DPAC request for increased funding will be discussed in January.

A letter will be sent to Ken Juvik, parent and councilor for the Village of Anmore, regarding his concerns about providing healthy food choices for elementary and middle schools.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen outlined a number of initiatives and accomplishments of late including:

- A Strategic Plan update. Phase 3 will be launched in the new year – exploring and researching themes identified in the previous stage. Ms. Doerksen thanked the Strategic Plan Liaison Committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the first two phases of the process.
- An evening for new Canadian parents, in which the new Grad Program was discussed
- Take Your Kids to Work Day in November
- District Career Fair at Gleneagle Secondary
- Community Solutions Public Forum at Centennial Secondary. She commended the staff at Centennial, in particular vice-principal Jon Dingle and principal Bryan Evans for their pro-active approach
- The many Christmas activities that involve reaching out to help others in the community
- The hosting of a neighbourhood Christmas dinner by Riverside Secondary
- MetFest hosted by Gleneagle Secondary, and the Cook 1 Training Course underway in partnership with Douglas College and Federal Human Resources
- More than 20 elementary schools have now participated in training sessions to enable them to manage their own school websites

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS—cont'd.

- Various staff development and literacy initiatives
- SD 43 has been selected as one of 6 school districts to pilot a tracking system for performance standards. This will take place over next spring and fall.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees John Keryluk and Melissa Hyndes reported on their attendance at the City of Port Coquitlam and City of Port Moody Liaison Committee meetings. Input into the district's strategic plan was among the various topics of discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The topic of provision of food and beverages to students will be forwarded to the District Planning and Coordinating Committee to gauge whether there is interest from the partner groups in conducting a review.

Several recommendations regarding the terms of reference for the two standing committees – Education and Finance & Facilities were passed. Trustee Melissa Hyndes also presented a recommendation that the Policies & Procedures Review Committee become a standing committee. Following some modifications, the recommendations regarding this committee will be brought forward to the January meeting.

The Secondary School Catchment Review Report was adopted. Among the recommendations passed is that the new Heritage Woods Secondary School, scheduled to open in the fall of 2004, will initially open as a grade 9-10 school. The complete report can be viewed on the SD 43 web-site at www.sd43.bc.ca. Information notices will go home to parents shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

Under Policy 11-A-26, Regulations C.2 and D.3 were amended to include two DPAC representatives on the Principal and Vice-Principal Shortlisting Committees.

Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn presented the 2003/04 Preliminary Year-End Projection. He reported that while there appears to be a surplus, he cautioned that in addition to unforeseen expenditures such as sick time and utilities costs over the winter, there are still two large unknowns: the status of the provincial dividend (the district doesn't know if the special one-time grants will be available this year) or the implications of the GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) initiative.

Mr. O'Melinn and Director of Finance Bob Janzen outlined the 2004/05 Budget Process, including Draft Principles, Assumptions and Criteria, the Group Feedback process, timelines, Notional Allocation (Funding) to Schools and the Draft Priorities Questionnaire for School Planning Councils.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Brian Robinson noted some publications from neighbouring school districts outlining the budget process, and also expressed a hope that in the new year, a format can be designed to allow board members to openly discuss correspondence.

Trustee Julie Rogers reported on her attendance of the French Advisory Committee meeting Nov. 24 where members discussed the district's Strategic Plan, enrolment numbers and the appointment of a French Programs Coordinator.



Mark Your Calendar!

The next Board Meeting will be
 Tuesday, January 6, 2004
 7:30 p.m.
 School Board Office
 550 Poirier St., Coquitlam.



*Seasons Greetings
 To All!*

*For more information on the Board Update, contact:
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