

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the February 17, 2004
School Board Meeting

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

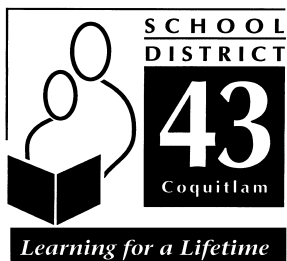
Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen

Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn

Secretary-Treasurer



Learning for a Lifetime

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Irene Bouchard, President of the Terry Fox Theatre Advisory Group (TAG), presented a partnership plan to the Board. The proposal, to share responsibility for the operation of the theatre in partnership with School District 43, will undergo consideration by the Board.

There were four presenters regarding the Transportation Review (which the Board voted on as noted later in this publication):

- Linda Pashka, PAC President, Kwayhquitlam Middle School
- Tracey White, Laurie Sol and Suzanne Doerkson – Coquitlam River Bussing Committee
- Dave Ginter, President, CUPE Local 561
- Suzanne Hughes (on behalf of PAC Co-chair of Moody Middle, Roberta Beck)

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen's summary of initiatives and accomplishments included:

- The Student Leadership Council (SLC) has designated February 16-20 as Asset Building Week. She congratulated the SLC for its leadership and hard work on this initiative.
- Acknowledgements were offered to the administration and staff at Centennial Secondary, in the handling of a recent incident regarding a report of an alleged gunman. She noted that while such an incident was unfortunate, it put into focus the need to ensure that our emergency planning is effective.
- Riverside Secondary was honoured to recently host Canadian composer Howard Cable
- Centennial students are busy preparing for their upcoming musical "Hair"
- Panorama Heights Elementary will host a citizenship court Feb. 27, an event that will be observed by the grade 3-5 classes
- Students are polishing their speeches for the finals taking place the first week of March
- Mountain Meadows Elementary officially launched its new playground, a partnership project of the school district, the City of Port Moody and the school's PAC, which raised the majority of the \$24,000
- The official opening of the rebuilt Alderson Elementary is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Ministry of Education is conducting its second enrolment "snapshot" around the province. The enrolment numbers will be reported at the next public board meeting
- Preliminary figures from kindergarten enrolment show are lower than projected, however the number is expected to grow in the coming months
- The ministry has asked the district to broaden the scope of its assessment data for the District Accountability Contracts to better illustrate how the strategies are working
- Templates for the new standardized report cards are expected to be ready by spring. The new report cards will be piloted in 2004-05
- SUCCESS has acquired a grant for a half-time multicultural youth worker for Pinetree and Gleneagle Secondary Schools

2003/04 Final Budget

As mandated by the Ministry, the Board approved the 2003/04 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw.

Bob Janzen, Director of Finance, reported on the School Planning Council Budget Session held Feb. 4 at the Winslow Centre. Identified priorities include staffing, curriculum/programs and supplies/equipment.

Board Committee Reports

Policy Review Committee Chair Debra Burton reported on the first public meeting of this committee, held Feb. 10. The main topic was the development of terms of reference for this committee.

FSA Report

Rob Rankin, Coordinator (Secondary) Curriculum and Staff Development, provided a summary of the interpretation of the 2003 Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). The assessment measures reading, writing and numeracy skills in grades 4, 7 and 10. Results were favourable locally and in relationship to provincial averages. The full report is available on the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

After much discussion, the Board voted to maintain the current Transportation Policy as it stands.

BCSTA ITEMS

The board requested a meeting with the new Minister of Education at the upcoming BCSTA AGM in April.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Julie Rogers reported on the recent BCSTA Provincial Council meeting including several motions that she was required to vote on, on behalf of the Board
- Trustee Debra Burton attended a workshop regarding accountability contracts and assessment of data
- Trustee Brian Robinson suggested the Chair send a letter of congratulations to Rochester Elementary, which recently was awarded a grant for a literacy initiative
- Chair Melissa Hyndes and Trustee Rogers attend the last DPAC meeting, where they heard a presentation by community nutritionist Sarah Carten. Following the defeat of a motion regarding cafeteria offerings, DPAC has since received a revised motion which members will vote on in April. The Board decided to table the issue of cafeteria offerings until that vote is conducted, at which time they will have heard back from all of the partner groups.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

The next Board Meeting will be
 Tuesday, March 9, 2004
 7:30 p.m.
 School Board Office
 550 Poirier St.
 Coquitlam

For more information on the Board Update
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