

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the January 27, 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

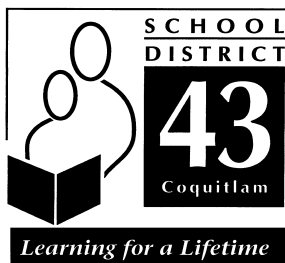
Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen

Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn

Secretary-Treasurer



RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS

The Board responded to the Treasurer of DPAC regarding a request for one-time funding of \$7,500 for DPAC operations. After staff analyzed the statements, it appears that funding is not required immediately. The Board asked DPAC to reapply if the funding situation changes in the remainder of this fiscal year.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

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

- The Birchland Elementary/Rotary Club *Books for Breakfast* pilot project in Port Coquitlam
- An early literacy project proposal by Rochester Elementary has been approved for a Ministry grant
- The value of focus days which bring together the expertise of various school staffs
- Middle and secondary schools are already preparing grade 8 students for the transition to secondary school by holding orientations on elective courses. This will be followed by school visits of counselors and parent information evenings
- April 25th is the Coquitlam Principal and Vice-Principals' Association third annual Walk/Run for cancer
- The Port Coquitlam Family of Schools project is helping to connect staff from the various grade configurations
- A template for a standardized report card is expected to be unveiled within the next two weeks
- The superintendent noted the retirement of Mountain Meadows principal Helen Dawe, and congratulated Pinetree Principal John Simpson on his move to a Burnaby Assistant Superintendent's position. Ms. Doerksen spoke of the valuable contributions to School District 43 by both.

Year End Financial Projection

Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn reported on the 2003/04 Year End Financial Projection. The projection indicates a surplus of approximately \$1.17 million, an increase of approximately \$200,000 from the previous forecast, largely due to a reduction in transportation costs. The Secretary-Treasurer cautioned that the surplus will likely need to be carried forward to 2004/05 to balance the budget.

Budget Process

The district has received notification from the Ministry of Education that the funding announcement date for school districts will now be mid-March. As a result, the Senior Leadership Team recommendations will likely have to be deferred for one week. The Board approved a Special Public Budget Meeting on Tuesday, March 23.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Brian Robinson, chair of the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee, reported on a meeting held January 20th. Items discussed were graffiti removal procedures during the summer months; Government Reporting Entity (a new reporting requirement from the Ministry of Finance and Office of the Controller General); possible implications of the move to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); and the draft Investment Policy was approved.

SCHOLARSHIP AND SCHOOL COMPLETION REPORTS

Julie Pearce, Assistant Superintendent and Bob King, Special Projects, reported on the Grade 12 Provincial Examination and Scholarship Results from January to June 2003. Once again, School District 43 students fared well, attaining an average percent score that was higher than the provincial score on 11 out of the 15 provincial exams. Several outstanding academic accomplishments were profiled, including two students who had the highest scores in the province in a total of four of the exams.

Also reported were Dogwood Completion Rates. While the local six-year graduation completion rate is higher than the provincial average, areas targeted for improvement include the male completion rate and increasing the success rate of aboriginal students.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Bob McGill and Dex Hallwood, Director of Purchasing (with responsibility for transportation) presented the Transportation Policy Review Report. The recommendations from the review committee, followed by consultations with the various partner groups and meetings with the public, centred on the premise that the policy be fair and equitable to all students, parents and schools.

The recommendations:

- Provide student transportation based on existing School District 43 (Coquitlam) walk limits
- Ensure that the policy and regulations are applied consistently
- If funding becomes an issue in the future, review the transportation policy

The report is available on the front page of the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca. The Board will deliberate the report at the next public meeting Tuesday, February 17th.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Debra Burton will attend the BCTF conference Feb. 13-14.

The issue of speed limits in school zones was discussed. Staff will follow up with the City of Port Coquitlam to better clarify the municipality's regulations.

Trustee Julie Rogers will represent the Board at the BCPSEA AGM elections.

BCSTA ITEMS/BUSINESS

Chair Melissa Hyndes and trustee Julie Rogers will attend the 100th BCSTA AGM in Victoria April 22nd. Trustees Debra Burton, Holly Butterfield and John J. Keryluk also expressed an interest in attending.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Robinson, along with trustees Keryluk and Rogers, attended an information session on the Burke Mountain development. They stressed the need to incorporate designated school sites early in the planning. Trustee Robinson also enjoyed the educators' art exhibit, and noted that the "Hog Wild" literacy fund-raising campaign raised \$3500. He also attended a forum, as did trustee Debra Burton on pending cuts to social assistance.
- Trustee Burton suggested that the Board send a letter of introduction and congratulations to the new Education Minister, Tom Christensen.
- Trustee Rogers reported on her attendance at a Consortium 43 meeting (also attended by trustee Keryluk).



Mark Your Calendar!

The next Board Meeting will be
 Tuesday, February 17, 2004
 7:30 p.m.
 School Board Office
 550 Poirier St.
 Coquitlam

For more information
 on the Board Update
 Contact:
 Cheryl Quinton, Manager
 of Communications
 and Corporate Services
 at 604-937-6775 or
cquinton@sd43.bc.ca