

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

# The Board Update

News from the June 1, 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

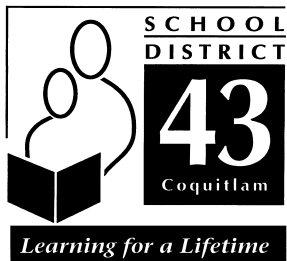
Keith Watkins

**Laureen Doerksen**

*Superintendent of Schools*

**Lorcan O'Melinn**

*Secretary-Treasurer*



## PRESENTATIONS

Corporal Doug Francis of the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment, and also overseer of the school Liaison Program, reported on this year's RCMP Youth Academy which took place in May at Cultus Lake. Nine of the ten students from SD 43 who took part were on hand to answer trustee questions. All plan to pursue a career in some aspect of law enforcement. Corp. Francis noted that this year's local contingent was of a very high calibre.

Tamara Ramusovic, the outgoing president of the Student Leadership Council, provided a summary of the past year's events which were based on the theme of Asset Building. The incoming executive for the upcoming 2004/05 year was introduced, led by President Seyoon Chung. The SLC thanked the Board for its support, and the trustees reciprocated by commending this year's team for its outstanding work.

## DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen noted that June is a busy month with various activities taking place:

She thanked the many teachers who commit countless extra hours to help students after school, who participate in study groups, and help prepare the students for success in their provincial exams.

In the elementary schools, June is always a busy month as instruction is complemented with sports days, end-of-year celebrations, family fun days, field trips and the like.

Riverside Secondary held its commencement ceremony last Friday, and the others will take place this month.

Each secondary school will receive almost \$2,000 this year in grants from the BC Liquor Distribution Branch to put towards their **Dry Grad** events. Activities this year range from a boat cruise up the Fraser River with dancing and a midnight buffet, a cruise up Coal Harbour, casinos with "funny money", a carnival, games, hypnotists, tattoo artists (temporary tattoos of course), karaoke, raffles, door prizes and lots of food.

She thanked the many businesses and service clubs that have donated goods, cash donations and prizes towards this fun and safe activity, and congratulated all the students and parents who work hard at fund-raising and donate many hours on the committees and work crews.

June is also the month that we say farewell to many valued employees at the annual **Board Retirement Dinner** this Thursday, June 3 at the Westwood Plateau. This year 69 retirees from various employee groups are being honoured.

School District 43 will be one of five school districts in BC to pilot the new **provincial student information system** called BCeSIS. It's expected that the pilot will begin by March 2005. A steering committee has now been formed to help guide the process.

The weatherman may not have cooperated, but the enthusiasm wasn't dampened for the annual **Middle and Elementary School Track and Field Meets** held in May at Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium. The members of the District Elementary Track and Field Committee were commended for their considerable time and expertise in taking on this initiative that is so valued by the students.

### **DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS—cont'd.**

The artistic talents of our secondary school art students and the skill of their teachers were evident at an **art show** at Coquitlam Centre last month. Shoppers were treated to various art forms such as paintings, sketches, ceramics, sculpture, and metalwork – everything from clay running shoes to metal warrior helmets. Ms. Doerksen thanked all involved in showcasing this incredible artistic talent.

District 43 will join school districts from around the province in the participation of the **BC Amber Alert Program**. Based on a US model, the program is deployed in the case of abducted children whereby mass communication is issued in the crucial initial hours of abduction. This program does not replace the current incident fanout process, but is a supplement to it.

A grade 4/5 class at **Mountain View Elementary School** was one of the winners of BC Hydro's Power Smart Movie-Making Program. Their movie aired on CKVU and Island News last month. Through poetry and scenarios, the students found a creative way to film their energy saving tips. It can be viewed on BC Hydro's website at [www.bchydro.com/moviemaking](http://www.bchydro.com/moviemaking).

Math whizzes at **Port Moody Secondary School** put their school at the top of the list in a recent competition. PMSS students placed first in BC for achievements by public school students, tying with Lester Pearson College in Victoria in the prestigious Euclid Contest. Three of the local students were among 10 BC contestants who received medals for their achievements.

During Youth week in early May, the graphic artwork of 18 student artists was chosen in a contest sponsored by the Public Library Interlink. The first place winner in the Burnaby/Port Moody/Coquitlam zone was **Gleneagle Secondary School** student Grandy Chieh Yen Chu. In addition to a cash prize, 10,000 bookmarks carrying her graphic artwork have been distributed to local public libraries.

Ms. Schick's kindergarten class at **Pinetree Elementary School** was the winner of a "Walk to School" competition in the Provincial *Way to Go* Program. PAC Chair Brydon Green, who has been instrumental in developing safety issues around the school, helped coordinate sneaker day. She reports that Pinetree students had a blast decorating their sneakers with balloons, stickers, glitter, ribbons and various other creative materials, and every child made a poster. On Sneaker Day, 94% of the Pinetree students in attendance walked, biked, scootered, roller bladed or skipped to school.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee Brian Robinson reported on a May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Committee members heard a report on the seismic program, a review of the audit plan, implications of GAAP, a year-end forecast, and members discussed trustee indemnity.

A recommendation was approved by the Board that employee future benefits be retired in a 20-year amortization period as well as the audit plan.

Chair of the City Liaison Committee Melissa Hyndes reviewed a May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting where topics included a Vandal Watch followup, field lights at North Shore Community Park (lights are owned and operated by the City), the Vehicle Idling Awareness Program, Emergency Management Programs and Integration and a school site acquisition charge update.

### **EDUCATION**

Teachers Tamara Banks, Chris King and Rob Rankin, Coordinator of Curriculum /Assessment and Staff Development (Secondary) reported on Coquitlam School District's Learning Teams. This year, 24 Learning Teams have been created throughout the district to support ongoing improvement of instruction and student achievement. In these teams, teachers meet monthly to plan, design, research, evaluate, and support one another in reflecting on, changing and assessing their own practice.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Four district policies that are no longer in effect were repealed.

A motion to hold public Board meetings every two weeks was defeated.

The BCSTA fee schedule was discussed, and the item deferred to the next public board meeting.

Trustees Gerri Wallis, Debra Burton, Julie Rogers and Gail Alty (alternate) put their names forward for the Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee. Terms of reference will be determined at a Board working session in September.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Gerri Wallis reported on trustee attendance at a DPAC meeting where the election of its new officers was held.

Trustee Julie Rogers enjoyed attending Centennial Secondary's awards night and Riverside Secondary's commencement ceremony.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, June 22, 2004 7:30 p.m. School Board Office

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](mailto:cquinton@sd43.bc.ca)