



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

Melissa Hyndes
Board Chair

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Board Vice-Chair

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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 June 20, 2006
School Board Meeting*

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Port Moody Senior Secondary student Omar Chatur, newly elected President of the Student Leadership Council, provided an overview of SLC activities over the past year and introduced the new SLC Executive for 2006/07.

Rhian Pipell, Director of the Coquitlam Public Library, gave a presentation about the various projects the library is involved in to enhance early learning and school-age learning in Coquitlam.

Clair Schuman of the Autism Tri-Cities organization and Rachel Le Noble from the Simon Fraser Society for Community Living, outlined their concerns about the potential effects of Bill 33 for the education of children with special needs.

Anmore parent Kathy Roberts made a presentation to the Board dealing with her concern about the absence of policy regarding mandatory volunteer screening and volunteer drivers' records screening.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen noted the various activities underway as another school year winds down. Among the items mentioned:

- Bramblewood Elementary was the host site for the 8th annual Conference for Challenge students in grades 4 and 5 in the district
- Ranch Park Elementary was awarded a prize of \$2,500 worth of PE equipment in the Canadian Olympic School Program
- Panorama Heights Elementary is among the top 10 schools in the province in recycling, according to a progress report by Encorp. Panorama's students, staff and parents turned in more than 23,000 containers over the past school year
- 240 of our middle and senior secondary students will be chosen to attend an address by the Dalai Lama at the Orpheum Theatre September 8th
- The Aboriginal Education Program held its 11th Annual Gathering this past Saturday at Lions Park in Port Coquitlam. It also marked the 2nd Annual Awards Ceremony
- The City of Port Coquitlam will present a cheque for \$10,000 through the Self-Help Matching Grants Program to help replace playground equipment at Mary Hill Elementary. The school's PAC has raised significant funds through fund-raising which will result in a new \$63,000 playground for the school and the local neighbourhood

Ms. Doerksen also updated trustees on the implications of Bill 33 – new legislation on class composition and size limits. While senior staff is quite confident that class size requirements will be met, a consultation process will take place in some middle and secondary schools which are facing some challenges in meeting the composition requirements. Ms. Doerksen has indicated that all staff had been allocated to schools and that senior staff were asking for a contingency to meet emergent needs in September.

Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn provided projected financial implications of Bill 33. Mr. O'Melinn outlined a proposal to develop a contingency fund for staffing in September. The Board approved a plan to create a staffing contingency fund of 15 full-time equivalent (fte) teachers at a cost of \$1.1 M.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn provided an update on the 2005/06 Year End Forecast.

Mr. O'Melinn outlined a regional strategy for prevention of the West Nile Virus, based on recommendations from Fraser Health. The program involves depositing a water-soluble packet in all district catch basins during the first week of July to destroy mosquito larvae

Mr. O'Melinn reported on board contributions to the Non Teaching Pension Plan and the Non Teaching Pension Plan Valuation which is required by legislation to be reviewed every three years.

EDUCATION REPORT

Patricia Gartland, District Principal of International Education provided an overview of the International Education program, which began in our district in 1999. The program has been growing steadily in both offerings and enrolment.

Eighteen new Board Authorized Courses were approved by the Board of School Trustees.

The Board received draft templates of standardized report cards for elementary and middle schools and approved the process to pilot them. A district Report Card Committee comprised of local teachers and administrators and led by Anita Chapman, Director of BCTF, has been meeting over the past five months to draft the templates.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee school liaison assignments were determined for the 2006/07 school year.

Trustee Holly Butterfield reported on the status of the School District Business Company (SDBC). As the SDBC has been dormant, there have been no business proceedings over the past year.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice of motion was received to review Policy 17 – District Code of Conduct for Students and Policy 18 – Violence, Intimidation and Possession of Weapons. A consultative model will be used to review these policies and report back to the Board.

TRUSTEE CALENDAR PLANNING

Trustees reviewed upcoming events and the draft Board meeting schedule.



Mark Your Calendar!

Summer Board meetings are at the call of the Chair and are tentatively scheduled for July 11 and August 29 at 7:30pm

The next regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2006 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