



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

# The Board Update

News from the June 7, 2005  
School Board Meeting

## Our Mission:

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

**Melissa Hyndes**

*Board Chair*

**Gail Alty**

*Board Vice-Chair*

Holly Butterfield

Debra Burton

John J. Keryluk

Brian Robinson

Julie Rogers

Gerri Wallis

Keith Watkins

**Laureen Doerksen**

*Superintendent of Schools*

**Lorcan O'Melinn**

*Secretary-Treasurer*



## DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Corporal Doug Francis, Coordinator of the School Liaison Program and the RCMP Youth Academy, introduced a number of students who participated in this year's academy over spring break at Cultus Lake. Cadet Steve Levis, a student at Gleneagle Secondary School, spoke on behalf of the student, outlining the rigors of the camp and the teamwork involved.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

June is one of the busiest months of the school year, and Superintendent Laureen Doerksen noted various activities underway prior to the wind down of the school year:

In the midst of staff keeping students on task for a valuable last month of learning, there is much going on in the areas of planning for next fall, administration transfers and appointments, sports and activity days, field trips, and transition activities.

June is an exciting time of year for hundreds of our graduating students as they conclude their chapter of public education and embark on post secondary education, trades or careers. Riverside Secondary held its commencement ceremony last month, Centennial's was this past weekend, and the remainder will take place within the next three weeks.

Along with commencement is the annual ritual of Dry Grad, and once again, the parent volunteers and staff on the Dry Grad committees, and local businesses are pulling through with some spectacular activities for these celebrations.

This year marked the first **French Immersion grad ceremonies**, held at Dr. Charles Best and Riverside Secondary. The Charles Best class invited their feeder school's grade five immersion students, while Riverside's special guests were kindergarten students, who witnessed the success of their older immersion counterparts.

June is also a time of year for **retirements**, and the Board honored the 80 district retirees at the annual Retirement Dinner at Westwood Plateau last Thursday. Collectively, these employees represent over 2,100 years of dedicated service. There are a number of site-based retirement receptions taking place this month as well.

**IOCO School** invites the public to take part in its **Open House** Wed., June 22 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The district behaviour program at IOCO is being relocated and integrated to Dr. Charles Best and Gleneagle Secondary Schools next fall. As a result, the IOCO facility will be closing this summer, marking 82 years of education. The site use will be reviewed as part of the facilities planning process.

A **Roots of Empathy** celebration will be held tomorrow, June 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:45 at James Park Elementary. Twenty of our schools now participate in the Roots of Empathy Program, which through the contribution of babies and their families; help build tolerance, caring and empathy in our students.

Three elementary schools – Seaview, Walton and Heritage Mountain – have implemented the **BC Electronic Student Information System (BCeSIS)** as part of a pilot project involving nine SD43 schools. Kwayhqitlum and Montgomery Middle Schools will be the next to convert in early fall. The basis of BCeSIS is one student record, stored in one location, accessible by all authorized users in the school and school district.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—cont'd.**

Riverside Secondary School's **Culinary Arts Program** has entered into a partnership with Vancouver Community College beginning in the fall of 2005 that will allow students at Riverside to complete their first year Level 1 Culinary Arts training while at secondary school. Congratulations to Dennis Joel, the Career Education Coordinator at Riverside and Darren Stramford, the teaching chef at the school, for securing this partnership.

A grade 11 student at Dr. Charles Best Secondary is the recipient of the **Community Care Foundation Youth Awards for Environmentalism**. Hannah Carpendale was recognized at a recent ceremony at The Fairmont Waterfront. Hannah re-founded the school's Eco-Awareness Council while in grade 10, which works with the Vancouver Aquarium staff to organize habitat restoration projects such as shoreline cleanups. Best is registered with Pitch-In Canada as an eco-active school and has raised money to adopt an acre of an important wildlife corridor. There were five other accomplished finalists from our district vying for awards in various categories.

### **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

As a follow-up to recent discussions on vandalism, Director of Facilities Mark Dale reported on a recent Vandalism "Best Practices" conference hosted by the Maple Ridge School District. The main theme of the conference was that vandalism is a community problem which requires community involvement and solutions.

### **EDUCATION**

District Principal of International Education, Patti Gartland, provided an overview of the International Education Program. International students are enrolled in 60 of the district's 71 schools, coming from various countries all over the world.

Don Gordon, Coordinator of Staff Development (Middle School years), presented a report on the district-wide Performance Assessment in Grade 5 and 8 numeracy and grade 9 writing.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

At the Board's request, the Vancouver and Burnaby School Districts were contacted for more information regarding their weighting systems for class composition. Rob Carson, Director of Human Resources, reported on the findings.

Julie Pearce, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on the Strategic Plan. A representative partner group committee will be struck to assist with the next phase of the plan – to incorporate feedback received from the latest draft.

The Board reviewed a "Needs" budget document which calls for \$13.4 million in additional funding to address reductions in funding since 2001. Following some revisions, it will be forwarded to the ministry.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustees determined their school liaison assignments for the coming school year.



### **Mark Your Calendar!**

The next regular Board Meeting will be  
Tuesday, June 28, 2005  
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)