



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
Diane Sowden
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 March 28, 2006
School Board Meeting*

DELEGATIONS

Susan Ruzic, a teacher at Moody Elementary and one of six BC teachers on the planning committee for the upcoming Education Program at the World Peace Forum, reported on plans for the forum and the community's involvement in the Surrendering Toys of Violence Project.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Susan Kilpatrick, Teacher Librarian at Riverside Secondary School, spoke on behalf of a contingent of Teacher Librarians. She thanked the board for its support of school libraries this year, and requested continued support through increased staffing, a library collection of quality and quantity and regular, dependable funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen reported on a number of events and initiatives around the school district (the complete report is contained in the official Board Minutes):

- The Ministry District Review Team will conduct their district review April 2-6
- This week marks Education Week, with this year's theme being Read to Succeed. Some literacy initiatives include a wrap-up of a "Go for the Gold" literacy month; Lincoln Elementary has been approved to receive \$3,000 from Starbucks The gift of Words Foundation; Gleneagle Secondary School's English department is looking forward to implementation of a Wireless Writing Program in September
- During Education Week, eight outstanding British Columbians were recognized for their educational contributions and achievements – amongst them is Don Hutchinson, a teacher at Montgomery Middle School District 43 (Coquitlam)
- Irvine Elementary recently showcased a Verbathon, and exciting new educational game developed by Irvine teacher Noel Escueta
- Multicultural activities were highlighted at Hampton Park Elementary recently as it hosted students from Korea for three weeks, and held an annual Multicultural Day
- The annual Como Lake Relays for grade 4 and 5 students will be held April 19 and 20
- The annual district-wide Career Fair will be held March 29 at Riverside Secondary
- SD 43 and the Simon Fraser Society for Community Living will host the Tri-Cities Transition Fair April 5 at the Winslow Centre
- DPAC will host a parent education forum March 29 – Robb McGirr's presentation "Understanding and Responding to Teen Drug Use"
- Vanier Elementary was the host school of the Coquitlam Music Jamboree, and Vanier is busy preparing for its Spring Concert
- Hillcrest Middle's band and choir both received an "excellent" standing at the Coquitlam Music Festival, and received an invitation to attend Music Fest in 2007
- Minnekhada Middle is planning for its Focus on the Arts day April 13. Various art mediums by District 43 educators are on display at Place des Arts until April.

2006/07 BUDGET UPDATE

Bob Janzen, Director of Finance, presented the 2005-06 preliminary budget information which sees an estimated \$430,000 surplus. The Board will receive preliminary recommendations from the Senior Leadership Team at the April 4 budget meeting.

Mr. Janzen also reported on the 2005-06 year end projection. The estimated surplus continues to be in the range of \$1.2 to \$1.3 million, however, several cost pressures remain.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Chair Melissa Hyndes reported out on her attendance at the Board/City of Port Moody Liaison Meeting held March 2. Items discussed included funding inequities for school adventure playgrounds, given that only Coquitlam schools qualify for casino funding; safety concerns surrounding Light Rapid Transit and the feasibility of regulating the sale of paint spray cans in the cities, to help curb the incidence of graffiti.

EDUCATION REPORT

The Graduation Program was implemented in September 2004, with the first graduating class being June 2007. As the Graduation Portfolio is a new requirement for graduation, Coordinator Jill Reid provided an update on one of the district's innovative practices which supports the success of all students in their completion of this requirement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board Chair and a senior staff member will travel to Portland, Oregon either by flight or bus to look at their light rail and transit system.

The Board will send a letter to the provincial government asking for funding equity for adventure playgrounds at SD 43 elementary school sites throughout the Tri Cities.

NEW BUSINESS

Facilities Director Mark Dale reported on the Capital Plan – Seismic Projects for 2008-09. The Board approved the recommendation of six additional seismic projects:

- Pitt River Middle School – phase 2
- Minnehada Middle School – structural seismic upgrade
- Maple Creek Middle School – structural seismic upgrade
- Dr. Charles Best Secondary School – partial structural seismic upgrade to complete balance of building
- Mary Hill Elementary – Seismic upgrade
- Ranch Park Elementary – total seismic upgrade

The Board reviewed Policies 8-10, as part of an annual review as per Board policy.

Board Chair Melissa Hyndes accepted an invitation to represent the Board at a community dialogue table to be held Wed., April 19 at Coquitlam City Hall.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice of motion was served to review Policy 11 (Board Delegation of Authority) and Policy 12 (Role of the Superintendent).

BCSTA ITEMS

Several trustees will attend the BCSTA AGM in Prince George April 29. Chair Melissa Hyndes confirmed that she will run for a position on the BCSTA Board of Directors.

CALENDAR PLANNING AND REPORTS

Trustees reviewed their calendars and determined trustee representation at the upcoming commencement ceremonies. Trustee Butterfield reported on her attendance of Irvine Elementary's Verbathon, Trustee Sowden enjoyed the Elementary School Music Jamboree at Vanier Elementary and Trustee Alty, along with Trustees Keryluk, Sowden and Wallis, attended the recent DPAC general meeting.



Mark Your Calendar!

Special Public Meeting – Budget

Winslow Centre
Gallery Room
Tuesday, April 4, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Special Public Meeting – Budget

Winslow Centre
Gallery Room
Tuesday, April 11, 2006
6:00 p.m.

For more information
on the Board Update
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