

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the March 30, 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

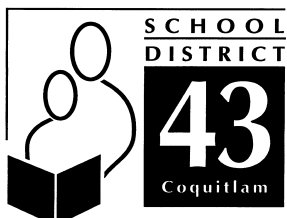
Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen

Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn

Secretary-Treasurer



Learning for a Lifetime

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tony Osachoff, President of the Coquitlam Foundation and Treasurer Ken Richardson provided an update on the Foundation's partnership with School District 43, which began 12 years ago. Over the years the Foundation has distributed over \$144,000 to charitable organizations and to student scholarships, as well as funded several youth initiatives. Mr. Osachoff noted that the Foundation values having trustee representation on its Board. (A discussion later ensued on this topic. A decision was postponed to allow senior staff to further study the Foundation's constitution).

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Chair Linda Reimer presented on behalf of the council regarding the issue of formal appointment of trustees to DPAC general meetings.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS

A letter has been sent from the board to Reading Recovery Program teachers Doreen Peron and Martha Hightower and parent Mr. Parker, thanking them for their recent presentation.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

The spirit of cooperation in the aftermath of the fire at Eagle Ridge Elementary was at the top of the list in Superintendent Laureen Doerksen's report. Ms. Doerksen praised the staff at Eagle Ridge Elementary, James Park Elementary and Scott Creek Middle for their superb efforts in the short-term transition of seven classes to James Park and two grade five classes to portables at Scott Creek. She also commended staff from various schools, local businesses, parents and volunteers who were quick to offer support and resources to make the transition as smooth as possible. Among the various donations of books, supplies and clothing, Pinetree Secondary donated a new VCR, DVD player and \$250.

The seven classes temporarily housed at James Park Annex will return to Eagle Ridge starting April 13th (there will be no school for these students on April 8th). The two grade 5 classes will remain in the portables at Scott Creek for the remainder of the school year.

Also in the superintendent's report:

- Education Minister Tom Christensen was in attendance for a ceremony at Riverside Secondary to mark a milestone in the Computer for Schools Program. Ms. Doerksen noted the efforts of Information Technology (IT) teacher Dennis Joel for his leadership in an outstanding IT program
- Leigh and Coronation Park Elementary Schools will both celebrate their 40th anniversaries this month
- Congratulations to Porter Elementary which recently hosted the Elementary Music Jamboree, at which more than 600 elementary students participated
- Riverside Secondary will present the musical *Hair* this month, while Pinetree Secondary will present *Footloose*
- Pinetree Secondary will host the annual "Building Bridges" event April 13th to 28th
- Gleneagle Secondary had the works of 40 students displayed in the recent Port Moody Festival of the Arts
- The Ministry of Education is working in conjunction with the Department of Research at UBC to provide an analysis tool that will help provide more valuable information from FSA testing to aid in teaching strategies

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorcan O'Melinn provided budget information, outlining the changes in the budget between 2003-04 and 2004-05. As of the time of the board meeting, there had been no word regarding the one-time funding from the government (it was subsequently learned that the grant would be forthcoming to be used only against unfunded benefit liabilities). Budget information is available on the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee Chair Debra Burton reported on a March 23rd meeting, where members reviewed draft terms of reference and a summary of policies containing outdated language.

EDUCATION REPORT

Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Instruction (Student Services) and Margaret Mary Deck, the Acting Co-ordinator for Aboriginal Education, presented an update on aboriginal education in SD 43. "A Proud History and a Bright Future" outlined various programs and initiatives underway.

Central Elementary principal Gary Sawatsky spoke on his school's "Journey to Literacy" program, while Michael Grice, vice-principal at Pinetree Secondary prepared a report on that school's outreach program that focuses on tolerance and respect.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will send a letter of support to a motion by Surrey School District, asking the Federal Minister of Finance to exempt school districts from paying GST.

BCSTA ITEMS

A number of trustees are scheduled to attend the BC School Trustees' Association annual general meeting in Victoria April 22-25.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

The next regular Board Meeting will be
Tuesday, April 20, 2004
7:30 p.m.
Location tba

Special public budget sessions are scheduled for
April 6 and 13 at 7:00 p.m.
Winslow Centre

For more information on the Board Update
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