

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

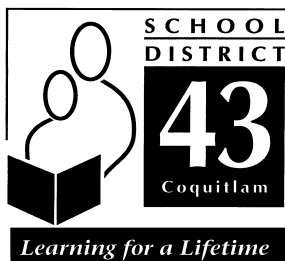
Melissa Hyndes
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Julie Rogers
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Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

*News from the March 9, 2004
School Board Meeting*

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Teachers Doreen Peron (Glenayre), Martha Hightower (Rochester) and parent Mr. Parker made a presentation on the Reading Recovery Program. The early literacy intervention program focuses on grade one students who have not responded well to classroom programs. The program has a high success rate, and those students who still have difficulty benefit from being identified early in order to receive specialized instruction earlier.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS

After receiving research information from staff following a proposal by the Terry Fox Theatre Advisory Group, the Board has referred the matter to the Finance and Facilities Committee for its recommendation.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen's summary of initiatives and accomplishments included:

- Coquitlam is one of seven school districts to pilot a program to benefit children with anxiety disorders. FRIENDS, an early intervention and prevention program, will focus on grade 4 and 5 students.
- Minnehada has held its first meeting of the Green School Project, a partnership project between staff, students, parents and neighbours to help build a sense of pride and ownership in the Minnehada community.
- Led by teacher Nancy Browne, 25 Pinetree Secondary students are preparing to head off to a rural village in Peru to work on a clean water and sanitation project
- Sixteen Riverside students will volunteer some time this month at an orphanage in Guatemala.
- Three Gleneagle Secondary students – Jane Lee, Julie Lee and Eric Han – scored perfect marks on their Math 12 provincial exams in January.
- The Centennial Secondary junior boys' basketball team won the provincial championship recently, following an impressive season record of 43 wins and only 2 losses. Their coaches are Rob Sollero and Alan Kaselj.
- Panorama Elementary received praise from the judge and clerk who presided over a citizenship court at the school.
- Riverview Park Elementary school students committed random acts of kindness during the week of Valentine's Day. The school raised \$1,719 from a penny drive for the Variety Club.
- Porter Elementary opened its new adventure playground, matching funds for one opened there last year. The PAC was instrumental in raising the bulk of the funds, totaling \$80,000 for both. Porter will be the host school of an Elementary Music Jamboree March 26.
- Birchland Elementary received a grant of \$15,000 from the Ministry of Children and Families to develop a family resource centre at the school.
- Alderson Elementary Principal Louise Wunderlich and staff were thanked for hosting an enjoyable school re-opening event Feb. 26.
- Various literacy initiatives were mentioned – among them, Coronation Park's monthly Family Reading Evening.
- Montgomery Middle School is running a series of popular "Hot Topic" evenings for parents. Meanwhile, as part of a wellness initiative, the school is supplying filtered water in dispensers to encourage students to stay hydrated.
- Joey Sahli, Principal of Riverside and Vice-Principal Craig Rietchel were invited to be presenters at the Innovations Conference in Victoria.
- Ms. Sahli and the school staff were commended for their leadership and compassion in the days following the death of a Riverside student.
- In the Gifted Program, a coordinator is working with two Terry Fox Secondary students and others in organizing a student conference. Eighteen gifted students recently spent a day at Winslow writing their own IEPs. Seven teachers of the Gifted Program are working on enrichment kits.
- A total of 67 teachers and administrators attended a regional session on the new report card templates. A further 25 parents attended a second session.

PINETREE CLOSED TO OUT OF BOUNDARY REQUESTS

Since the Board adopted the recommendations of a recent catchment review, there have been a number of requests for cross-boundary approvals. Assistant Superintendent David Osborne explained that in order to equalize enrolments, it is necessary to close Pinetree Secondary to any further cross-boundary requests. No new students, other than grade 8 students who were already designated to attend Pinetree next year from the feeder schools, will be eligible to attend Pinetree.

ELIGIBLE SCHOOL SITE PROPOSAL

As a result of the rejection by the City of Port Coquitlam of the Board's amended Eligible School Site Proposal back in September, the Board requested the Minister of Education to appoint a facilitator to reach an agreement on the Eligible School Site requirements for Coquitlam School District. Beth Johnson of Beth Johnson Consulting will act as facilitator.

FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Trustee Brian Robinson reported on the Feb. 27th meeting. Items referred to included graffiti removal during the summer months, the District-Wide Facilities Plan, the 34342004/05 year-end projection, increased contribution rates for the 2004/05 teacher pension plan, and a report on the School Planning Council budget session.

EDUCATION REPORT

Maureen Dockendorf, Director of Instruction, reported on a District Assessment Pilot Project. The school district is in the process of implementing three district assessment pilot projects in the curricular areas of grade 5 numeracy, grade 8 numeracy and grade 9 writing. The project is intended to shift assessment towards intermediate indicators such as classroom assessment and performance standards rather than indicators such as standardized tests and FSA as evidence of student achievement.

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Project Amendment Bylaw No. 3C-2001 was passed – for the demolition of the former Alderson Elementary building and reclamation of the site.

LETTER RE: SEISMIC SAFETY

The Board received a letter from the Vancouver School Board regarding an advocacy request from the Families for School Seismic Safety (FSSS). Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn noted that the Ministry continues to reassess buildings and is currently developing a reassessment tool to prepare a submission to the Treasury Board in the fall of 2004. Meanwhile, phase two of the seismic enhancement program is now underway close to starting at Centennial (to convert the glass atrium to an enclosed area) and tenders are out for the project at Lord Baden Powell Elementary.

BCSTA ITEMS

The BCSTA AGM will be held April 22nd to 25th in Victoria.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Julie Rogers noted the upcoming BCPSEA Collective Bargaining Forum April 2-3
- Chair Melissa Hyndes congratulated the drama department at Centennial Secondary for its outstanding production of the musical *Hair*. She also noted that the Innovations Conference in Victoria was an informative and well-organized event.



Mark Your Calendar!

The next Board Meeting will be
 Tuesday, March 30, 2004
 7:30 p.m.
 School Board Office
 550 Poirier St.
 Coquitlam

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