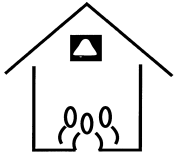


School District 43 (Coquitlam)



The Board Update

*News from the Board
meeting of
Tuesday,
October 21, 2003*

**All
ABOARD!**

Trustees

Holly Butterfield
Chair

Brian Robinson
Vice-Chair

Gail Alty
Debra Burton
Melissa Hyndes
John J. Keryluk
Julie Rogers
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Administration

Lauren Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer

Response to Previous Delegations

In a statement read by Board Chair Holly Butterfield, the board has expressed support to the Coquitlam 2004 BC Disability Games, proposed for July 7-14, subject to cost recoveries. The organizing committee had requested the use of classroom space at Pinetree Secondary, the use of school district buses and the identification of a school district liaison staff member. District staff calculated the costs would total approximately \$36,000. Chair Butterfield said that as 'not-for-profit' local community groups are not exempt from rental fees as of last April, it would not be possible to make exceptions for other requests.

Chair Butterfield also responded on behalf of the Board to Kathleen Thomson, CTA President, who made a presentation at the last board meeting regarding the CTA's objections to the recent changes to the structure and operations of the BC College of Teachers. The board will present a letter to the Provincial Council expressing its concerns regarding Bill 51 (changes to the College of Teachers).

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lauren Doerksen reported on various activities and initiatives including:

- Thanksgiving and Halloween activities
- Annual Walk to School Day
- Seaview Community Flea Market
- Miller Park's potluck dinner (which drew over 600 people)
- Heritage Mountain and Riverview Park's 10th anniversary celebrations
- School initiatives leading up to *Together Against Violence Month* in November
- The Leadership Series – more than 130 staff members have signed up for the six-session series, with 20 administrators as facilitators and mentors
- The 2003-04 Career Fair scheduled for November 6 at Gleneagle
- Various staff development activities in the school district
- Coquitlam River Elementary is preparing for the world finals in the Odyssey of the Mind competition
- The official opening of the Centennial Activity Centre is Thursday, October 30th at 1:30 p.m.

Superintendent's Report—cont'd.

Ms. Doerksen noted that with the various initiatives underway, it is a very busy time for staff and administrators, and she expressed her gratitude to:

- Those involved in organizing the Regional Grad Forum, particularly Bob King and Chris Kennedy
- The coordinators of the Gifted Education session in September
- The work of the K-Gr. 5 Focus Group, which plans to develop a newsletter to share information and strategies
- Organizers of the Middle School Conference
- The work of the Senior Leadership Team in heading up several large initiatives such as the Strategic Plan, the boundary review and the transportation review
- Staff members who continue to commit continuous learning by taking part in professional development activities
- All those who worked on their School Improvement Plans

The Superintendent provided an update on the recently developed draft provincial standards on conduct and reporting out on violent incidents. After feedback from partner groups, the Ministry will provide a second draft later in the year.

School Improvement Plan

The Board approved the 70 School Improvement Plans, which have met Board criteria. Julie Pearce, Assistant Superintendent, provided a synopsis of the various school goals and highlights and outlined the plan rationale, development, and criteria.

2003 Performance Plan

An updated District Performance Plan (accountability contract) is annually submitted to the Ministry by October 31st. Julie Pearce, Assistant Superintendent and Maureen Dockendorf, Director of Instruction -Curriculum/Assessment/Staff Development, highlighted each goal area, reviewed the achievements of last year's targets and shared some of the strategies to be implemented this year. The Performance Plan also received Board approval.

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn reported out on the survey regarding CUPE representation on School Planning Councils.

Board Committee Structure

Trustee Melissa Hyndes reported on a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee. The board approved recommended changes to the standing committee structure (Human Resources and Finance & Facilities). A sub-committee structure will serve as a role to receive, explore, and investigate information, and bring items forward to the Board with recommendations. The new structure will be implemented in January..

New Business

Trustees discussed the Minister of Education's response to an earlier Board letter regarding Bill 51. In her response, Minister Christy Clark suggested that the Board send a further letter to Mr. Grieves, Chair of the College of Teachers. The board moved to postpone drafting that letter until it reviews the draft procedure for the Person Complaint Process.

Various trustees will represent the board at upcoming community Remembrance Day Services.

The School Liaison Trustee assignments were distributed to the board.

Notice of Motion

Trustees reviewed and provided direction to Trustee Keith Watkins on the motions to be brought forward to the upcoming BCSTA Provincial Council session

Trustee Reports

On behalf of the board, Vice-Chair Brian Robinson accepted a \$15,000 donation from the Tzu Chi Foundation. The foundation has been a supporter of local education for a number of years, among many other humanitarian services they provide around the province. Along with its gratitude for the donation towards the scholarship/bursary program, the board presented the Tzu Chi Foundation with a framed print.

Trustee Debra Burton reported on her attendance of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and a City of Port Coquitlam meeting where the Official Community Plan was reviewed. She noted that the mayor enjoyed receiving letters from a class of Castle Park Elementary grade 5 students, who had some thoughts on community planning.

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Coquitlam School Board will be Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m., School Board Office Board Room at 550 Poirier St., Coquitlam.

*For more information on the Board Update, contact:
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at 604-937-6775 or cquinton@sd43.bc.ca*