

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

# The Board Update

News from the October 5, 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

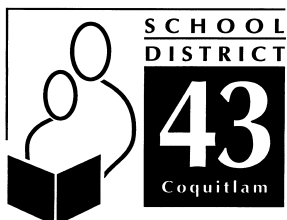
Keith Watkins

**Laureen Doerksen**

*Superintendent of Schools*

**Lorcan O'Melinn**

*Secretary-Treasurer*



*Learning for a Lifetime*

## DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Patricia Gartland, District Principal – International Education, introduced Bill Tong, Business Education Teacher from Riverside Secondary School. Mr. Tong reported on a Riverside exchange trip to South Korea in which 15 Riverside students visited their two sister schools – Soongduk Girls' High School and Nongok Middle. Student Darren Boychuk, one of four students in attendance, shared his experience via a video from his trip. They then responded to questions from the trustees.

Mary Ringwald, district teacher and United Way Campaign Chair, provided information about this year's campaign. "Growing an Even Bigger Heart" will take place October 14-27. Board Chair Melissa Hyndes signed a letter to employees to kick off the campaign.

Chris King, Vice President of the Coquitlam Teachers' Association, and Carol Sirianni, Chair of the Working Committee, presented information on the upcoming K-12 Encompass Conference to be held April 21-23 at Heritage Woods Secondary.

## DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen's report began with the acknowledgement of the many activities that took place during the beginning of the new school year including open houses, emergency preparedness and the Terry Fox run.

Other items in her report included:

- The acknowledgement of World Teachers' Day. Aspenwood Elementary was the host school for the recognition ceremony.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> marks the annual Walk to School Day.
- The local Fire Service has again teamed with local schools to teach children and their families the importance of installing and maintaining smoke alarms and developing and practicing a home fire drill.
- Representatives from the Canadian Cancer Society and the Cops for Cancer bicycle team were on hand for a special ceremony at Maple Creek Middle School recently. That school's 650 students and 60 staff members raised \$8,070 for the Cancer Society's Tour for a Friend campaign – the highest amount raised by any BC school. Meanwhile, the populations of 12 local schools lined the streets to cheer on the 17 police officers as they pedaled through our district. As this leg of their journey represented one of the most challenging ones, this show of gratitude did much to boost their spirits and energy.
- Two Centennial graduates were among five students in BC who had some remarkable provincial exam results. Homan Liu and John Zhou of Centennial Secondary earned gold medals for perfect scores on three provincial exams. Also among the top 21 students in the province was Kang Hua "Edward" Wang of Terry Fox Secondary School. Provincially, more than 4,600 high school graduates won scholarships this year for outstanding achievement on provincial exams.

**DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS—cont'd.**

- Late last week, Rochester Elementary celebrated the opening of its new adventure playground. Ms. Doerksen noted that the opening of a new playground is always an exciting time for schools, and she thanked the school's PAC for its fund-raising efforts, and the City of Coquitlam for its contribution.
- On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Glen Elementary officially opened the first Youth Credit Union in School District 43. In partnership with Van City Credit Union, "Ecole Glen School Youth Credit Union" opened with a fully elected board made up of grade 5 students. Tellers and cashiers have been trained and Glen has 146 students that have opened accounts.
- Two of our secondary schools have won the George H. Gallup Award, the highest commendation given to a high school publication in North America. Congratulations to Gleneagle and Riverside Secondary's journalism teachers and all of the journalism students.
- Gleneagle Secondary and Douglas College have partnered for an Exploration Morning Thursday, Oct. 7. Several college faculty members from various departments will host sessions at Gleneagle for grade 11 and 12 students.
- With the assistance of its PAC, Pleasantside Elementary has purchased a wireless computer lab for its school. This technology change will have many significant implications to the teaching and learning at Pleasantside. Some activities already underway include a new communication tool called "Class Serve" which allows students, parents and teachers the ability to access their learning from any computer. And, on the school's webpage, there are two movies created by Grade 5 leadership students highlighting events at their school.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scott Creek Triathlon drew 237 entrants, despite a rather rainy start. There were 44 triathletes in the solo division, with the rest on relay teams. Included in the group were 9 teachers, 5 parents and 10 students from Summit Middle School. Hundreds of students and parents lined the course to cheer on the athletes at this much anticipated event.
- DPAC held its "Welcome Back" orientation session September 29<sup>th</sup> for PAC presidents and DPAC reps. A representative from the provincial BCCPAC led the session on "The Parent Voice", while Janice Coomer and Wendy Bennett facilitated a session on "Keeping our Children Safe at School".
- UBC's Director of Early Human Learning, Dr. Clyde Hertzman, recently revealed results of the early development instrument (EDI) research conducted in local schools. He presented the mapped results of the EDI research completed by kindergarten teachers in the district, and explained the implications of the research and what the community can do to foster early childhood development.
- Enrolment numbers for the new year are still being finalized. Preliminary figures indicate that the district is down some 125 students from projected forecasts, and down 564 full-time equivalent students from last year.
- The superintendent also reported on her attendance at meetings with the Deputy Minister. Items discussed included a recent ministry announcement of funding for additional textbooks (on a matching fund allotment basis), a directive for all schools to supply a short descriptor for the ministry website and local links, and details on the Ready, Set, Learn initiative which will invite three-year-olds and their parents into their neighbourhood schools for a visit and information package.

**SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lorcan O'Melinn reported that staff continue to research possible policy review consultants and that he will provide an update when information becomes available.

Mr. O'Melinn also provided further clarification on the Computers for Schools initiative. He explained that this is not money for new computers, but rather a \$1 million contribution made to the non profit society Computers for Schools, that allows the society to acquire used computer equipment which in turn is then sold to schools directly at a reduced price.. He clarified that the district does not receive any direct funding under this arrangement.

**EDUCATION**

Maureen Dockendorf, Director of Instruction, provided an overview of the Professional Development Opportunities 2004-05 brochure published by the Staff Development Department. She also noted that District 43 will be the first site in the province to host a professional development webcast to a number of school districts in the BC. Education Minister Tom Christensen will be on hand October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Winslow Centre to launch the session, led by Faye Brownlee who will speak about *Literacy in the Middle Years*.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A notice of motion regarding the Modus Operandi Bylaw was postponed until the next meeting.

Regarding the reference to the term of Board Chair and Vice Chair, Chair Hyndes read a letter of clarification from the Secretary Treasurer for trustee information.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The board approved the 2005 Eligible School Sites Resolution. This updates residential development projections from local governments, student yield estimates and estimates of the general location, number and cost of sites required for future schools.

All of the trustees in attendance agreed to represent their various communities at Remembrance Day services.

Trustee Debra Burton will be the trustee liaison for the Student Achievement Advisory Committee, while Trustee Gail Alty will stand as alternate.

Trustee Gerri Wallace will be the trustee liaison for the Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools Advisory Committee. Trustee Julie Rogers will be the alternate.

Trustees discussed a letter from the Toronto School Board regarding a request to exempt school districts from paying GST. As the board has already written a letter of support, Chair Hyndes offered to raise the issue at the upcoming BCSTA metro branch meeting.

**BCSTA ITEMS**

Trustee Julie Rogers, the board's representative on the BCSTA Provincial Council, reviewed the statements of issue and recommendations with trustees and received direction for board input at the October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council meeting.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

A member of the design committee for Chimo Pool, Trustee Brian Robinson provided an update.

Trustee Debra Burton noted a CBC news article which noted a proposal to make Socials 11 optional. Ms. Burton expressed concern that if this transpired, students would not study significant historical events such as the two World Wars or the Holocaust.

Trustee Julie Rogers provided further information on the Glen Elementary Youth Credit Union partnership with Van City Credit Union.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

The next regular Board Meeting will be  
Tuesday, October 26, 2004  
7:30 p.m.  
School Board Office

For more information on the Board Update Contact:  
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