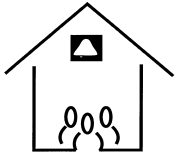


School District 43 (Coquitlam)



The Board Update

*News from the Board
meeting of
Tuesday,
September 30, 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

Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer

Delegations

Jim Stangier and Gordon Zacher of the Coquitlam 2004 Disability Games outlined their request for support of the games by the board. The organizing committee is requesting the use of classroom space at Pinetree Secondary, the use of school district buses and the identification of a school district liaison staff member. The games, scheduled to take place July 7-14, are anticipated to draw approximately 350 participants.

Teresa Grandinetti, First Vice-President of the Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA), invited the board to take part in World Teacher's Day via the signing of a proclamation. Sponsored by UNESCO, the day will be celebrated globally October 5th. Coquitlam School District will hold festivities Friday, October 3rd at Coronation Park Elementary School. This year's theme is "Teachers Open the Door to a Better World".

Kathleen Thomson, CTA President, made a presentation regarding the CTA's objections to the recent changes to the structure and operations of the BC College of Teachers. She outlined areas of concern such as the elimination of self-governance, amendments to discipline bylaws, the complaints process, upcoming changes to standards, and other measures.

District Staff Reports

Board Chair Report

Chair Holly Butterfield reported on the board's full-day working session held recently at Port Moody City Hall. Items included Board Committee Structure, Role of the Chair and Vice Chair, and Communications Protocol.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen reported on the first completed month of the new school year. She spoke of various activities and initiatives including:

- A number of transition activities for students and parents both from the three elementary schools that closed, and from the receiving schools
- Two Coquitlam students – Hannah Kim of Pinetree and Minsang David Yoon of Centennial – were among the top 22 winners of provincial scholarships. Each received \$2,000 for their outstanding accomplishments
- Sessions with School Planning Councils as part of the strategic planning process, in which she thanked the parents, staff and students for their involvement
- Mary Hill Elementary and Stream of Dreams Murals have partnered for an education and community art project. The project is led by Mary Hill's PAC and is partnered with groups from Riverside Secondary, Pitt River Middle School, Wilson Centre, Brown Creek Stream Keepers and is partially funded by the City of Port Coquitlam

District Staff Reports—cont'd.

- Schools are busy revising and refining their School Improvement Plans, and work is also continuing on the District Performance Plan
- A total of 13 schools are taking part in the Roots of Empathy Program this year
- The official opening of the Centennial Activity Centre, a partnership project with the City of Coquitlam, will take place Thursday, October 30 at 1:30 p.m., followed by an Open House that evening
- Staff will be looking at the Field Trip policy and procedures, in light of an incident in Richmond School District in which a student was injured in a snowboarding activity

Increase in Vice Principals Approved

Superintendent Doerksen explained that due to an aging workforce and increasing administrative demands, the school district needs to be proactive in providing leadership opportunities for its employees. A Leadership Development Program is underway, which has generated much interest.

The board approved a recommendation to change the allocation of vice-principals from schools with 400 full-time equivalent (FTE) students to 350. This creates a total of five elementary vice-principal positions at the elementary level.

Ministry Satisfaction Survey

This year marks the second for the Ministry of Education's Satisfaction Survey. Assistant Superintendent Julie Pearce noted that while results were generally positive, a low level of staff participation must be considered in interpreting the data. As well, concern was expressed that the wording of the questions may not be reflective of the varying developmental levels of the students, or may not reflect the relevance of coursework currently underway by the student.

Policy /Regulation Amendments

The following amendments were approved:

Policy 401 - School Planning Councils: the membership on School Planning Councils was expanded to include a student representative from Grade 10, 11 or 12.

Regulation 11-C-1 - Placement of Students: Changes reflected further definition of students in catchment areas and continuing students, the siblings of continuing students and placement of students.

Staff Reports

Director of Finance Bob Janzen reported that the school district's financial situation is much improved since the spring report. The year-end surplus enables the school district to carry a small contingency fund into the next fiscal year and retires the remaining \$2.2 million accumulated deficit.

The favourable result was due largely to an anticipated spike in benefit costs that did not materialize, lower than expected retirement costs, and increased investment revenues.

The Audited Financial statements were received and approved.

Board Committee Reports

Trustee Melissa Hyndes reported on the September 23rd meeting of the Human Resources Standing Committee, where they received information from the CTA regarding changes to the College of Teachers, discussed BCSTA Council agenda items, an update of layoffs due to declining enrolment (almost all affected have been re-deployed or retired), the shortage of internal administrative candidates and the need for leadership development, and BCPSEA bargaining.

Gerri Wallis, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, referred to audited financial statement presented at the board meeting.

New Business

Third and final reading was received for Capital Project Bylaw No. 5A-2002 – additional site acquisition costs for a new middle school on Heritage Mountain.

The Board reviewed a letter from Education Minister Christy Clark, in response to a Board request that CUPE representatives be allowed to sit on School Planning Councils. The Minister indicated that there are no plans to amend the legislation. The Board moved to send a letter out to all partner groups to canvass their opinions.

Reply from Education Minister

Chair Butterfield read out a reply from Education Minister Christy Clark regarding the board's concern over changes to Bill 51 (College of Teachers). The board felt that the reply still did not address their original concerns and will place the item on the next board meeting agenda for discussion.

Five Year Capital Plan

The board approved the Five-Year Capital Plan, presented by Director of Facilities, Mark Dale. Approved projects for years one and two include the replacement of Glen Elementary, a new secondary school for Burke Mountain, and seismic upgrades at Centennial, Lord Baden-Powell, Lincoln, James Park and Cedar Drive's gym.

High priority projects requesting funding for subsequent years include a new Hyde Creek Village Elementary, a new Heritage Mountain Middle, and the rebuilding of Irvine Elementary and Minnehada Middle.

Motion Defeated

A motion to rescind a review of Policy V-A-1 (Conveyance of Students) was defeated. The review is underway and will be presented to the Board in late November.

BCSTA Submission

The board will prepare a submission to the BCSTA Provincial Council regarding Bill 51.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Brian Robinson noted that more than 50 motorcycles were involved in the literacy initiative "Hog Wild for Reading". Trustee Julie Rogers praised a Coquitlam teacher for his upcoming participation in the Iron Man competition in Hawaii, and for sharing his training experience with his students to highlight health and fitness. Trustee John Keryluk thanked district staff for organizing the board's recent working session.

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place Tuesday, October 21, 2003 at 7:30 pm in the Board Room at 550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam.

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