

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

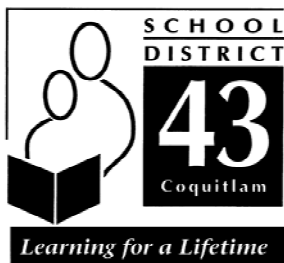
Melissa Hyndes
Board Chair

Holly Butterfield
Board Vice-Chair

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Debra Burton
John J. Keryluk
Brian Robinson
Julie Rogers
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

*News from the September 14, 2004
School Board Meeting*

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Board has officially proclaimed that School District 43 will recognize Tuesday, October 5th as World Teachers' Day. Chris King, First Vice-President of the CTA noted that this year's theme is "Quality Teachers for Quality Education".

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 assemblies, group activities, meetings and the other many tasks associated with school start-up. She noted that preliminary information shows enrolment down from spring projections overall, but kindergarten numbers are up. Enrolment figures will be finalized for the end of September.

Other items in her report included:

- A thank you letter from the Terry Fox Foundation, thanking the schools for their participation in the annual Terry Fox Run. Last year, district schools raised over \$110,000, surpassing the Foundation's expectations.
- All secondary schools have received their graduation planner booklet, outlining the various aspects of the new program.
- Congratulations to all those involved in the start-up of the new Heritage Woods Secondary School. Ms. Doerksen noted that staff throughout the district did a "phenomenal job" readying the school for opening.
- Fire damage at Eagle Ridge Elementary School has all been restored, and the school is back to full operation.
- Ms. Doerksen thanked those district staff who worked tirelessly in the wake of the theft of confidential employee information. In acknowledging the great teamwork, she noted that the district has learned much through the process. She thanked the various stakeholder groups for their cooperation and assistance during this challenging time. The confidential employee and student information has since been recovered intact by the RCMP.
- The 5th Annual *Hog Wild About Reading* initiative will take place this Sunday, Sept 19th. Growing yearly in participation, this motorcycle ride for literacy helps raise awareness of literacy initiatives and raises additional funds for school library books.
- Once again, a Building Leadership Capacity Program is being offered. Last year, more than 140 district employees took part.
- The Strategic Plan is nearing its final stage of recommendations. It will be presented to the Board this fall.
- Via a CD submission, RC MacDonald Ten Minute Choir has earned second place in the national Junior Choir competition held in Charlottetown in August. Under the direction of Principal Sandra Meister, the choir is comprised of 50 grade 2-5 students who practiced daily for 10 minutes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

- Lorcan O'Melinn reported that three students from Buntzen Bay who had water taxi transportation discontinued have found alternative schooling arrangements.
- Staff continues to research possible consultants to conduct a policy review. An update will be presented at the October 5th Board meeting.
- There have been two recent Ministry announcements: \$10 million allocated provincially for textbooks, and a \$1 M provincial Computer for Schools subsidy program. Further details are forthcoming.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Julie Rogers reported on the June 17th meeting of the City Liaison Committee. Items discussed included a presentation by Vandal Watch, Emergency Coordination, a joint anti-littering program, and the status of how peanut allergies are dealt with in schools.

EDUCATION

Patti Gartland, District Principal of International Education, presented a report on the International Education Summer School. Running throughout July and August, this year's program had the highest enrolment ever. The program increases international awareness of SD 43, provides cultural opportunities, builds bonds between students and sister cities, and raises revenue.

Louise Thorburn, Director of Continuing Education, reported on Summer School 2004. Once again the program ran successfully, providing challenges and opportunities to a significant number of students. A total of 1,850 students signed up for 2,748 courses. This year's Summer School was located at seven different sites in order to accommodate the diverse programs offered for students from kindergarten to Grade 12.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy 1-A-15 – Trustee Indemnity – was changed to read: “That school trustee indemnity be adjusted at budget time, in year two, by a motion at a public meeting and that it be based on the average of Coquitlam, Port Moody and Port Coquitlam councilors' indemnities.” The rest of the policy remains unchanged.

Procedural Bylaw 3C-2004 – Modus Operandi, was brought back to the board for review.

The Board approved a number of changes to the Modus Operandi to reflect the Board's decision to move items to either in-camera meetings or public meetings. This results from the decision to restructure committees such that the Finance and Facilities, Human Resources and Policy Review Committees will be discontinued.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustees reviewed their 2004/05 school year trustee school liaison assignments.

A request to contribute to the “Building Strength in Communities” Conference to be held in 100 Mile House on October 22nd and 23rd was declined. The information will be sent to DPAC for its information.

Trustee Julie Rogers will attend the BCSTA Metro meeting as council representative.

The Trustee Planning Calendar was reviewed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Julie Rogers reported on the BCSTA Board of Directors meeting held recently.



Mark Your Calendar!

A special public board meeting on the 2003/04 Fiscal Year will be held
Tuesday, September 28, 2004
7:30 p.m.
District Office, Board Room

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, October 5, 2004
7:30 p.m.
School Board Office

For more information on the Board Update
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