School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the April 3, 2007 School Board Meeting

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

Melissa Hyndes
Board Chair

Gail Alty
Board Vice-Chair

Holly Butterfield
Debra Burton
John J. Keryluk
Brian Robinson
Diane Sowden
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Coronation Park parent Jason Thompson voiced concerns over the pending closure of the school.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS

Board Chair Melissa Hyndes read the board's response to College Park parent Reece Harding, who presented to the board at its last meeting.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen reported on a number of events and initiatives:

- Schools are busy with parent/teacher conferences, Easter activities and final preparations for Spring productions
- During Education Week the last week of March, Minister of Education Shirley Bond held a luncheon in Victoria to honour recipients of the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. Among the invited guests was Don Hutchinson, a PE teacher at Montgomery Middle School
- The signing of the historic Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement
- Transition activities for students entering middle and secondary schools
- The Como Lake Relays will be held Thursday, April 19
- The Coquitlam Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association 6th Annual Walk/Run/Jog/ Cycle/Wheel/Rollerblade for Cancer Research Event will be held Sunday, April 29
- Final preparations are underway for the third annual Encompass Conference, April 19 – 21 at Heritage Woods Secondary School
- The Science department at Gleneagle Secondary is experimenting with a classroom response system that can be used in a variety of ways to increase student engagement in class
- Jason Schmidt, a grade 5 student at Rochester Elementary, was the BC winner of a provincial dictee in Surrey in March and will represent the province in the International finals in Montreal May 20

Assistant Superintendents Dan Derpak, Julie Pearce and Sylvia Russell, reported on the transitional activities underway for students of the five schools, scheduled to close June 30.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Janzen, Director of Finance reported on:

- 2007/08 Funding Announcement Analysis
- Senior Leadership Team Preliminary Budget Recommendations for 2007/08
- 2006/07 Fiscal Year End Projection

Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn noted that an application has been made to the Union of BC Municipalities regarding grant money from the School Community Connections Program. Staff will be in contact with all five local governments to potentially participate in this program.

EDUCATION REPORT

Julie Pearce, Assistant Superintendent, brought forward amendments to Policy 17 – District Code of Conduct for Students, Policy 18 – Violence, Intimidation, and Possession of Weapons, and Administrative Procedure 355 – Suspension of Students. The Board approved the amendments to the policies and received the Administrative Procedure as information.

Liz Thompson, Director of Student Services, reported on the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, officially signed at a ceremony April 2. The Board commended all those involved in the development of the Agreement, which will enhance the opportunities for success of Aboriginal students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

At the March 13 Board meeting, Trustee Watkins provided a Notice of Motion to be brought to the April 3 regular Board meeting. As the motion involved a legal matter it was referred to an in camera setting.

As part of the district seismic remediation initiative, the Board of Trustees approved a Capital Project Agreement with the Ministry of Education for seismic upgrading to Porter Street Elementary School. Staff will forward the agreement to the Ministry for their review and approval. The Ministry indicated approval in principle for this capital project in April 2005.

Capital Projects Update:

The Board approved an updated Capital Project Agreement for the replacement of Glen Elementary and to permit the use of $1.5 million from the Capital Reserve account. Staff will forward the agreement to the Ministry for their review and approval.

The Ministry has appointed an independent consultant to review and determine the most cost effective and timely manner in which to proceed with addressing the seismic and renovation project at Centennial Secondary.

An update was provided on the acquisition of the site for Burke Mountain Secondary. It is anticipated that rezoning and subdivision will be completed in the summer of 2007 which is necessary for a land title transfer to occur.

The Board moved that a letter be sent to the Ministry in support of the BC School Trustees' Association's response to Bill 20, 21 and 22 legislation.

BCSTA ITEMS

The BC School Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting will be held Aug 19-22.

Mark Your Calendar!

Next Public Board Meeting-Budget
Winslow Centre
1100 Winslow Ave.
Coquitlam
Tuesday, April 17, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting
School Board Office
550 Poirier St.
Coquitlam
Tuesday, April 24, 2007
7:30 p.m.

For more information on the Board Update Contact:
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