



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the February 24, 2009
School Board Meeting

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

Melissa Hyndes
Board Chair

Brian Robinson
Board Vice-Chair

Gail Alty
Holly Butterfield
John J. Keryluk
Judy Shirra
Diane Sowden
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Tom Grant
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Leslie Ikeda, President of the Coquitlam Teacher-Librarian Association, presented to the board on how district funding is being used to support teacher and student learning the area of online databases. Ms. Ikeda also thanked the board for its support in difficult economic times and asked for continuing support.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Acting Superintendent, Julie Pearce, reported on a number of events in the district, including:

- “Think Pink Day 2009”.
Many of our students will be dressed in pink tomorrow as part of anti-bullying day. A few site examples are:
 - Blakeburn Elementary has created ‘custom’ pink t-shirts and will be having a special assembly
 - Volunteer Now Youth ambassadors at Charles Best are spearheading a pink campaign
 - Volunteer Now Youth ambassadors at Riverside will discuss the topic at their assembly and the Pleasantside Elementary School PAC has purchased pink t-shirts for all students to wear on February 25th
- We have received a letter of thanks from “Free the Children” foundation, thanking staff and students for their support through resources and time to provide children in developing countries with:
 - access to education
 - access to medical supplies, and
 - access to clean water
- Taylor Gunn, the chief election officer, forwarded a letter and certificates to teachers in our district for their work in organizing STUDENT VOTE. These Coquitlam teachers organized students to run mock elections in their schools. Students assumed the roles of returning officers, poll clerks, and scrutineers on student vote day.
- Thanks was extended to the CTA and BCASCD for organizing a very productive evening of discussion and dialogue on February 12th regarding the integration of technology into the process of teaching and learning. Guest speakers included: Barrie Bennett, Marco Torres, Chris Kennedy.
- On February 13th CUPE staff met at Charles Best and CTA and CPVPA members attended Riverside for a day of motivation, learning and conversation with colleagues.
- Bryan Evans and Gesele Lajoie, were recognized for participating in a volunteer program for young learners in the Tri-Cities region. The non-profit program Tri City Kidsport helps provide children (ages 5—18) with access to sport opportunities and experiences.

SECRETARY – TREASURER’S REPORT

Staff project that the district will end the fiscal year (June 30th) with a balanced budget. The impact of an actuarial valuation of the Non Teaching Pension Plan will likely result in an increase in the board’s contributions on an annual basis and will be retroactive to January 31, 2009.

EDUCATION

Paul McNaughton, Principal of CABE and District Alternate Programs, reported out to the board on the Drug Intervention Pilot program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board formally approved amendments to Policy 7 – Board Operations to incorporate procedural practices.

NEW BUSINESS

The board approved the Budget Bylaw for the current fiscal year (2008/09) and approved capital project bylaws for three seismic remediation projects at Miller Park Elementary, Maillard Middle and Ranch Park Elementary as well as for replacement projects at Centennial Secondary, James Park Elementary and Pitt River Middle.

NOTICES OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion was brought forward to consider changing the spring break in March 2010. This item will be discussed at the March 10th public meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Holly Butterfield reported on transition initiatives at Heritage Woods Secondary, while Trustees John Keryluk and Brian Robinson attended a session concerning Bhutanese refugees who will be locating in the Tri-Cities.



Mark Your Calendar!

Regular Board Meeting

March 10, 2009

7:30 p.m.

School Board Office

550 Poirier Street

Coquitlam

For more information
on the Board Update

Contact:

Cheryl Quinton, Manager
of Communications
and Corporate Services
at 604-937-6775 or
cquinton@sd43.bc.ca



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