



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the January 12, 2010
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

Rick Humphreys

Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant noted a number of events and initiatives:

- Some 550 students from 8 schools will comprise a district choir to participate in the Olympic Torch Celebrations on February 11th
- Aspenwood Elementary has partnered with an Australian school as an Olympic initiative and students are building a replica of the Great Barrier Reef
- Various information nights and registration opportunities are taking place or being advertised for a variety of programs
- Six secondary students from our district received BC Science Achievement Awards
- Grade 12 Centennial International student Sophie Huang has received recognition from UBC for her achievements in Mathematics
- Pitt River Middle teacher Jennifer Dziwak received UBC's Outstanding Practicum Award for her work during her extended practicum in our district
- A group of 20 principals and 20 teachers from districts in China have completed training programs at International Education's Canada International College
- International Education will host a number of overseas groups in January and February
- Grade 12 students initiated and facilitated a "Success Club" at Maillard Middle, whereby grade 12 students tutor middle school students
- *The Messy Lie*, a short film shot at Porter Elementary, won Best International Family Short Film at the New York International Independent Film Festival

Secretary-Treasurer Rick Humphreys provided an overview of the 2009-10 Operating Budget current situation. There is a current budget shortfall of \$2 million due to a number of unexpected cost pressures and measures are underway to recover the shortfall while, maintaining current staff levels.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Bob Janzen outlined the 2010-11 budget process.

As required by legislation, the Statement of Financial Information for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2009 was made available to the public. The report is available on the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca/departments/finance.

EDUCATION

Assistant Superintendent Maureen Dockendorf reported on the plan to implement Full-Day Kindergarten in 20 of our elementary schools in September 2010. Parents are asked to register their children at their neighbourhood schools during the Kindergarten registration period of February 2-4. The Kindergarten cross-catchment process will follow Feb. 8-17. Full information is available on the district website's front page at www.sd43.bc.ca.

The Board will write a letter to the Ministry expressing its disappointment at the elimination of the Literacy Innovation Grant. Within School District No. 43 the monies (\$172,725 last year) were used to fund a variety of programs and services that supported literacy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The remainder of the funding from the School Community Connections Grant has been received for the Coquitlam River Elementary School playground, which has been completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Assistant Superintendent Julie Pearce, along with Carol Cahoon, Chairperson of the Coquitlam Montessori Society and Roxanne McIntyre, James Park Elementary Montessori teacher, reported on the district's Montessori program. Classes have been added at Seaview and James Park, and two additional classes at Baker Drive are under consideration.

Dean Whitson and Brett McLean, both Coordinators of the Secondary School Apprenticeship Program, provided a presentation on the program, which is expanding in our school district.

Rob Zambrano, Principal of Centennial, and Riverside Principal Scott Robinson, gave an update on the Hockey Academies at their respective schools. The programs are attended by a diverse group of students, and are proving to be a great addition.

BCSTA ITEMS

The BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council will be held Feb. 19-20 in Victoria. Board Chair Melissa Hyndes will attend.



Mark Your Calendar!

Regular Board Meeting

February 2, 2010
7:30 p.m.

School Board Office
550 Poirier Street
Coquitlam

For more information
on the Board Update

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