



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the January 13, 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

Teacher Carol Sirianni and four students of Riverside Secondary School presented highlights of their participation in the Social Justice 12 course. The students outlined their individual action plans, ranging from environmental issues to violence against women. A video presentation depicted a number of testimonials from other students in the class.

Kathleen Thomson, President of the Coquitlam Teachers' Association, presented the association's stance on Foundation Skills Assessment testing. Ms. Thomson noted that the CTA will advise teachers to not administer nor mark the FSAs. The Board passed the following three motions:

1. To waive policy to permit discussion of a presentation item
2. That the board direct district staff to draft a letter, similar to that of Vancouver School Board, to be customized to the SD43, to send out to parents
3. That the board send a letter to the Ministry (with a copy to BCSTA), phrased in a positive way, that FSA test results not publicly include school names and locations

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant reported on a number of school events and initiatives:

- The work of several Grade 12 visual arts students in our district will be featured at the 12th annual Emerging Talent Exhibition at the Evergreen Cultural Centre
- A team of district learning support teachers and staff development coordinators provided host and technology support for the international Congress of School Effectiveness and Improvement held recently in Vancouver
- Minnehada Middle School was one of eight sponsor schools of the Antarctica trek recently featured on TV in the Vancouver Sun and Province. Students were involved in e-mailing questions and blogging the participants of the trek, and the school logo was on the flag they planted at the South Pole
- Terry Fox Secondary will host a World Percussion Showcase concert Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30 pm. The evening is a semester end concert for the school world percussion course called World Beat
- For the fifth year in a row, the Ministry of Education will provide school districts around the province with a Literacy Innovation Grant. Coquitlam School District will once again use its funding towards the Learning Team Project
- An audit conducted on Continuing Education has resulted in an adjustment of \$95,000, which will be made up over the course of the year

SNOW REPORT

Mr. Grant reviewed the events of the week following Christmas break regarding the aftermath of heavy snowfall. As a result, the inclement weather administrative procedure has been revisited, with a focus on assessment of school sites and their surrounding areas in the early morning hours of snow days. Staff will also look at the feasibility of selective school closures, and have already begun to set up meetings with the various municipalities to improve communications and discuss ways to work more effectively together. The superintendent praised the work of administrators, school staff and maintenance staff for their hard work in challenging conditions. A letter will be sent home to parents outlining future measures.

SECRETARY – TREASURERS REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Bob Janzen provided the 2008/09 year end fiscal forecast, described the 2009/10 budget process, and reported on the Statement of Financial Information. Budget process information and financial statement information is available on the school district website at www.sd43.bc.ca

NEW BUSINESS

The draft Climate Action Charter, prepared by the provincial government, was provided for trustee discussion. The Board will provide feedback to the BCSTA by the end of January.

BCSTA ITEMS

Board Chair Melissa Hyndes and Trustee Judy Shirra will attend the BCSTA Academy February 25-27, and Trustee Gail Alty will attend the Provincial Council Meeting February 28.



Mark Your Calendar!

Regular Board Meeting

February 3, 2009

7:30 p.m.

School Board Office

550 Poirier Street

Coquitlam

For more information
on the Board Update

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