



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the January 16, 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

Students from Central Community School, introduced by sponsor teacher Harriette Chang, presented a PowerPoint presentation that they compiled outlining Random Acts of Kindness Week. The students' efforts in promoting acts of kindness are gaining interest throughout the Tri-Cities and beyond.

Cathy Delaney, Director of the BC division of the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, acknowledged the school district and the International Education Program for its support in the role of Community Partner.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS

The board will grant a request of \$3,000 to the Coquitlam Teachers' Association to assist with advertising costs for the ENCOMPASS 2007 Conference.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen reported on a variety of events/initiatives:

- Dealing with bouts of inclement winter weather
- Exams and the semester change at secondary schools
- School closure consultation meetings
- The Minister of Education's visit to launch the Strong Start Centres at Roy Stibbs and Riverview Park Elementary
- A carving unveiling ceremony at Moody Elementary
- Irvine and Kilmer Elementary schools will participate in the Ministry's Free Fruit and Vegetable program
- An information meeting for the Montessori Program
- Twenty students from each of our middle schools will join hundreds of secondary school students at the end of the month for the YES 2 IT Trades show in a number of our secondary schools
- Our district's display on Learning Teams at the Learning in Action Showcase at the BCSTA's Learning Academy received accolades from the BCSTA President, Penny Tees
- A letter of appreciation was extended to the International Education Program and Board Chair Melissa Hyndes for hosting a Viennese delegation in the spring. A Saudi delegation was hosted last week as well
- A group of students at Centennial Secondary – the Centennial Business Club – was honoured by being named the 2006 National Junior Achievement Company of the Year by Junior Achievement of BC
- A Community Crime Forum is being held January 17 at Central Community School

Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn provided a 2006/07 fiscal year-end projection. Prior to Christmas, the Ministry announced its funding allocations and for the first time in four years, the district did not receive any enrolment reserve (holdback) funding. This has resulted in a projected deficit of \$965,000. Staff will be bringing back to the Board, proposals to address the projected deficit.

Mr. O'Melinn also noted that an item of note coming up in the 2007/08 fiscal year is adjustments to the teachers' pension plan which will necessitate higher premiums to both employer and employee. The District's increased costs are estimated at approximately \$2 million.

EDUCATION REPORT

Approval of Board Authorized Courses

Frank Gigliotti, Transition Coordinator, described two courses for board consideration – Electrician Pre-Apprenticeship Technical Skills 12A and Electrician Pre-Apprenticeship Technical Skills 12B while teacher Jackie Barrington outlined the Orientation and Mobility 11 course. All would qualify for funding under the ACE-IT program. The board approved the three courses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Superintendent Doerksen provided a course fee update, in light of a review following a September court judgment on the School Board Fees Order. The following recommendations from the Superintendent were approved:

- To commit to include in the budget process a minimum allocation of \$450,000 to provide for the leasing of band instruments to support band and music programs in the district
- To indicate that, as a priority, during the regular budget process, the Board will consider increasing allocations to middle and secondary schools to cover course fee reductions

The board will send a letter to the Minister indicating the degree of impact the judgment has on the ability to offer programs such as band and music, and to ask for a change in legislation to allow exceptions.

Secretary-Treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn reported on feedback from the partner groups regarding the 2007/08 budget process as well as the budget principles, assumptions and criteria. Trustees approved motions to approve the majority of changes suggested by the stakeholders and to remove two assumptions concerning reimbursement from government for cost increases for employee groups and any mandate expansion.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Pearce provided a final version of Administrative Procedure (AP) 101 – Nutrition and Sale of Food to Students. The AP reflects extensive research and consultation with the various partner groups.

The board approved amendments to the 2007 Eligible School Sites Resolution, reflecting some adjustments to the resolution approved in October 2006.

NEW BUSINESS

As part of an ongoing review of administrative procedures, AP 402 (Employee Availability for Work) has been deleted as it is no longer valid.

As part of the ongoing review it was identified that school districts require a policy for the disposition of real property. The Board approved, via bylaw, a policy for the disposition to replace an existing administrative procedure dealing with real property dispositions.



Mark Your Calendar!

**Next Regular
Board Meeting**
School Board Office
Tuesday, February 6, 2007
7:30 p.m.

For more information
on the Board Update
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