



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the June 24, 2008
School Board Meeting

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

Holly Butterfield
Board Chair

Brian Robinson
Board Vice-Chair

Gail Alty
Debra Burton
Melissa Hyndes
John J. Keryluk
Diane Sowden
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Tom Grant
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Outgoing Student Leadership Council (SLC) President Omar Chatur reviewed the SLC activities over the past year and introduced the new council executive for 2008-09. Next year's theme will focus on reducing energy consumption.

Vivian Lo, representing the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver, expressed the Centre's concern about the increase in facility rental rates for their language school.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant noted the following events and initiatives:

- Five new StongStart Early Learning Centres will be established in our district. The new centres will be housed at James Park, Nestor, Walton and Coquitlam River Elementary Schools, and Maillard Middle
- Beginning July 1, new regulations regarding Child Seating and Restraint Systems will become effective
- Costco Port Coquitlam will donate backpacks and school supplies to students at a Port Coquitlam elementary school for the next school year

Mr. Grant thanked the Board and senior staff for their welcome and support in his first months as Superintendent of Schools. He cited various accomplishments in our district and outlined challenges and opportunities faced by our district in the months and years ahead.

EDUCATION REPORTS

District Principal Sarah Husband provided an update on Summer School registration (up 30% to date over last year's numbers) and outlined the various services provided by the Learning Innovation Network – Coquitlam Continuing Education, Coquitlam Open Learning, Customized Learning Centre and Summer Learning.

The Board approved the continuation of two specialty programs – The COAST Program at Gleneagle Secondary and Environmental Studies 10 at Centennial Secondary.

Maureen Dockendorf, Assistant Superintendent and a team of Staff Development Coordinators presented the 2008-09 District Achievement Contract and the District Literacy Plan.

The following Board Authority/Authorized Courses (for credit) were approved:

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication Skills and Strategies 11A
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication Skills and Strategies 11B
- Applications of Learning 11

Non-credit courses approved:

- LD Physical Education 10, 11 and 12
- LD Planning 10
- LD Science 10, 11 and 12

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board received changes to Administrative Procedure 414 – Retirement Function – to include the Presidents of the District Parent Advisory Council and the Student Leadership Council.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the district has not been able to collect an estimated \$880,000 to \$930,000 as a result of objections raised by local governments. He reported that the Ministry of Education has appointed a facilitator to address the latest objections.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved a capital project agreement with the Ministry of Education, enabling a seismic remediation project to begin at James Park Elementary. The work will take place using eight portables as swing space and is expected to take 12 to 15 months.

The Superintendent was directed to define a process and terms of reference relating to a review of educational programs for review by the Board.

The Board approved revisions to Policy 13 – Appeals Regarding Student Matters – to comply with revised requirements under the School Act that stipulates the policy needs to be approved as a bylaw and therefore requires three readings.

The Board also reviewed revisions to Administrative Procedure 380 – Resolution of Student or Parent School Concerns. The revision included reference to the new appeal process.

A change to Administrative Procedure 257 – Approved Vehicles for Conveying Students – was received as information. The change includes a moratorium on 15-passenger vans.

Trustees reviewed their school liaison assignments for the coming school year.

BCSTA ITEMS

BC School Trustees Association Director, Trustee Melissa Hyndes, provided an update on the BCSTA's Strategic Plan, which is expected to be completed by September. Input is requested by the Early Learning Agency regarding early learning initiatives being considered by the Ministry of Education.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Brian Robinson enjoyed attending the Commencement Ceremony for Aboriginal students at Lions Park in Port Coquitlam and the Gleneagle Commencement ceremony at the Orpheum. He commended teacher Richard Dixon for his outstanding description of "leadership".



Mark Your Calendar!

**Next Regular
Board Meeting**
Tuesday, July 15, 2008
7:30 p.m.
School Board Office
1550 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