



**School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)**

# ***The Board Update***

*News from the March 16, 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*

## **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATONS**

Board responses were supplied to two February 23, 2010 delegations, centering on concerns about the placement of Special Education Assistants; and a High Abilities Classrooms Initiative for Middle Schools.

## **DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS**

Superintendent Tom Grant noted a number of district events and initiatives:

- Students are involved in a number of Paralympic school-based activities, and several field trips to events are taking place
- A Full-Day Kindergarten Summer Institute, hosted by Coquitlam School District in conjunction with Mission School District, will be held July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Woods Secondary
- Ten middle schools will participate in the Middle School Battle of the Books April 14 at the Port Moody Inlet Theatre
- Cedar Drive Elementary will host "Readalicious" Literacy Week
- Many District music teachers and students will take part in the Water's Edge Festival at the Evergreen Cultural Centre March 19-21
- Some of the District's participants in the Torch Ceremony Choir formed some of the 2000 voices in the Paralympics Choir

Assistant Superintendent Sylvia Russell provided a report on February class size/composition consultations for elementary and middle schools.

Secretary-Treasurer Rick Humphreys provided information on the provincial funding announcement. It translated to a \$3.76 million shortfall for the district. Once again, Coquitlam is the lowest in the province in per-student funding. Trustees will arrange to meet with the area's MLAs and Mayors to further explain the budget challenges and discuss items of mutual interest.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Bob Janzen reported on the stakeholders' budget planning process. Forty schools participated in an electronic survey tool posted on the staff intranet system.

## EDUCATION

Assistant Superintendent Julie Perce, Director of Instruction Dave Taylor and Louise Malfesi, Coordinator, Gifted program, presented a Middle School Gifted Cluster Classroom Pilot Proposal. The Board approved the pilot project at Citadel and Hillcrest Middle schools, whereby identified gifted students will be clustered together in the same class for their core academic subjects and integrated into the larger school community for their explorations.

As a follow-up to the Community School Administrative Procedure, community school coordinators Heather Roemer and Steve Brown-John provided an update on the district's community school programs and future goals.

## TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustees Gail Alty and John Keryluk enjoyed judging the public speaking events; Diane Sowden re-capped the DPAC meeting; Judy Shirra attended the annual Soroptimists Tea in which two district students received awards; and Geri Wallis provided information on the new Direct Access funding.

**SPRING BREAK**  
**MARCH 26—APRIL 5**



### Mark Your Calendar!

#### Special Public Board Meeting (Budget)

March 23, 2010

7:00 p.m.

School Board Office

550 Poirier Street

Coquitlam

For more information  
on the Board Update

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