



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the March 11, 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

Moody Middle students Jake McFarland and Jonathan Kang, introduced by their teacher Sara Keeler, narrated a presentation describing their Social Responsibility project which assisted homeless people in their community. They devised a marketing plan and collected a number of toiletries from their school community and businesses to donate to a local shelter.

Teacher-librarians Tuloan Trieu of Scott Creek Middle School and Karen Ferguson of Moody Middle School, presented statistics regarding full-time equivalent staffing allotments at middle school, and outlined the role of the teacher-librarian.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

With Spring Break just around the corner, schools are in the midst of concerts and musical theatre productions, report cards, sports tournaments and the final stretch of learning for this school year. Among the activities and initiatives:

- Dr. Charles Best Secondary held a "World Issues Day" to bring pressing global issues to their students through a variety of speakers covering topics such as Human Rights, third world development, infectious diseases, race and gender issues, fair trade and more.
- Carol Sirianni, Music Teacher at Riverside Secondary who is an avid advocate for social justice, arranged to have over 10,000 discarded books and texts sent from our community to Africa to benefit AIDS orphans and other less privileged.
- With proceeds from Heritage Woods' Recycling Program, fleece fabric was able to be purchased at a bulk discount. With that fabric, Textile Studies grade 9, 11 and 12 students created baby outfits for children in an orphanage in the Ukraine. Alison McKay, a teacher on leave from our district who is currently volunteering in the Ukraine, visited the textile classes and shared some of her experiences with the students.
- DPAC drew over 100 parents to an informative session on Cyber Safety, and this week during Stop Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week, another presentation on Internet Safety will be held March 13 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. at Coquitlam City Hall chambers.
- Three elementary schools – Pleasantside, Glenayre and Riverview Park, will participate in a national pilot program to increase the number of children using "active modes" of transportation to and from school. The goal of the School Travel Plan is to cut down on the dependence of vehicles around school sites which would increase safety and cut down on emissions. This "Way to Go" School Program will officially be launched April 1, and marks a partnership between various community stakeholders.
- Still on the subject of safety, booster seats will become mandatory in BC as of July 1, 2008 and this has implications for our elementary schools and field trips in particular. Under the new regulations, booster seats will be mandatory for children over 40 pounds until their 9th birthday, unless they have reached the height of 4'9". Schools, along with their PACs, are working on implementation plans, but it will no doubt prove to be challenging.
- In the area of healthy initiatives, February was Heart Month, and several of our schools participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart event. They skipped their way to thousands of dollars in donations while learning about the importance of an active lifestyle.
- It continues to be a busy time at International Education this month. Last Friday concluded a week of hosting 19 principals from Nanning, China who were studying at the program's International College.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS—cont'd.

- In its budget address, the BC government recently indicated a focus on early learning initiatives. To outline what's taking place in our district in the area of early learning, Maureen Dockendorf, the Director of Curriculum/Staff Development reported on a number of initiatives. She noted the high attendance at the Strong Start Programs at Roy Stibbs and Riverview Park Elementary Schools; and Family Play and Learn Night at Coquitlam Centre.

Bob Janzen, Director of Financial Services, brought information on the Stakeholders Budget Planning Process. This year, the collection of data was received electronically using a survey tool available as part of *my43*, the district's intranet site.

On another matter, the Board directed staff to write a letter to the Ministry and MLAs regarding the introduction and impact of a carbon tax by the Provincial Government.

EDUCATION REPORTS

Coordinators Martine Duby, Jill Reid and Brian Kuhn, Manager of Information Services, provided examples via a PowerPoint presentation of teacher and student use of technology in our schools.

Dale Shea, District ESL (English as a Second Language) Coordinator, provided an update and review of the district's ESL Kindergarten Pilot program, known as KESL.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board of Education will suggest that the South East Skytrain route be selected, given the Board's previously identified safety concerns.

Julie Pearce, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed the implementation of the new process regarding Administrative Procedure (AP) 495 – School Volunteers, and AP 253 – Volunteer Drivers and the Use of Privately Owned Vehicles. Staff will undertake a review of the process in April 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board received revised AP 255 – Student Exchange, Sister School and Humanitarian Programs and AP 561 – Use of Surplus School Facilities.

The Board approved revisions to Policy 7 – Board Operations.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent – will be brought forward and discussed at the April 1st public Board meeting, as will Policy 21 – Disposal of Real Property.



Mark Your Calendar!

Next Regular Board Meeting
 Tuesday, April 1, 2008
 7:30 p.m.
 Winslow Centre
 Gallery Room
 1100 Winslow Ave.
 Coquitlam

Special Public Board Meeting (Budget)
 Tuesday, April 8, 2008
 7:00 pm
 Winslow Centre
 Gallery Room
 1100 Winslow Ave.
 Coquitlam

Special Public Board Meeting (Budget)
 Tuesday, April 15, 2008
 7:00 p.m.
 Winslow Centre
 Gallery Room
 1100 Winslow Ave.
 Coquitlam

For more information on the Board Update
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