



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

**Melissa Hyndes**  
*Board Chair*

**Gail Alty**  
*Board Vice-Chair*

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Debra Burton  
John J. Keryluk  
Brian Robinson  
Diane Sowden  
Gerri Wallis  
Keith Watkins

**Laureen Doerksen**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Lorcan O'Melinn**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*



*School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)*

# *The Board Update*

*News from the March 13, 2007  
School Board Meeting*

## **DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Stephanie Owen, Program Manager for the Children of the Street Society, provided information on the society's programs and initiatives including *Sexual Exploitation of Children Awareness Week* March 12-18.

Reece Harding, a parent/PAC member at College Park Elementary, appeared as a delegation to express concerns over the closure of the school in June 2007.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Feb. 27, 2007 board meeting were not approved and will be brought back with amendments after review by staff to the next public board meeting April 3. The minutes of the Special Public meeting of February 27, 2007 were approved with an amendment.

## **DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS**

Assistant Superintendent Sylvia Russell reported out on several events and initiatives:

- Re-defining of school boundaries for the five elementary schools designated to close June 30 has been completed and transition activities for students and staff of the five schools and the receiving schools are well underway. With assistance from the principals, families have been choosing their new school sites, principals and staff from receiving schools are visiting the schools designated for closure, several parent meetings have been held, as well as school tours. Following Spring break, various student activities will take place to help prepare students for the transition.
- February was full of activities, with schools hosting Ready, Set, Learn sessions, Valentine's Day activities, public speaking festivals, kindergarten registration, Jump Rope for Heart fund-raising activities, and Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Kilmer and Irvine Elementary Schools are taking part in the provincial school fruit and vegetable program
- The Coquitlam Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association's Hog Wild for Reading Initiative raised \$17,350 for books in school libraries
- A total of 20,391 students participated in the annual Terry Fox Run, raising \$115,154 for cancer research
- Students and community members are enjoying the new adventure playground at Cape Horn Elementary
- Based on his exemplary preliminary results, Gleneagle student Hwi Lee was invited to write the prestigious 2007 Canadian Mathematical Olympiad on March 28
- The district's Literacy and Numeracy Learning Team Support project will receive a \$197,700 grant as part of \$5 million in literacy grants across the province, from the Ministry of Education

Finance Director Bob Janzen reported out on the February 19 Stakeholder Budget Planning Session. The information from the school-based and district meetings will be provided for trustees, schools, department and partner groups and the public, via the district website.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Gerri Wallis reported on the liaison meeting with the City of Coquitlam Feb. 2. Items discussed included school closures and ensuing issues, the City's strategic plan, light rail transit update, and the School/Community Connections Program.

Trustee John Keryluk reported on the liaison meeting with the City of Port Coquitlam Feb. 14. Items included the school district's seismic upgrade program, joint use of outdoor facilities, the Matrix Planning Associates report on declining enrolment and pending school closures, safety on Victoria Drive during the construction period and the School/Community Connections funding program.

## EDUCATION REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Sylvia Russell, Manager of Information Services Brian Kuhn and VP/Technology Lead Stephen Whiffin presented a five-year Strategic Technology Plan. The detailed plan will be structured to allow for annual updating, providing a living document for the district.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The item on school fees was deferred to the April 3 board meeting.

The Board received a letter from the Vancouver Humane Society regarding field trips to the Greater Vancouver Zoo. The Board noted that field trip destinations are school-based decisions.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

Trustee Keith Watkins filed a notice of motion for the next board meeting regarding the school closures.

## TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Holly Butterfield enjoyed attending Anmore Elementary's Public Speaking finals and the "Art for Anmore" fund-raiser at Heritage Woods Secondary.



### Mark Your Calendar!

**Next Regular  
Board Meeting**  
Winslow Centre  
(Gallery Room)  
Tuesday, April 3, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

For more information  
on the Board Update  
Contact:  
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