



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

News from the May 13, 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

Anmore Elementary teacher Jennifer Whiffin, with grade 5 students Steve Marchese and Kayla Kask, described their class's involvement in KIVA, an integrated social responsibility project. It is centred on a "micro load" website, whereby students electronically assist people in poverty from around the world by providing them with small business loans.

TRUSTEE PRESENTATION

Six Trustees were presented with Long Term Service Certificates from the BC School Trustees' Association:

Trustee Debra Burton – 6 years

Trustee Melissa Hyndes – 6 years

Trustee Brian Robinson – 9 years

Trustee Holly Butterfield – 12 years

Trustee Gail Alty – 15 years

Trustee Gerri Wallis – 15 years

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant noted various events and initiatives:

- The Board will honour 83 (to date) district retirees this year at the annual dinner June 5
- The Learning Team Celebration acknowledging the work of 1200 educators over the past year will take place May 27, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the Winslow Gym
- Thank you to all involved in the Emergency Student Release Practice May 7th
- The winning group in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative from Heritage Woods has been asked to present at the national conference May 29 in Toronto
- The District Elementary Track and Field Event runs between May 25-29; thanks were extended to the organizing committee
- Pleasantside Elementary will host a Walking Wednesday May 21st
- The 28 school board office employees that participated in the Big Bike fundraiser for the BC Heart and Stroke Foundation raised more than \$8,800 - the highest amount ever raised by a single team in the Tri Cities
- Riverside Secondary staff, students and parents participated in a two-week public awareness/fund-raising campaign for cancer research
- Six grade 5 students from Mundy Road Elementary won the Global Challenge Reading Link Competition

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorcan O'Melinn informed Trustees that the district is anticipating a \$441,000 surplus by the end of the school year. Approximately \$402,000 is needed to balance the 2008/09 budget.

EDUCATION REPORTS

Elizabeth Thompson, Director of Instruction (Student Services) provided an overview of recommendations and implementation actions from a Task Force to address a chronic shortage of Special Education Assistants in the district, and to maximize their services. The Task Force was comprised of representatives from all employee groups.

Ms. Thompson and Margaret Mary Deck, Aboriginal Program Coordinator, presented an overview of the first year of implementation of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement and a framework for the program's first annual report.

Abby Soh, Principal of James Park Elementary and District Coordinator of the Roots of Empathy (ROE) Program, presented an overview of the ROE program highlights, and invited Trustees to attend a year-end celebration May 26 at James Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The City of Port Coquitlam has rejected the Eligible School Site Proposal resolution, therefore the Minister of Education will be appointing a facilitator.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board adopted the following bylaws:

- Combined Seismic Project Agreement Amendment Bylaw – required for smaller scale seismic remediation projects
- Baker Drive Elementary Consolidation of Lots Bylaw – required for a seismic remediation project
- Property Bylaw No. 2008-4 – Millside Elementary Lease Agreement with Burnaby Christian School Association (for lease Sept. 2008 – Dec. 2009)

NOTICES OF MOTION

Trustee Keith Watkins will bring a motion forward to the June 24 board meeting dealing with long-term planning and facilities use.

BCSTA ITEMS

Trustee Melissa Hyndes will attend the BCSTA's Strategic Planning Session May 25/26.



Mark Your Calendar!

**Next Regular
Board Meeting**
Tuesday, June 3, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Winslow Centre,
Gallery Room
1100 Winslow Ave.
Coquitlam

For more information
on the Board Update
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