

## FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

### Board Beliefs and Directions

The Board of Education believes the overall operation of School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is more productive and effective when it is guided by a sense of commonly held beliefs and goals. Together, our beliefs, mission and goals enable the fulfillment of our purpose and provide direction and guidance to District developments and operations.

#### 1. Our Purpose

The Board of Education is mandated by and accountable to its community to provide public education which supports the intellectual, personal and social needs of its students as they develop their potential.

#### 2. Our Beliefs

*We believe in our students.*

Our students are valued members of society. They are the future. The success of tomorrow's society depends on their ability to reach their full potential.

*We value and respect individuals.*

We welcome diversity and recognize that some students require more support than others. All students are entitled to appropriate programs, learning materials and methods of teaching, within available resources.

*We value our community.*

An effective school district derives its strength and integrity from mutually supportive student, parent, staff and community relationships. We believe these positive partnerships result in responsible and accountable decisions that serve to ensure quality learning opportunities for students of all ages.

*Our focus is for our children.*

We believe learning is a lifelong process that requires the support and involvement of our community, that students are our most important focus and that helping them attain their goals is our highest priority.

*We value dual-track programming.*

In keeping with our societal diversity, we believe it is desirable to offer optional programs for students at locations which also offer regular programming.

*We support the establishment of school-community agreements.*

We believe that planned, mutually-beneficial activities between schools and community businesses, agencies and organizations are desirable when such ventures are consistent with our purpose, mission and beliefs.

### 3. Our Mission

*Our mission is to ensure quality learning opportunities for all students of all ages.*

We are committed to:

- 3.1 Building positive relationships with students by developing their individual potential in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to contribute to a pluralistic society.
- 3.2 Furthering the concept of learning and education as lifelong pursuits.
- 3.3 Facilitating participatory decision-making processes that involve educators and support staff, students, parents and the public to:
  - 3.3.1 set annual goals;
  - 3.3.2 develop District plans;
  - 3.3.3 establish budget priorities;
  - 3.3.4 draft policy and procedures and review existing ones.
- 3.4 Providing an environment which encourages innovation, a sense of common purpose, and the utilization of our schools as community resources.
- 3.5 Continuing the development of the skills and potential of all employees.
- 3.6 Ensuring the cost effectiveness of educational programs and District operations through the efficient allocation of resources.
- 3.7 Advocating for public education.

### 4. Current Directions

The Board recognizes that, in fulfilling its purpose, it must provide leadership by establishing goals and objectives which reflect its corporate beliefs and mission and which enable trustees to act on behalf of the community in setting and reviewing key policy and directional issues for the District.

#### 4.1 Primary Goal

##### 4.1.1 Student Achievement

- 4.1.1.1 To improve students' literacy skills.
- 4.1.1.2 To improve students' numeracy skills.
- 4.1.1.3 To increase the number of students graduating.
- 4.1.1.4 To improve student safety and sense of belonging.

#### 4.2 Secondary Goals

##### 4.2.1 Student Achievement

- 4.2.1.1 To increase student technology skills in support of learning.

## 4.2.2 Operational

- 4.2.2.1 To continue to foster and enhance positive school and community relationships.
- 4.2.2.2 To achieve respect for diversity.
- 4.2.2.3 To review and update our long-term strategic plan.
- 4.2.2.4 To direct District financial resources towards effective learning opportunities for all students.
- 4.2.2.5 To accommodate demographic change while maintaining physical environments for quality learning.
- 4.2.2.6 To generate additional resources to support education for all students.

By doing these things well, our schools will provide quality learning for all students and help to ensure the support of our community.

## **Philosophy and Aims**

The Board of Education acknowledges that it has a responsibility to make statements of philosophy and of aims which expand upon provincial expectations and which reflect its own corporate beliefs and objectives. These policy statements are intended to endorse present educational provisions within the District and guide future District developments.

### Philosophy

1. The Board believes that learning, and consequently education, is a lifelong process by which society seeks to transmit its cultural heritage, knowledge, skills and values to succeeding generations.
2. The Board believes that in our society, formal public education has become so important to the individual's development, that it is seen as being a basic human right, which, though not the sole responsibility of any one person, group or organization, is particularly the concern of the public school system.
3. The Board believes that its mandate is to provide an education which is secular in nature and free from religious, racial or sexual biases.
4. The Board believes that the District's task to provide schooling is based on a specific statutory charge, that it efficiently deploys human and material resources to provide effectively for students' learning and the development of their talents in a continuing effort to achieve equality of educational opportunity for all.
5. The Board believes that, in carrying out its statutory responsibilities to establish, maintain, monitor and develop the District school system, it must encourage administrative and instructional practices that are both flexible and adaptive in fostering individual school educational efforts.
6. The Board believes that all its students have equal rights to be offered through the school system, within the limits of the resources available to it, a wide variety of educational opportunities that will develop in the least restrictive environment, their potentials as individuals and as members of society.

7. The Board believes that the realization of these rights requires responsible attitudes and behaviour on the part of the students, their parents and the community towards schooling.
8. The Board believes it is important that all its personnel have due regard for the integrity and well-being of students, so that they are not denied freedom of thought and speech, nor the right to personal dignity.
9. The Board believes that it must make best use of the resources provided to it and seek to cooperate with parents and community agencies to enhance educational opportunities.

### Aims

The following statements translate the Board's philosophy into more specific terms. They identify ongoing aims of the Board under five major components of School District operation.

#### 1. Management

The Board aims to provide appropriate educational opportunities for students by establishing progressive policies and by placing a major emphasis on the quality of instruction provided. It delegates responsibility for decisions of a professional and technical nature, flowing from its policies, to staff through its administration.

The Board aims to provide District educational staff whose major function is to offer leadership in personnel development and program coordination and to employ business, financial, clerical, and maintenance staff whose purpose is to support the educational process.

The Board assigns schools the responsibility of establishing their own educational objectives within Provincial and District policies and guidelines. It allows schools flexibility to organize in ways they perceive to be appropriate to meet differing needs.

The Board aims to make continuing education services available as a natural part of the senior secondary schools' instructional programs.

The Board aims to have suitable procedures for assessing and revising its policies, programs, personnel, facilities, and resources.

#### 2. Programs

The Board aims to provide programs, within available resources, that meet the educational needs of all students at each stage of their development. The final authority for determining students' program needs is the Superintendent or his/her designate. The Board supports the concept of meeting these needs through comprehensive school-based programs, but it recognizes that there is a place for special District services also.

The Board aims to provide students, through Provincially prescribed curricula and approved courses developed locally, experiences in core subjects, fine arts, cultural

and physical activities in sufficient breadth, depth and variety as to reflect the unique needs and interests of this District's students.

3. Personnel

The Board aims to employ personnel whose training, knowledge, and skills are highly developed, and who are strongly committed to this District's students' welfare, educational programs and services. It aims to provide staff with assignments and opportunities that will best enable them to use their skills. It aims to encourage and assist staff to assess their performance, and to provide them with opportunities to develop professionally.

4. Facilities

The Board aims to provide facilities that best serve the programs and services within the District; to maintain and equip them as appropriately as possible, and to make them available to individuals and groups within the community in a regulated manner as long as such availability does not detract in any way from their prime use, i.e. public schooling.

5. Learning and Other Resources

The Board aims to provide not only those learning resources that are provincially prescribed, authorized and approved, but also a wide variety of supplementary books, audio-visual materials, and school and District library services and materials to meet the educational needs of all students. It aims to provide efficient selection, processing and maintenance services as well as effective means of distribution for all learning resources.

Legal Reference: Section 85, School Act

Board Minutes

April 2000 Volume 23 Page 6 Policy II-C-2 Philosophy and Aims  
June 2005 Volume 47 Page 78 Policy 1 Foundational Statements  
February 2006 Volume 48 Page 17