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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***Building Stronger Communities Through Partnerships***

**(Coquitlam, BC – November 29, 2017)** School District 43's Board of Education has approved the sale of a small piece of unused land to the City of Coquitlam after receiving supportive feedback from school staff, PAC Chairs, community members and the City through a consultation process.

Proceeds from past SD43 unused land sales have supported capital projects and improvements in the school district such as the new Smiling Creek Elementary (\$2.9 million contribution), the Glen Elementary addition (\$2.2 million contribution), the Banting Middle seismic replacement (\$1 million contribution) and the Blakeburn Elementary four-room detached addition (\$2 million contribution).

"Selling unused land is an option for our school district to generate funds for our needs when full funding is not received from the provincial government through capital project submissions and our ongoing advocacy," stated Board Chair Kerri Palmer Isaak. "It directly supports our strategic vision objective of ensuring the school district has facilities that support world-class learning."

Proceeds from selling the 1.2 acres of unused land at Glen Elementary on the corner of Glen Drive and Westwood Street will support several school improvement projects at schools in Coquitlam benefiting both students and the community-at-large. For example, the partnership between School District 43 and the City of Coquitlam will result in an expanded and enhanced play space for students at Glen Elementary and an artificial turf sports field on the old Centennial Secondary site. The collaboration will also lead to other improvements still to be determined and approved.

"The City of Coquitlam continues to support partnerships with SD43 to optimize public resources and build a stronger community through joint opportunities that offer greater public amenities for all. When we work together, the community wins," noted Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart.

"SD43 is pleased to be collaborating and partnering with the City of Coquitlam on this to create exceptional facilities for our students and for community members," added Board Chair Palmer Isaak.

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