



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

*News from the June 4, 2013
School Board Meeting*

Our Mission:

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

Melissa Hyndes

Board Chair

Holly Butterfield

Board Vice-Chair

Gail Alty

John J. Keryluk

Brian Robinson

Judy Shirra

Diane Sowden

Gerri Wallis

Keith Watkins

Tom Grant

Superintendent of Schools

Guy Bonnefoy

Acting Secretary-Treasurer

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Students Sophia Kim, a grade 10 student at Port Moody Secondary and Jeremy Fell, in grade 9 at Riverside Secondary, delighted those in attendance with their winning entries in the Spoken Word Festival.

A group of students who took part in the Worlds of Odyssey of the Mind presented to the Board. Local teams fared well with two in the top 20 – a formidable showing, given that they competed with more than 50 teams from around the world in each age category.

PUBLIC BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Tom Grant noted a number of events and initiatives:

- The commencement ceremonies, activity days, performances, preparing for exams and keeping the students focused on curriculum in these final weeks
- 2013 Professional Learning Exchange, (formerly known as the Learning Team Celebration) May 15 at Winslow. This event provided opportunities for networking and group interactions, to share learning experiences and have informal deeper conversations
- Every year, a collection of bands and orchestras from some of our middle and secondary schools perform for the public. This year, it took place at Leigh Square in Port Coquitlam on Saturday, May 25. The public enjoyed music by students of Pinetree, Heritage Woods and Port Moody Secondary Schools and Pitt River, Summit Middle, School Creek and Kwayhquitlam Middle Schools
- Congratulations to the five teams from our district who competed at the Odyssey of the Mind Worlds this year - Rochester Elementary, Hillcrest Middle, Gleneagle Secondary, Eagle Ridge Challenge Centre and Citadel Middle.
- In the first year that the Poetry in Voice competitions expanded to the western provinces, our district ended up with three finalists in the national competition held recently in Toronto - Colin Fehr, a grade 12 student from Heritage Woods, and Port Moody students Maxine Owers (grade 10) and Dena Tabyanian (grade 11). Dena competed in the bilingual category. Maxine made it to the final round, placing in the top 6, while Colin will have his recitation uploaded to the Poetry in Voice website as an exemplar for future contestants.
- A number of our students are among the recipients of the Coquitlam Foundation Awards Night, being held tonight at the Evergreen Cultural Centre. A record \$116,000 in bursaries, scholarships and grants is being distributed to various individuals and organizations.

PUBLIC BUDGET PRESENTATIONS CONT'D

- Kudos to the 2013 District Elementary Track and Field Committee for another outstanding event. With the assistance of Gleneagle and Riverside Secondary student volunteers, parent volunteers and staff, more than 2,400 students enthusiastically competed over the four-day event.
- Also kudos to Jeff Stromgren, Healthy Living Coordinator, for his hard work in coordinating the Mountain Bike Provincials. Close to 200 students from around the province took place in the event that took place in the forest trails around Bert Flinn Park and Heritage Woods.

Acting Secretary-Treasurer Guy Bonnefoy noted that the architectural firm of Grant & Sinclair have submitted the James Park Elementary School design for a Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Award in Architecture, offered by the Architect Institute of BC .

EDUCATION

Assistant Superintendent Reno Ciolfi introduced four new Board Authority/Authorized Courses, which received Board approval – Understanding Addiction 12; Women’s Studies 12; Sport Science 11 and Sociologie 12 (French Immersion).

Assistant Superintendent Julie Pearce brought forward the work of the Safe Schools Task Force and the Safe Schools Advisory. Coordinators Marna Macmillan and Don Gordon presented information to the Board.

Andrea Hunter, Learning Support Teacher for Early Learning, and three StrongStart Facilitators presented information about the StrongStart Program in the district – the first public school experience for many children and their families.

Coordinator (Information & Library Services) Heather Daly, along with a member of the Tri-Cities Literacy Committee, provided a report on the Committee’s progress to date, and outlined the 2013-14 Action Plan.

Assistant Superintendent Sylvia Russell provided an overview of the agreement reached by Human Resources and the CTA regarding the Learning Improvement Funds (LIF) for teaching, and outlined the spring staffing allocation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Guy Bonnefoy, Acting Secretary Treasurer, introduced representatives from the firm of KPMG, who highlighted the context of a forensic audit and process review of the district’s budget process. The Board voted to direct staff to engage legal counsel to appoint the firm of KPMG to conduct a forensic audit related to forecasted operating budget deficits and to conduct a procedural review of school district financial services.

The board passed the first two readings of the annual budget bylaw and gave notice that a special meeting of the Board will be held immediately following this meeting to give third and final reading of the budget bylaw. A special meeting of the Board was called following the conclusion of the first, in which third and final reading of the budget bylaw took place. The bylaw was adopted.

As per Board direction, the existing Partner Presidents Committee will add quarterly budget review to its mandate. Procedures and processes will be developed in consultation with the Secretary Treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed new Administrative Procedure 406 – Employee Drivers and the Use of School District Owned Vehicles. The Board requested that staff include additional information and bring it back for review at a future Board meeting.

Following a public appeal for name suggestions and a narrowing down by a committee as per an administrative procedure, the Board considered the three top suggestions for the new middle school being built in Anmore. Twin Lakes Middle School emerged as the winner.

Trustees reviewed their liaison assignments.

Given the current budget deficit and the volume of work associated with the budget implementation, the board decided to not submit a needs budget to the Ministry this year.

The Board will submit a letter of support for the City of Coquitlam to host the 2016 BC Senior Games.

Assistant Superintendent & Director of Instruction (International Education) Patricia Gartland reported on the K-12 International Education Regional Roundtable discussions, in response to proposed Ministry changes to offshore schools. The Board will send a letter to the provincial government that echoes the sentiments of the BC School Trustees' Association, expressing their displeasure of charging a per-student levy and imposing a cap on enrolment numbers.

Trustees planned their calendars for the coming months.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Judy Shirra attended the Port Coquitlam Cadets review, and highlighted some outstanding accomplishments by some of our students who are cadets.

Trustee Gerri Wallis attended the annual Roots of Empathy celebration, the Student Leadership Council meeting, and extended congratulations to the student recipients, schools and Children of the Street Society for their Coquitlam Foundation scholarships and bursaries.

Trustee Diane Sowden enjoyed Centennial's awards ceremony and she and Trustees Wallis and Gail Alty attended the District Parent Advisory Council (PDAC) annual general meeting.



Mark Your Calendar!

Regular Board Meeting

Tues., June 25, 2013
7:30 pm
Board Office Boardroom
550 Poirier St,
Coquitlam