



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

*News from the March 5, 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

Tom Grant

Acting Secretary-Treasurer

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The following employee groups made presentations to provide input to the 2013-14 budget process:

- Home Economic LSA
- Teachers Teaching on Call (TTOC)
- Student Services
- Speech & Language Pathologists
- Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA)
- Staff Development Coordinators/Learning Support Teachers
- Coquitlam Music Teachers' Association
- Coquitlam Teacher-Librarians' Association

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant reported on a number of events and initiatives:

- Staff and students are looking forward to a much-needed spring break.
- Teachers have been busy preparing second term formal report cards.
- Schools throughout the district participated in various activities to recognize National Pink Shirt/Bullying Awareness Day. Amongst the activities, more than 4,200 students from 17 schools around the district enjoyed the Kindness Rocks concerts at Gleneagle Secondary. Kudos to Mike Slinger, VP at Scott Creek, and other organizers for coordinating this massive event.
- The organizing committee for the Principal and Vice-Principals' Association "In Motion Event for Cancer Research" is busy promoting the 12th annual event. On Sunday, April 7, participants will be embarking on a 2, 5 or 10 km walk, run, roll or ride to raise money for cancer research. Registration forms are available all schools and the board office.
- Congratulations to two teams of grade 9 students from Centennial who did exceptionally well in the National Science Teachers' Association North American Toshiba "Explora-vision" Contest. One team of 4 emerged as Regional Champions, while another received Honourable mention! The Regional Champion team is now up against 5 other teams from across North America, to become the Continental winner and the potential to win significant cash prizes and a trip to Washington DC.
- Parents from several schools around the district have been benefitting from internet safety expert, Jesse Miller, as schools and PACs have been sponsoring his presentations. In his presentations, Jesse discusses social media awareness and safety, social networking behavior and online content.
- The Southside Family of Schools will present Supporting School Success: Helping Children to Develop Independent and Effective Approaches to Learning, featuring Dr. Nancy Perry, Thursday, March 14 from 6:45 to 8:30 pm at Kilmer Elementary.
- Through consultation with DPAC, parents in our communities are encouraged to participate in a Thoughtstream process just launched, to gain input on the budget process. Unlike a traditional survey tool which is geared for short responses, Thoughtstream seeks out rationale behind the responses, in a forum that is confidential and thought-provoking.

In his role as Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Grant thanked the earlier presenters for their positive and thoughtful presentations with respect to the budget process, and cautioned that the district faces difficult budget times ahead.

EDUCATION

The Student Achievement Advisory Committee provided information to the Board of Education regarding its role in the school district.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board approved the 2013-14 proposed school calendar, which includes a two-week Spring Break. It has now been sent to the Ministry of Education for final approval. It can be viewed via www.sd43.bc.ca

NEW BUSINESS

The Board appointed the firm of KPMG LLP to provide financial audit services for the SD43 for a three-year period ending with the June 30, 2015 fiscal period audit.

In light of legislative changes that further define class configurations, Assistant Superintendent Sylvia Russell reported on SD43’s class sizes. Our district did not see as significant a change in its class size averages as a result of the definition change, as classes have always been inclusive.

Trustees reviewed the graduation schedule and organized their attendance.

BCSTA ITEMS

Board Chair and BCSTA Director Melissa Hyndes will attend the BC School Trustees’ Association AGM in April. Ms. Hyndes noted that over 40 motions will be brought forward at the AGM.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees Judy Shirra and Gail Alty enjoyed the Kindness Rocks presentations at Gleneagle Secondary. the Board will send a letter of acknowledgement to Scott Creek VP Mike Slinger and other organizers.

Trustee Shirra gave kudos to the Heritage Woods grads, on their impressive exit presentations.

Lunch with the Suwa’lkh elders was enjoyed by Trustee Diane Sowden. She and Trustee Wallis also attended the last DPAC meeting.



Mark Your Calendar!

Next Regular Board Meeting

Tues., Apr. 9, 2013
7:30 pm

Board Office Boardroom
550 Poirier St.
Coquitlam BC

Special Public Board Meetings—Budget

Tues., April 16
7:00 pm

Winslow Centre – Gallery Room
1100 Winslow Ave

Tues., Apr.23
7:00 pm

Winslow Centre – Gallery Room
1100 Winslow Ave.

For more information on the Board Update

Contact:
Cheryl Quinton, Manager of Communications and Corporate Services at 604-937-6775 or cquinton@sd43.bc.ca