



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

Melissa Hyndes
Board Chair

Gail Alty
Board Vice-Chair

Holly Butterfield
Debra Burton
John J. Keryluk
Brian Robinson
Julie Rogers
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

*News from the October 25, 2005
School Board Meeting*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Acting Superintendent David Osborne delivered the following message:

With schools and district programs returning to full operations and routines, I would like to take this opportunity to extend appreciation to students, their families and all those affected by the recent job action for their patience in dealing with the many challenges during these difficult times. At the same time I would like to acknowledge the community support for our teachers and CUPE staff during this trying period. The decision to participate in job action is never an easy one and I know that it has added much stress to many these past few weeks.

Our staff, in partnership with everyone involved in the learning community, will continue to work hard to ensure that the focus on student learning remains a priority. We can appreciate that there are concerns about missed instruction time and the readiness for provincial exams. In cooperation with our partner groups, the district will review ways in which school terms can be successfully completed.

With regard to provincial exams, in cooperation with other metropolitan districts, we have asked for Ministry of Education consideration concerning the exam schedule. Specifically, we have asked for the first term exam schedule to be delayed by one week. If the Ministry is able to accommodate our request, we will advise schools and students immediately. At the same time, our secondary schools are in the process of discussing the grade 12 situation and will be adjusting their efforts to the altered calendar.

We, in collaboration with our many education partners, now have a responsibility to recommit to the key goal areas of improving student literacy and numeracy skills, improving school graduation and completion rates and improving students' safety and sense of belonging. Our mission is indeed the most important task for our young and the most laudable legacy we may leave for our children. The gift of public education is one of the finest traditions we enjoy in British Columbia.

EDUCATION

Maureen Dockendorf, Director of Instruction – Curriculum and Staff Development advised the Board that all 70 School Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been received, and she provided a summary of the school goals. Gary Kern, Administrator of Special Projects, provided the principal's perspective of the "living document" and the value of SIPs.

NEW BUSINESS

Incremental Adjustments of Teacher Wages

After deliberation in-camera, at the public meeting the Board moved to comply with the Ministry's request and proceed with appropriate October adjustments and, subject to discussion with the Coquitlam Teachers' Association, increase the November mid-month advance to 60%*

**A subsequent meeting with the CTA the next morning resulted in the mid-month advance being moved up to November 10th instead of the 15th, at the regular 43% payout.*

Enrolment and Class Size Report

The district class size averages are as follows:

Kindergarten: 18

Grades 1-3: 21

Grades 4-12: 26

Administrative Procedures

Trustees were given six revised Administrative Procedures as information.

Remembrance Day Services

All trustees intend to attend the Remembrance Day services in their respective communities.

BCSTA ITEMS

Trustee Holly Butterfield, the Board's representative on the BC School Trustees' Association Provincial Council, reported on items discussed at the Provincial Council Meeting of October 22nd. She provided an overview of Deputy Minister Emery Dossdall's presentation describing the new ministry mandate which includes literacy, learning, community libraries, and healthy schools. She advised trustees that he raised some questions regarding the future role of school boards, and that the BCSTA suggested that all school boards write to the association to affirm the role of school boards. A letter will be sent to the district partner groups seeking their support. This issue will be brought forward to the November 8th board meeting for further discussion.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Keith Watkins thanked senior management staff for their leadership skills and extra efforts during the recent job action.



Mark Your Calendar!

The next regular Board Meeting will be
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2005
7:30 p.m.
School Board Office

For more information on the Board Update Contact:
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