



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-939-6758

Learning for a Lifetime

BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 7, 2020

CHAIR:

Green School Initiative Update

Kerri Palmer Isaak

As a follow up to communication regarding School District #43 (Coquitlam) building the “Greenest School in Canada”, the Board of Education would like to provide you with an update resulting from the negative impact of COVID-19.

VICE-CHAIR:

Craig Woods

School District No. 43 continues to pursue a much-needed secondary school for the Burke Mountain development in Coquitlam. Projections indicate that a new secondary school (beginning as a middle/secondary) is required for the 2023 school year. The District currently has the support of the Ministry of Education to move forward with a “Concept Plan”, which is the final stage before funding approval.

TRUSTEES:

Jennifer Blatherwick

Barb Hobson

While this development is positive news for SD43, the “Green School” initiative, undertaken by the Board of Education through its Green School Initiative Committee with SD43 staff, was halted in the wake of the current COVID-19 pandemic. It is no longer feasible to continue pursuing a “net zero” or “net zero ready” Burke Mountain Secondary School due to this delay and the timeline required to minimize delays to the opening of this school once funding has been approved by the Ministry of Education. As such, the Green School Committee will suspend its activities as they relate to the new Burke Mountain School. While disappointing, it is important to mitigate the potential financial risk associated with any possible shortfall in securing funds and avoid impeding or delaying the new school construction project unnecessarily.

Carol Cahoon

Lisa Park

Christine Pollock

Michael Thomas

Keith Watkins

There are many capital projects addressing needs across many areas of our district and each one is approached with ‘green’ initiatives in mind. Every project is envisioned and built to the highest funded environmental standard, and though the goal of achieving the “Greenest School in Canada” must be abandoned for now, the district remains hopeful that such an ideal may one day be reached with another new or replacement school in the very near future.

In summary, due to factors beyond the control of the Board of Education and the Green Committee, combined with the financial risk associated with incremental funding requirements for a “net zero ready” school, the Board has decided to terminate the “Green School” project and cease efforts to raise the additional required funding to instead focus this energy on building the new Burke Mountain Secondary as swiftly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and support of School District No. 43, we look forward to furthering our partnership in another capacity on a future green project.

Yours truly,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM) BOARD OF EDUCATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerri Palmer Isaak', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kerri Palmer Isaak
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education
Patricia Gartland, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Chris Nicolls, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO