



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 6A7 ● Phone 604-939-9201 ● Fax: 604-939-7828

June 14, 2018

## Community Celebrates Re-Opening of Lacrosse Box

Students, parents, school district employees, community members and dignitaries gathered on Thursday, June 14, 2018 to celebrate the re-opening of the lacrosse box on the grounds of Minnekhada Middle School as part of the major new school seismic replacement construction project.

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) Superintendent Patricia Gartland presided over the event attended by Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore, SD43 Board Chair Kerri Palmer Isaak, Vice-Chair Michael Thomas, Trustees Carol Cahoon, Chuck Denison, Barb Hobson, Judy Shirra, Secretary Treasurer Chris Nicolls, and other dignitaries and guests from the school and community.

The celebration offered welcoming remarks from Superintendent Gartland, greetings from Education Minister Rob Fleming offered by Board Chair Palmer Isaak, and speeches from Board Chair Palmer Isaak, Mayor Moore and Minnekhada Grade 7 student Blake Van Straten. This was followed with a formal activity where Board Chair Palmer Isaak, Mayor Moore and Superintendent Gartland, joined by Trustees and city Councillors, cut a ribbon to officially open the lacrosse box. As the ribbon fell, student athletes proudly wearing their teams' jerseys excitedly rushed into the lacrosse box with their sticks and played games.

Students, athletes and community members will all benefit from these new sports facilities. In particular, Port Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse Association (PCMLA) will again play games in the re-opened box. The PCMLA administers lacrosse for males aged five to nineteen and females aged five to twenty-one in Port Coquitlam and has develop a proud following in the City of Port Coquitlam.

The lacrosse box was disassembled to make way for the new school construction to begin. It was then moved to its new location at the east end of the school along Laurier Avenue. The lacrosse box and sport court are phase one of the overall Minnekhada seismic replacement project which will see a new 600 student capacity school built.

The new school will include many features that support the Middle School Philosophy and best practice educational research such as an abundance of natural light, large project and collaboration spaces, and movable walls between classrooms for team and interdisciplinary learning. It will have a variety of classroom spaces as well as exploration spaces for information technology, fine and performing arts, home arts, and technical education.

## Quotes

### **Rob Fleming, Minister of Education**

“This is a significant phase in the construction of your new seismically-safe building. Sports have always enriched my life and I know first-hand the benefits of being active. That’s why I’m excited to see Minnekhada students can now enjoy upgraded recreation facilities that encourage healthy competition and camaraderie.”

### **Kerri Palmer Isaak, School District 43 Board of Education Chair**

“Our Board of Education is very pleased to open the new lacrosse box and sport court at Minnekhada Middle School. It is another positive outcome from our ongoing collaboration with the Provincial Government and the City of Port Coquitlam to bring benefits to students and community members.”

### **Greg Moore, City of Port Coquitlam Mayor**

“Lacrosse has a long, rich history in Port Coquitlam and we’re excited to see the re-opening of the Minnekhada Lacrosse Box. This facility provides children and adults in our community a place to play the sport they love and be active.”

### **Patricia Gartland, School District 43 Superintendent of Schools**

“Providing exceptional facilities for students is important to our Board of Education and school district, and in this case the new school seismic replacement project provides sport amenities for students, families and community sports organizations to all use. We are pleased to continue supporting sports in Port Coquitlam.”

## Event Pictures





## Learn More

Minnehada Middle School website:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/minnehada>

Minnehada Middle School page on SD43 Capital Projects website:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/CapitalProjects/Pages/MinnehadaMiddle.aspx>