



## Board Meeting Highlights March 7, 2012

### **Trustees:**

Mike Murray (Chair), Eleanor Palis (Vice-Chair), Susan Carr, Ken Clarkson, Kathy Marshall, Sarah Nelson, Dave Rempel

### **Executive:**

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer)

### **Presentation: Jesse Miller on Social Media Education and Awareness**

Jesse Miller of Mediated Reality presented to the Board on *Children and the Social Media*, stressing the need for the opening of a formal dialogue around appropriate and ethical use of social networking tools. Miller observed that social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are changing the nature of “friendship” and blurring the distinction between public, private, and professional. Parents, students, and teachers need to be made aware of the dangers of uninformed social networking, Miller advised, while school districts more broadly need to begin developing policies around the use of social media. The Board thanked Mr. Miller for highlighting the dangers of these online tools and expressed its intention to look at best practices in the development of the District’s social media guidelines and policies.

### **Board to Support Meaningful Mediation**

In response to a letter received by the Maple Ridge Teachers’ Association requesting the Board to communicate to the government its concern about Bill 22, the Board expressed its deep regret that the many months of bargaining between BCPSEA and BCTF have come to an unsatisfying conclusion. The Board further announced its adoption of a resolution to prepare a letter to the Minister of Education, requesting the appointment of a mediator agreeable to both parties so as to ensure a meaningful bargaining process and an outcome acceptable to both sides.

### **Trustee Reports**

The Board expressed its thanks to Maple Ridge Joint Parks and Leisure Services for running well-attended day camps during the recent 3-day teachers' work stoppage. Parents and the District alike appreciated this much-needed support.

### **Good News**

Chair Murray noted the following good news items: the Board has ratified the CUPE collective agreement and thanks all those who had participated in the long but successful process; all funds raised in the upcoming Haney Rotary Club Ladies night will go to support the school lunch program run by the Salvation Army; a sincere thank you from the Board to Rick Halis for helping raise funds to plant trees in front of Maple Ridge Secondary School.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on March 28, 2012 in the District Education Office.**