



Board Meeting Highlights September 29, 2010

Trustees:

Ken Clarkson (Chair), Susan Carr, Mike Huber, Eleanor Palis (Vice-Chair), Dr. Dave Rempel, Stepan Vdovine

Executive:

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Stewart Sonne (Deputy Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer)

Presentation: 21st Century skills highlighted in Achievement Contract

Director of Education David Vandergugten provided highlights of the Achievement Contract, focusing on the use of technology to develop 21st Century skills. He described the benefits of the one-to-one laptop program, which is now offered in 26 classrooms, and said that future goals include more opportunities for educators to share strategies, more support for teachers moving to this kind of learning, and more opportunities for students to share their inquiry projects and presentations.

Board ratifies new name for Pitt Meadows artificial turf field

The Board approved a recommendation to ratify the decision by the City of Pitt Meadows that the new artificial turf field at Pitt Meadows Secondary School be named “Pitt Meadows Community Sports Field.” An official opening ceremony will be held at the new field on Saturday, October 16 at 10:00 am.

Continuing BCeSIS woes prompt letter to Ministry

The Board approved a recommendation to write to the Ministry of Education outlining the “extreme level of frustration in our district over BCeSIS deficiencies..” and asking the Ministry to resolve the problems so that “our staff and those Province-wide, can focus on our students’ learning.” Prior to the motion, Superintendent Unwin had said that many teachers and staff were unable to access the system during regular hours, and that this was causing safety issues.

District on target to comply with Bill 33 requirements

The Board received a preliminary report outlining district progress towards meeting Bill 33 class size and composition requirements. Director of Instruction Laurie Meston said that School District No. 42 was in excellent shape thanks to the “calm and elegant manner” in which school staff had responded to Bill 33 issues. Superintendent Unwin thanked the executive of the Maple Ridge Teachers’ Association (MRTA) for their hard work, and added that the “number of hours spent by numerous people from day one has been astronomical.”

Summer School update

The Board received a summer school report from Director of Instruction Stewart Sonne. He said that 412 students had attended summer school in 2010 and that more than 95% of those students had completed their courses. Trustees agreed that moving summer school to the new Riverside Centre next year will benefit students throughout Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Child Protection policy to be developed by December

The Board received a report outlining district timelines for developing child protection policies. Director of Instruction Stewart Sonne said that a comprehensive child protection policy will be developed by December 2010. As well, procedures will be developed to ensure that employees, contractors and volunteers understand “how to carry out their legal duty to respond when concerns about child abuse are raised.” Presently, all school principals, counselors, and child and youth care workers receive a copy of Responding to Child Welfare Concerns. The district had strong ties with relevant community agencies, and there are strong student support networks in place in all schools.

No remaining concerns with Aldridge farm project

The Board received information relating to a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the school district, the Aldridge family and CEED Centre that will create an opportunity for students in district alternate education programs to participate in operating a farm as part of their studies. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson said the District of Maple Ridge’s Bylaw Officer had found no potential zoning issues relating to the project’s terms of use. Director of Instruction Sonne said he had investigated other concerns that had been raised. He said that the farm project was consistent with the District emphasis on providing choice and on finding ways to engage students in their learning.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, October 13
at 6 PM in the District Education Office.**