



## Board Meeting Highlights January 11, 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 (Acting Deputy Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer)

### **Catchment Review**

The Board approved recommendations to realign a number of school catchments so as to accommodate continued growth in East Maple Ridge. Acting Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston noted that the final recommendations incorporated valuable suggestions received during public feedback. The approved recommendations were as follows:

1. To realign the catchments of Blue Mountain Elementary, Alexander Robinson Elementary, Webster's Corners Elementary, Kanaka Creek Elementary, Albion Elementary and Whonnock Elementary.
2. To allow the grandfathering of siblings for students who previously lived in the Albion and Alexander Robinson catchment areas. (This grandfathering opportunity is for siblings born by January 2012 who are currently identified on a district list.)
3. To modify acceptance criteria for prioritizing placements for all registrations in order to accommodate displaced catchment siblings on district list.
4. To reassign catchment areas in subdivisions not yet built in the Albion, AR and KC catchment to another "catchment area" where there is room.

The Board also added an amendment to the resolution, stipulating that a Communication Plan be prepared to inform parents moving into the affected areas about current catchment boundaries.

### **Presentation: Achievement Contract**

The Board received a presentation by Stewart Sonne, Director of Instruction - Secondary and Adult Education, who outlined parts of the 2011 Achievement Contract that deal with Graduation Rates, Grade to Grade Transition, and Aboriginal Education.

Sonne informed the Board that District resident grad rates, which rose from 75% in 2004 to 89% in 2011, beat target rates set by the Ministry of Education, and credited this increase to the hard work of District teachers. In his review of Aboriginal Education, Sonne explained that aboriginal students who make it to grade 12 are found to graduate at a higher rate than resident students, and noted that case managers are assigned to every aboriginal student who doesn't graduate. This follow-up work, Sonne said, is consistent with the District's broader commitment to keeping kids in school. Finally, Sonne reported that in the area of Grade to Grade Transitions this District was recognized as one of two most improved.

### **French Immersion Catchment**

The Board approved the recommendation to realign the Laity View and Eric Langton Elementary French catchment areas to increase the Laity View catchment and decrease the catchment for Eric Langton Elementary. The Board further approved the recommendation to grandfather siblings of students who previously lived in the Eric Langton catchment and now live in the Laity View catchment.

### **Good News Items**

In the Good News section of the agenda, trustees noted the following: Trustee Palis attended a pep rally at Pitt Meadows Secondary School at which the Grade 12 Senior Basketball boys' team commemorated coach Rich Goulet's 1000<sup>th</sup> win with the gift of a watch. Reporting on behalf of the Community Literacy program, trustee Palis noted that January 27 is Family Literacy Day and that two free financial literacy workshops will be offered. Chair Murray commented on the outstanding Christmas concerts in the District and thanked Katzie First Nations for the great cultural experience of the Long House Education Forum.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on January 25, 2012 in the District Education Office**