



Trustees:

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

Executive:

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer), David Vandergugten (Director of Instruction), Stewart Sonne (Director of Instruction), Harry Dhillon (Acting Director of Human Resources)

Learning Disabilities presentation

Laurie Smith, District Principal for Student Support Services, introduced Acting Vice-Principal for Student Support Services Katherine Shearer, and Student Support Services Facilitator Deirdre Way. They showed the Board a video featuring secondary students talking about their learning disabilities and the strategies that help them, and outlined various initiatives that are contributing to improved learning outcomes for students with learning disabilities.

Board approves two-week Spring Break

The Board approved a recommendation for a 2011-2012 school year calendar that will include a two-week Spring Break in March 2012 and an additional non-instructional day in November 2011. In addition, all schools will have common start/stop times, and all six professional development days will be held on common dates. The school day will be lengthened by approximately 10 minutes in order to compensate for the six additional non-instructional days. The new calendar will enable the district to save almost \$200,000 from not having to pay staff replacement costs when schools are not in session and from reduced heating and transportation costs during those periods. The common start/stop times will also result in more effective and efficient use of staff resources. The approved calendar was one of five options the Board considered. Prior to their final decision, the Board debated and then defeated motions in favour of two of the other options: one to make no changes; and one to only change school start/stop times. Chair Clarkson commended staff for their work in preparing the options, and commended trustees for a “respectful, democratic process.”

BCSTA Provincial Council

The Board gave direction to Trustee Ward with regard to two motions that will come before the British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council. As the Board's BCSTA representative, she will vote in favour of the BCSTA budget for 2011-2012, and in favour of the BCSTA retaining D&H Group LLP, Chartered Accountants as its auditors for another year.

Good News

Trustees and staff noted the following Good News items: Amazing Grade 12 Graduation Portfolio Presentations at Maple Ridge Secondary School; an Arts Gala at Garibaldi Secondary School; and the first day of the annual Spring Cross-Country meet.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, April 27
at 6 PM in the District Education Office.**