



Board Meeting Highlights September 12, 2012

Trustees:

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

Executive:

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

Presentation: Mentoring 2012 to 2014, The 4 Cs

District Helping Teacher Craig Mitchell shared with the Board his vision for a child-driven District Mentorship Program. Key elements of this vision include retrieving the passion and joy of the past and combining them with technology; taking a community approach; and striving to create a mentoring culture across the District. The program must be voluntary, teacher-driven, and non-evaluative. The four “C”s of Mitchell’s approach are Commitment, Commonly Shared Experiences, Communication, and Celebration. The plan, Mitchell explained, includes establishing a network for new teachers and teachers on call, establishing a teacher pool of talent and resources, and offering a variety of teaching strategies.

District Welcomes New Secretary Treasurer

The Board welcomed new Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan to the District and thanked Wayne Jefferson for his four outstanding years as Interim Secretary Treasurer.

Audited Financial Statements Received

The Board received Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2012. Donna Diskos, a partner at the accounting firm Grant Thornton, reported to the Board on the process and outcome of the annual audit. Ms. Diskos observed that there were no limitations in the scope of the firm’s audit procedures and characterized the audit process as having been “extremely smooth.” She thanked Assistant Secretary Treasurer Peter Bullock and Interim Secretary Treasurer Wayne

Jefferson for their commitment to good financial control and for their dedication to the children in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District.

Audited Financial Statements are posted on the school district website at <http://www.sd42.ca/financial-reports-0>

Policy Development Process Overview

Interim Secretary Treasurer Jefferson outlined the policy development process for the Board. In the first stage of the process, the Board Policy Development Committee creates policies that are sent out to stakeholders and special interests / partner groups for feedback. In the next stage of the process, the Policy Development Committee reviews the feedback received and makes revisions as necessary. The draft policies are then brought to the Board for approval to post online for additional public feedback. Interim Secretary Treasurer Jefferson reflected that this process leaves a great deal of room for feedback and for “sober second thought.”

Board Policies

The Board reviewed the following policies and procedures for continuation of the consultation process:

Policy 2400 – *School Board Meeting Proceedings*
Policy 2320 – *Board Committee and Trustee Representation*
Policy 2915 – *Board Chairperson: Elections, Roles, Responsibilities*
Procedure 2915.1 *Trustee Elections – Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson*
Policy 2918 – *Vice-Chairperson: Elections, Roles, Responsibilities*

Policy 9510 – *Flags – Canada and British Columbia*
Policy 10510 – *Board Correspondence*
Policy 10540 – *Financial or In-Kind Donations*

The Board also approved the following policies and procedures for implementation and review respectively:

Policy 4435 – *Scholarships, Bursaries and Student Awards*
Procedure 4435.1 – *Scholarships, Bursaries and Student Awards*
Policy 5401 – *Use of Board-Owned Buses / 15 Passenger Vans*
Procedure 5401.1 – *Use of Board-Owned Buses / 15 Passenger Vans*
Policy 5701 – *Records and Information Management - General*
Policy 6600 – *Naming of School Facilities*

Board Policies are available for review on the District website at <http://www.sd42.ca/sd42-policy-manual>

Enrolment Report

Superintendent Jan Unwin provided the Board with an enrolment report for the 2012 – 2013 school year. Superintendent Unwin noted that District enrolment predictions for the kindergarten level were accurate, and observed also that initial analysis shows the District down approximately 70 students at the elementary level. The District will undertake a more thorough analysis of this decline and analysis results will be brought to the Board in a future meeting.

Good News Items

The following good news items were shared in this section of the evening: Trustee Carr reflected on the ongoing construction around Maple Ridge Secondary School, noting that the school was successful at communicating to parents and students the locations of alternate pickup and drop-off points; *Staples* donated 160 backpacks to our schools; Perry Bateson's *Yuen's Family Martial Arts* coordinated the donation of additional school supplies; and the *Tzu Chi Foundation* supported kids' camps.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on September 26, 2012 in the District Education Office.