



Trustees:

Mike Murray (Chair), Susan Carr (Vice-Chair), Lisa Beare, Korleen Carreras, Ken Clarkson, Dr. Dave Rempel

Executive:

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer)

Correspondence

The Board received the following two letters:

1. A copy of correspondence from the Prince George Board of Education to the Ministry of Education requesting changes to the annual facility grant request/approval process.
2. A copy of correspondence from the Minister of Education to the president of the *BC School Trustees Association* addressing education funding.

Youth Group Presentation

The Board received a presentation from Tony Cotroneo, Recreation Manager - Youth and Neighbourhoods with *Parks & Leisure Services*. Mr. Cotroneo presented the results of a recent survey undertaken on behalf of several youth groups. The survey sought to determine the critical issues affecting youth between the ages of 13 and 24. Both youth and their parents were surveyed. The results identified substantial increases in screen time and the use of technology, and highlighted a significant emergence of mental health issues. The survey seeks to inform a youth strategy being developed by the municipality.

Regular Student Transportation

The Board received a presentation from community member Linda Meyer, who requested that trustees reconsider their decision to discontinue regular student transportation effective September 2016.

Funding for PACS and DPAC

The Board approved a proposal for District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) funding in the amount of \$3,900. Individual PACs will be given the opportunity to determine if they wish to use some of this funding to become members of BCCPAC – a provincial organization representing parent advisory councils. DPAC will provide an annual report on the use of these funds.

Grades K – 9 Distributed Learning Program

The Board approved an expansion of the district Odyssey program to a full distributed learning model for grades K – 9, commencing in September of 2016. This expansion will provide families with another option to support children who, for a variety of reasons, have chosen not to attend a regular school program.

International Baccalaureate: Culinary Arts

A new Culinary Arts IB program was approved by the Board to be offered at Garibaldi Secondary School (GSS). Registered students will be able to obtain IB certification for the course alongside the other IB courses being offered at the school. The possibility of offering a Middle-Years IB Program at the school is also being explored by Garibaldi staff.

Learn more about the International Baccalaureate program at <http://gss.sd42.ca/programs/international-baccalaureate>

Calendar Change

The Board approved a change to the 2015/16 school calendar, removing a “schools not in session” day previously identified for Thursday, June 30, 2016. Since the last day for students is June 28th, this change only affects staff. Superintendent Russell explained it is important that schools be open and administrative staff be available on this day to address any year-end parent and student enquiries.

Rental Rates 2016/17

A comprehensive report on school rental usage and rental rates was presented to the Board. The report showed that youth group use of elementary school gymnasiums in particular has decreased considerably since the introduction of significantly higher rental rates in January of 2014. The report also showed that SD42 rates are higher than the average of the comparators presented for gymnasiums and higher than those of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Services for similar facilities.

In light of this information, the Board adopted the proposed rental rates with an adjustment to these rates for non-profit preferred (youth) groups to parallel rates for similar facilities being charged by Parks and Leisure Services. The hope is that this reduction will encourage greater youth group use of these facilities, and that more activities will therefore be available for local youth.

Policy Development Committee:

Policy 9430 - Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings

Draft Policy 9430: Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings had been available for public input for the past month and was brought back to the Board for adoption. No public input was received during the consultation period. Staff noted that considerable consultation took place as the policy was being drafted, and that representatives of *Inclusion BC* were involved in developing the policy, which has been posted to the district website at <http://www.sd42.ca/section9000>.

Policy 2400: School Board Meeting Proceedings

The Board adopted an amended School Board Meeting Proceedings policy that reflects a continuation of the practice piloted during the past school year of meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. Additional meetings are added as required for processes such as the facilities planning process, annual budget review/consultation and other initiatives. Trustees expressed appreciation that the change allowed them the latitude to visit schools on the days previously committed to Board meetings in the old bi-monthly meeting schedule.

The amended policy has been posted to the district website at <http://www.sd42.ca/section2000>.

Carbon Neutral Program report

Alexandra Tudose (Manager, Energy and Environmental Sustainability) reported on the progress of the Carbon Neutral Energy Management Program, noting the success of the past year. The implementation of the plan will result in estimated savings of 4.44 million kWh and 12,800 GJ, and estimated utility cost savings of \$.5M that will be reinvested in schools. A greenhouse gas emission reduction of 758 tonnes of CO₂ will also be achieved. Ms. Tudose reported the district is almost halfway toward achieving the noted goals. Trustees noted the positive impacts of the educational component of the program, and liked that students are being engaged in the initiative.

The 2015 Carbon Neutral Action Report has been posted to the district website at <http://www.sd42.ca/sustainability>.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Sylvia Russell presented the superintendent's update, which included the following highlights:

- Congratulations were extended to the first cohort of School District No.42 Alternate (Connex) students who successfully completed their Mobile Equipment Operator Certification Course. Congratulations Chase Robitaille, Brandon Challenger, Hayden Beattie, Terrance Bishop, Josh Nelson, and Liam Anderson.
- Congratulations to Marissa Thomson, Sydney Croteau, Cici Mao and Megan Teo who won the Garibaldi Secondary Youth Philanthropy Initiative and won \$5,000 for their charity, Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living. Garibaldi Secondary also introduced Track and Field this year, and has 35 students participating in the Track & Field Upper Fraser Valley Championships.
- Westview Secondary held a Literacy Week from April 18th – 22nd. Highlights of activities include a visit from Rabbit Ears author and Egoff Children's Literature Prize Winner Maggie De Vries, and the *Battle of the Books* competition, which featured guest speaker Susin Nielsen. Also at Westview: woodshop students built and delivered flower bins to Fairview Elementary and mentored Fairview students in the basic techniques of woodworking; the Industrial Design class constructed a skeleton of the Westview Wildcat; the school hosted its annual Ultimate Fitness Challenge.
- A grade 7 Blue Mountain Elementary class undertook an in-school archaeology dig under the direction of their teacher, Ken Derinzy. The activity helped students understand the excavation process, and also taught them about the process of gathering and analysing information for the purpose of learning about other cultures.

- Davie Jones Elementary and music teacher Jodi Dahle proudly presented Seussical Jr. on May 17 and 18.
- Edith McDermott Elementary held its annual art show at the end of April, featuring live performances from students. The school also held a PAC carnival, and grade 7 students attended Camp Sasamat for three days.
- At Glenwood Elementary, Finn the Canucks mascot attended an assembly to receive a cheque for \$450 in funds raised for Canuck Place.
- Montessori students at Hammond Elementary unveiled their five new Buddy Benches, which were created over the past year. Children who have no one to play with can sit on a Buddy Bench, signalling other students to invite them to join in their play. The idea is to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground, and to spread the message of inclusion and kindness.
- Laity View Elementary held a lemonade sale as part of Give 365 to benefit Fort McMurray. The Maple Ridge Fire Department was at the school to help cool the children off. The school raised over \$1,400.
- Finally, Webster's Elementary participated in a shoreline clean-up at Kanaka Creek. So far, 116 out of 204 have chosen to participate in the event to help the community. Webster's also hosted a music night fundraiser later that same night.

Trustee Reports

Minutes of the May 4th partners round table meeting were adopted noting discussion of proposals to hold meetings in schools in an effort to engage students in a more direct fashion in the work of the Board.

Trustees Rempel and Carreras reported on the Arts Council, indicating the group recently approved five bursaries for graduating students who will go on to studies in a variety of artistic disciplines (Dance, Theatre, Music, Visual Arts and Literary Arts).

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening trustees noted that they visited several schools over the past month and participated in a wide variety of special events from a student forum and Busy Town at Harry Hooge Elementary to the Samuel Robertson 10-Year Anniversary. Trustees also attended musicals at Golden Ears, Eric Langton and Davie Jones Elementary and participated as judges in a variety of public speaking contests. Finally, trustees noted the Eric Langton clothing drive at the Hive on May 28.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm June 15, 2016 at the District Education Office.