



### **Odyssey K-9 Program**

Fairview Elementary principal Cathie Watkins and teacher Brenda Peebles spoke to the board about the Odyssey K-9 program, currently housed at Fairview Elementary. The program offers an alternative to families who want to educate their children at home. Odyssey provides individualized learning plans for each student and offers flexible pacing within the current system. The program currently has 36 students registered from K to Grade 9.

### **2017/18 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw**

The board approved the amended annual budget bylaw for 2017/18. The full document can be viewed on the district website in the February 21, 2018 agenda package.

### **2018/19 Rental Rates**

The board approved the proposed rental rates for the 2018/19 school year. Rental rates are calculated based on either the full cost recovery per square meter per hour or on market rates, which in turn are determined through an annual market analysis. The 2018/19 rates can be viewed online at <http://www.sd42.ca/facility-rentals/>

### **New Employer Health Tax**

The board prepared a motion for the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) that the BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance increase funding for school districts to fully cover the cost of the newly created Employer Health Tax of 1.95% on total payroll. The school district estimates that the new tax will cost \$2.2 million, which will be a net cost increase of \$0.7 million. In addition, for 2019, both MSP and the new tax will be in effect, creating an additional estimated cost pressure of \$0.35 million.

### **Approved BAA Courses**

The board approved, revised, and retired a number of Board Authority/ Authorized courses. The review was prompted by a province-wide directive from the Ministry of Education that school districts determine which courses are to be retired or revised in light of the new ministry curriculum. The full list

of approved, revised and retired courses is available on the district website in the February 21, 2018 agenda package.

### **Recycling Program**

Secretary treasurer Coughlan explained that the school district will be moving to a three stream waste collection program of organics, recyclables and garbage. This recycling model has been implemented in surrounding school districts with great success and will be a step forward in the district's journey toward sustainability.

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Russell provided the board with an update on various school events and activities.

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening trustees noted the following items: trustees Rempel and Murray observed that the Pitt Meadows Marauders are number one in Fraser Valley East and currently ranked 10th in the province; trustees Murray and Carr reported on their visit to Pitt Meadows Elementary where they saw a Grade 1 Chinese New Year presentation.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on March 7 at the District Education Office.**