

**Board Meeting Highlights**  
**October 26, 2011**

**Trustees:**

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

**Executive:**

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Acting Deputy Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer)

**Bill 33 Final Report**

Acting Deputy Superintendent Meston reported that the organization of classes across the District was in compliance with the requirements of Bill 33. All Primary and Intermediate classes at Elementary are at or below class size limits and all class size averages at Elementary are in compliance with Ministry expectations. Class size issues at Secondary have either been resolved or are being addressed. Acting Deputy Superintendent Meston noted that Elementary and High School Principals have worked hard to ensure that all students are in appropriate placements and that class sizes are appropriate for student learning.

**Board passes motion to continue to use the COLA rate for 2012**

Secretary Treasurer Wayne Jefferson presented the Board with the findings of the ad-hoc committee assembled to review Trustee remuneration. Taking into consideration both the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Greater Vancouver areas and the current stipends paid to 9 other School Districts, the committee offered four options for the Board's consideration. Trustee Carr put forward a motion that a fifth option of no increase in remuneration should be considered. The Board reviewed and debated all presented options.

A motion was passed to select option number three (seen as the most equitable), which is to continue to use the COLA rate for 2012 to increase the current base rate of \$18,207 by approximately 2% for Greater Vancouver. This amounts to an estimated overall increase of \$364. The 2011 COLA rate is expected to be published in the first week of February 2012.

**Fraser Valley BCSTA Branch meeting**

Reporting on the Fraser Valley Branch meeting, Trustee Ward noted that each district was asked to highlight one or two items from their district and that she herself highlighted the district's Environmental School program. During the course of the meeting, Education Committee representative Sylvia Dyck asked the Boards to begin discussions about the ways in which the introduction of an Integrated System of Early Care and Learning would affect their districts. Issues to consider include the extent to which the system might benefit children in all areas of the province

and general preparedness on the part of the districts. The next Fraser Valley Branch meeting will be held in December.

**School choices affecting real estate sales**

Trustee Palis drew the Board's attention to an article in a real estate resource guide. The article noted that school and school district preferences are increasingly becoming a determining factor in home purchase. Buyers are willing to pay more for properties situated in good school districts. Trustee Huber agreed that this consideration is in fact becoming a factor in real estate sales and that it highlights the extent to which parents value their children's education.

**Good news item: a safer and healthier Halloween**

The Board recognized that schools are doing a great job in making this year's Halloween happy and safe. Students are being encouraged not only to bring in non-perishable food items for the local food bank instead of the usual sweet treats, but also to trade in their scary or ghoulish costumes for ones that are more caring and community-friendly.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, November 9  
at 6 PM in the District Education Office**