



**Trustees:**

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

**Executive:**

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), Shannon Derinzy (Director of Instruction), Harry Dhillon (Director of Instruction, Learning Services), David Vandergugten (Director of Instruction)

**Capital Funding Bylaw**

The Board adopted a capital funding bylaw to access \$1,960,261 of the Annual Facility Grant funding provided by the provincial government. The total funding provided amounts to \$2,389,658 and will be used for various energy management projects, roof replacements, mechanical equipment replacements, as well as some level of non-structural seismic mitigation.

**2016/17 Preliminary Budget**

The Board approved the preliminary budget. Trustees thanked district staff for their diligence in preparing the budget, and thanked the general public and partner groups for their invaluable input.

In addressing the preliminary budget, trustees acknowledged the importance of providing modest additional funding to address the class size and counseling issues identified during the budget consultation process, and also reflected on the challenges of the budget process in light of the limited financial resources provided by provincial government.

Trustees discussed the decision they made in April 2015 to discontinue regular student busing effective September 2016, noting that the decision was made to address the government's province-wide requirement for "administrative savings plans." This requirement specifically identified student transportation as one of the areas in which administrative savings may be found.

In the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, the annual administrative savings totaled \$1.35 million and were achieved by moving to a bring your own device model for students starting in 2018 (savings of \$0.15M), a general supplies reduction (savings of \$0.18M), 2015/16 transportation changes (savings of \$0.07M), utilities savings through the Energy Management Plan (savings of \$0.30M), and the discontinuation of regular student transportation starting September 2016 (savings of \$0.65M).

Trustees emphasized that the discontinuation of regular student transportation would not have been required but for the annual administrative savings requirement (\$1.35M), the mandated but unfunded switch to and annual maintenance of the Next Generation Network (\$0.65M/year), and the unfunded non-unionized staff salary changes (approx. \$0.40M). Between 2002 and 2016, provincial per student funding had been reduced by \$400 per student, trustees observed. Trustees noted that the funding available to school districts had not kept pace with the increased costs of education and that advocacy for additional funding continues to be a priority.

The *Preliminary Budget 2016/17* is available for download on the school district website at <http://www.sd42.ca/budget-process>.

### **Superintendent's Update**

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

- School teams engaged in productive sessions on May 25, 26 and 27.
- Garibaldi Secondary is participating in a SEVEC Exchange, as a part of which Garibaldi music students host 44 music students (grades 9-12) from the Whitehorse "All City Band." Garibaldi music students will in turn travel to Whitehorse on May 18.
- Maple Ridge Secondary hosted the Senior Badminton District Finals and earned first place in all five events. The Ramblers also came out on top at the Track and Field Team competition in Chehalis, Washington, winning the Activators Classic trophy for the second year in a row. Among other highlights presented by the school, the Board also received a report on the school's amazing academic stats from term 2 report cards.
- Samuel Robertson Technical congratulated students Jayda Long and Teanne Clements, who earned silver and gold respectively in the Provincial Championship Skills Canada competition. The school also congratulated its band for winning the Battle of the Bands competition at Garibaldi Secondary.
- Grade 6/7 students from Alouette Elementary participated in the musical performance of "Dig It" on April 20. The production gave students an opportunity to learn about ancient civilizations; the school hopes to make this production an annual event. Also at Alouette, the school's plastic grab bag event was a huge success: the school collected 3,700 plastic bags to be recycled by Walmart.
- Glenwood Elementary recently held a Celebration of Learning Evening hosted by grade 5, 6, 7 teachers and classes. The event gave students a unique opportunity to share many learning experiences with their families.
- Pitt Meadows Elementary will be holding an Art Celebration evening on May 12 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Attendees will be able to view the school's display of student art in the gym and the hallways.
- Golden Ears Elementary is performing its intermediate musical, "I Need a Vacation," this week.
- Eric Langton Elementary will be presenting the first school-wide musical production of Alice in Wonderland on May 17 and 18.

### **Trustee Reports**

Trustees reported on the recent BC School Trustees Association AGM. The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District submitted three resolutions to the floor of the AGM on School Site

Acquisition Fees, Graduated Student Grants and School Act Maternity Provisions for Elected Trustees. All three resolutions were adopted. Board members also submitted an amendment to the resolution endorsing the provincial report on Youth Mental Health, encouraging its full implementation, and recommending that BCSTA encourage, provide input to, and monitor the full implementation of the report.

Board Chair Murray noted that the Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility Issues is seeking nominations for its annual awards program, which acknowledges the work of organizations and individuals toward maintaining a fully inclusive community. Finally, trustees Rempel and Carreras mentioned the work currently underway between the Arts Council and both municipalities concerning the new agreements required as a result of the change in Parks and Leisure Services delivery.

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees shared the following items: Trustee Carr reflected on the graduation transition interviews at both Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge secondary schools. Board Chair Murray mentioned his attendance at the District Student Advisory Council general meeting in which the focus was on how each of the school student leadership groups are encouraging kindness among all students. Finally, trustees also acknowledge the Day of Mourning and Administrative Professionals Day, thanking all clerical staff across the district for their great work.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm May 18, 2016 in the District Education Office.**