



Board Meeting Highlights February 29, 2012

Trustees:

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

Executive:

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

Student Presentation: Pink Day and Anti-Homophobia Policy

The Board received a presentation from secondary students in support of developing a stand-alone policy on sexual orientation and gender identity in the District. Having passed a resolution in June 2011 to develop a District anti-homophobia policy, the Board reiterated its strong commitment to developing this policy and assured the presenters that the process would be as thoughtful and thorough as this important issue demands.

Presentation: Principles of Social Interaction; Peer Counselling

Anelma Brown, Acting Vice-Principal of Garibaldi Secondary School, outlined two successful pilot programs, *Principles of Social Interaction* (PSI) and *Peer Counselling*, deployed to address student mental health issues. Brown noted that the curriculum of the PSI, a 4-credit course, aligns with the requirements of a Behaviour Education Program and includes units on self-awareness, conflict resolution, coping strategies, and anger management. Acting Vice-Principal Brown further informed the Board that the program's success has surpassed all expectations, with existing students taking on the responsibility of mentoring their peers.

2012 – 2013 Calendar

The Board approved the recommendation to send the Proposed 2012-2013 District Local School Calendar out for public consultation. The proposed calendar would include a nine-day Spring Break extending from Monday, March 18, 2013 to Thursday, March 28, 2013, followed directly by the Easter Holiday (Good Friday and Easter Monday). The two altered calendar days are proposed to be placed on Friday, November 9, 2012 and on January 25, 2013. An online survey has been developed at <http://www.sd42.ca/school-calendar>

Budget Process Bylaw

The Board received a recommendation from Secretary Treasurer Wayne Jefferson to rescind Annual Budget Bylaw: November 10, 2008 and replace it with a Board policy. This shift would be more consistent with the Board's approach to governance through policy development while still ensuring the "sober second thought."

Superintendent of Schools: Teacher Full Service Withdrawal

Addressing the possibility that the current job action may escalate to a full withdrawal of services by teachers, Superintendent Unwin made the following observations: in the event of a walkout, the District would receive a warning of two school days; a communications plan is in place to notify parents and students; the strike would last for three days after which, in accordance with the LRB ruling, teachers would then work for four days before they could strike for one day.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on March 7, 2012 in the District Education Office.