



Board Meeting Highlights January 30, 2013

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), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer)

Delegation: ACTION Silver Valley School Site

A delegation from ACTION Silver Valley presented to the Board the Silver Valley residents' concerns about the school district's decision not to acquire property at 136th, Blaney Hamlet, Maple Ridge. Delegation representative Ms. Nicole Read communicated to the Board her community's need for a school that is within walking distance of homes, noting that the Blaney Hamlet property had been designated as a potential school site in the 2002 Official Community Plan (OCP) and expressing her concern that the removal of the school site would undermine the OCP.

Presentation: Grade 6/7 Inquiry Project

Rory Payment (Facilitator, Information Technology) and David Vandergugten (Director of Instruction) presented to the Board on the District's Grade 6/7 Inquiry Project. Noting that there are approximately 850 students in the Inquiry Project, Mr. Payment explained that some students work with iPads while others have laptop computers. The project empowers students, connects them with their community, and provides real world learning and transformative learning opportunities, Mr. Payment observed. As a part of the presentation, Inquiry Project students from Highland Park, Pitt Meadows Elementary and Yennadon Elementary demonstrated the ease with which they were able to collaborate on different projects with the help of technology.

Learn more about the Inquiry Project at <http://schools.sd42.ca/inquiry>

2013 – 2014 District Local School Calendar

Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston informed the Board that the Ministry of Education introduced new school calendar regulations that emphasize *hours* of instruction rather than *days* of instruction. The new regulations, Deputy Superintendent Meston explained, align with the School Act but simultaneously offer school districts greater flexibility and more options.

For the 2013 – 2014 school year, School District No. 42 is proposing to continue with a calendar structure similar to the one that is currently being used, Deputy Superintendent Meston said. Two back-to-back non-instructional days are being proposed for September so that the District can bring in author and lecturer Alfie Kohn as the keynote speaker on September 23, 2013.

The proposed 2013 – 2014 school calendar will be posted on the district website for public feedback and will go before the Board for approval on March 13, 2013. The approved calendar will be posted online on March 14, 2013.

Good News

In the Good News portion of the evening, the following reports were made: Vice-Chair Palis reflected on the great presentations at Thomas Haney Secondary School's *Call to Action* conference and on the province-wide interest that this conference has generated; Trustee Carr brought to the Board's attention the retirement of Principal Don Koehn, whose innovation, humour and support will be missed across the District; and Board Chair Mike Murray noted that he – along with the Social Justice Committee – would be moderating a forum on homelessness at Riverside Centre on March 5, 2013.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on February 13, 2013 in the District Education Office.