



Trustees:

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

Executive:

Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer)

Presentation: International Baccalaureate Program at Garibaldi Secondary

The Board received a presentation on the *International Baccalaureate Program (IB)* at Garibaldi Secondary School. Garibaldi is one of 27 schools in the province – and one of 300 schools worldwide – to offer the rigorous IB program. Available to interested grade 11 and 12 students, IB offers an enriching opportunity for the broadening of academic knowledge and specialization in a chosen area of interest. Successful IB students are able to transition smoothly into second year university courses. Trustees were impressed with the scope of the program, and suggested that more should be done to raise awareness about this SD42 program option.

Preliminary Budget 2015/16-2016/17

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan reviewed the budget process, stakeholder input and details of the budget, highlighting the changes that were made in response to stakeholder feedback. The final document, Secretary Treasurer Coughlan explained, provides additional clerical resources to address needs created by last year's significant reduction, and does not include any class size increases. Secretary Treasurer Coughlan also shared a one-page informational document that outlined the reduction of available funding between 2002/03 and 2015/16. The analysis illustrates that while the money invested in the public education system may have increased overall, the funding per student amount has been reduced by \$300.

The Board decided to proceed with the discontinuation of regular student busing starting in the 2016/17 school year rather than increase class sizes beyond the increases instituted over the past two years. Trustees thanked staff for their extensive work on the budget document, but reiterated that the ongoing cost cutting required by the provincial government is disheartening.

The Preliminary Budget 2015/16 – 2016/17 and the government funding per student document are available on the school district budget process page at <http://www1.sd42.ca/budget-process>.

Class Size and Composition Report

Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston tabled a report on class size averages for both the province and the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. The report was based on the Ministry of Education's published document on class sizes for the year ended in June 2014. Deputy Superintendent Meston noted that class sizes in the district have increased over the past several years and are now at their highest level in some time and above the provincial average. Trustees reflected that the report reinforced their concerns about budget alternatives that included additional class size increases.

Superintendent's Update

Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston presented the superintendent's update, which included the following highlights:

- Pitt Meadows Secondary hosted a very successful Literacy Week, and the school's carpentry program prepared over 100 bird house building kits for the local Home Show;
- Samuel Robertson Secondary is hosting the district poetry slam on Friday;
- Glenwood Elementary is hosting Grandparents Day on Friday;
- Maple Ridge Secondary Girls Track and Field team won their competition in Chehalis, Washington for the first time in 16 years. The school also hosted the BC Lions' *Be More Than a Bystander* event last week, attended by Children and Family Development Minister Stephanie Cadieux;
- The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows school district was the first in the province to reach the important milestone of signing the fourth Aboriginal Education Agreement last week.

Good news

The following items were noted in the good news portion of the evening: trustee Beare noted that the next Eric Langton clothing Free Cycle would take place on June 1, 2015, from 11am to 2pm; trustee Carr noted that Eric Langton students did a great job with their speeches, and recalled also her participation in the signing ceremony for the fourth Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement; trustee Palis mentioned the wonderful musical production *Dig It!* at Golden Ears Elementary; and trustee Rempel noted that the Tzu Chi Foundation would be holding its annual awards ceremony at Eric Langton on May 20, 2015.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on May 13, 2015 in the District Education Office.