



**Trustees:**

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

**Executive:**

Laurie Meston (Acting Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), Shannon Derinzy (Acting Assistant Superintendent)

**Presentation: Montessori Program**

Montessori teachers Jennifer Williams and Patricia Patrick presented on the board about the benefits of the Montessori program, which runs out of Hammond Elementary School. The program, Ms. Patrick explained, gives student choice, flexibility and independence, and helps develop leadership and self-direction. Montessori teachers undergo specialized training and present an individualized program for each child. The Montessori program currently runs from grades 1-5 in the school district; Ms. Patrick observed that 98% of parents are favour expanding this program beyond grade five, and thanked trustees for their continued support.

**Presentation: SD42 Learning Commons**

Teacher librarians Adria Williams and Irene Gibeault presented to the Board on the Learning Commons model, which currently operates within all Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows secondary schools. The model values and facilitates collaborative work and inquiry based learning, and leverages student's comfort with digital services and devices for academic purposes. The teacher librarians who oversee the Learning Commons provide full class and individualized instruction, seeking out opportunities for collaborative planning, team teaching and proactive partnerships. The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District has an opportunity to be a provincial leader in this field, Ms. Williams and Ms. Gibeault concluded.

**Board Authorized Course Inquiry into Sustainability**

The Board approved a new, inquiry-based senior science course on sustainability. Through inquiry, enrolled students will carry out research, solve problems and develop action plans that will lead to a deeper understanding of the environmental, economic and social challenges that need to be overcome to develop a green and sustainable future. The course will run out of Westview Secondary School.

**New Student Information System Implementation**

The Board approved the use of the Local Capital Reserve to fund the projected one-time costs associated with the implementation of the new student information system for the

2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budget years, to a maximum of \$438,000. The new system will replace current and soon to be decommissioned BCeSIS.

#### **Kindergarten Registration Enrolment Update**

Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston reported to the Board on the ongoing 2014-15 Online Kindergarten registration process. Acting Superintendent Meston noted that the process has been a positive experience for both parents and staff, and congratulated DEO and clerical staff on their outstanding work. Current kindergarten enrolment is at 961, which is up from last year. Late registration is now underway and the figure is expected to rise by September 2014.

#### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, the following items were noted: trustee Palis observed that the MRSS Epic Project is coming up in March; trustee Rempel attended the successful production of Spamalot at GSS; trustee Carr reflected that former Superintendent Jan Unwin's farewell at THSS had gone well.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on March 12, 2014 in the District Education Office.**