



Trustees:

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

Executive:

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

Scott Ormiston Receives Prime Minister's Certificate of Achievement Award

Superintendent Sylvia Russell presented Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District teacher Scott Ormiston with the Prime Minister's *Certificate of Achievement Award*. The award honours outstanding and innovative elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines who instil in their students a love of learning, and who utilize information and communications technologies to better equip their students with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in a 21st century society and economy. Superintendent Russell noted that only a few of these awards are presented each year, and congratulated Mr. Ormiston on this honour.

Late French Immersion Program at Golden Ears Elementary

Mr. Owen Smith and Ms. Vanessa Park spoke to the Board on behalf of Late French Immersion families, advocating for the continued support of the Late French Immersion Program at Golden Ears Elementary. The program was cancelled for the 2014-2015 school year due to low enrolment. The delegation noted there was some confusion in the community about whether the program would proceed given its cancellation for the 2014-2015 school year, and requested the Board consider reducing the established minimum enrolment number from 26 to 20 students. The delegation further requested that the promotional travelling show of past years be reinstated to support advertising for the program. Board Chair Mike Murray thanked the delegates for their passionate support of the program, and reassured them the Board would consider all recommendations following a staff level review.

An information meeting on Late French Immersion will take place at 7pm on February 4, 2015 at *Golden Ears Elementary*. Registration for the program begins February 11, 2015. For more information about the *SD42* French Immersion Program, including Late French Immersion, go to <http://www1.sd42.ca/french-immersion>.

Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement 2013/14

Superintendent of Schools Sylvia Russell presented the annual *Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement*. Above average graduation rates and strong Inquiry results were listed among the highlights for the 2013-2014 school year, with grade-to-grade transitions identified as an area of

concern. Superintendent Russell noted that the 2013-2014 report is low on data due to the labour dispute, but observed this offers the district an opportunity to reflect and possibly improve upon current assessment tools. Short term and long term goals for the District include the development of a framework for assessing literacy achievement, and the achievement of comparable success rates across all 6-year grad rates categories.

The *Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement 2013/14* is available online at <http://goo.gl/Bu7BGe>.

2015-16 Carbon Neutral Capital Program: Thomas Haney Secondary

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan presented to the Board on the Thomas Haney Secondary retrofit project, submitted to the Ministry of Education under the *2015/16 Carbon Neutral Capital Program*. The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the school by 35 per cent through a number of heating ventilation and cooling (HVAC) upgrades. The total cost of the project (\$605,416) will be funded by the Ministry of Education (\$495,244), BC Hydro (\$27,091) and SD42 local capital budget (\$83,082). The annual operational savings, in the meantime, are expected to be in the order of \$90,000 per year.

Ministry of Education Releases Holdback

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan reported to the Board that the *Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District* received \$1.05 million as a holdback release from the Ministry of Education, and that additional funding may be released at a later date. Board Chair Mike Murray explained that the previous Board's practice was to use the previous year's holdback release to offset anticipated budget shortfalls, and that the current Board will have this option as well. The school district is projecting a funding shortfall of \$2.5 million for the 2015-2016 school year.

Education Funding: Motion to BCSTA AGM

The Board agreed to put forward a motion at the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting, calling for the organization to establish an education finance committee. This committee would work with all boards in the province as well as stakeholders such as the BC Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO) to prepare recommendations to government about required levels of funding for the K-12 public education system. Such recommendations would also identify sources of revenue the province might consider as it seeks to meet the funding needs of the education system while balancing the provincial budget.

Trustee Clarkson Nominated to the BCSTA Board of Directors

The Board nominated trustee Ken Clarkson for the office of Director with the BC School Trustees Association, seeking to strengthen the association's influence in ongoing issues related to co-governance with provincial government. Trustee Clarkson has served on the Provincial Council for several years and is well known to trustees outside of the District.

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees noted the following: trustees were able to attend a number of wonderful Christmas concerts before winter break; Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows public schools donated a total of 7 tonnes of food to the Food Bank in the months leading up to winter break; Alouette Addictions will be hosting a parent’s night forum on “Your Kids and Drugs” February 18, 2015 at Pitt Meadows Secondary School.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on January 28, 2015 in the District Education Office.