



**Trustees:**

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

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

**Presentation: Flextime at Westview Secondary**

Westview Secondary principal Patricia GieSinger presented to the Board about the new flextime option the school will be offering next fall. Flextime offers students one half-hour block per week to meet with a teacher mentor, who will provide this consistent mentorship throughout the student's time in high school. As a part of this initiative, students will also plan to attend extra 31-minute blocks during each day to focus on study areas they want to master, or in which they require extra help. Principal GieSinger explained that the school has adapted this flex system from Coquitlam's Heritage Woods secondary school, where it has been successfully in place for some time.

**Presentation: Montessori Program at Hammond Elementary**

Ms. Leanne Koehn spoke to the Board about the popular district choice program Montessori, which runs at Hammond Elementary School. Ms. Koehn gave the Board an overview of the program's approach and educational benefits, and invited three current Montessori students to testify to the program's benefits. 98% of Montessori parents are in favour of expanding this program (which currently runs to grade 6) to grade 7, Ms. Koehn noted. Associated program costs are at approximately \$1,000 per year for the purchase and/or replacement of tools integral to the program's success.

**2015/16 District School Calendar**

Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston presented the Board with public feedback on the proposed 2015/16 school calendars. Both the proposed School District Calendar as well as the Distributed Learning Calendar received strong public support, Deputy Superintendent Meston noted, with over 70% of respondents being in favour of the proposed schedule. The proposed calendar for the district's year-round school, Kanaka Creek Elementary, did not receive strong support, however, and had to be adjusted to reflect public feedback. While the proposed calendar for Kanaka Creek included a shorter 3-week break in April, the revised calendar will have the 4-week April break that is customary for this balanced calendar school.

The approved 2015/16 calendars have been posted to the school district website at [www.sd42.ca/node/2075](http://www.sd42.ca/node/2075)

**Energy Management Plan**

Rick Delorme (*Director of Facilities and Maintenance*) and Alexandra Tudose (*Energy Manager*) presented the Board with a report on the school district's Energy Management Plan. The report identified annual savings of \$400,000 once all of the identified projects have been implemented. Priorities include the target of reducing electrical consumption by 30% from 2013 levels by 2019, HVAC and lighting upgrades, as well as organizational opportunities. The Board approved the plan, and authorized the Board Chair to request permission to use \$1.4 million from the Ministry restricted capital reserve for the program. An additional \$900,00 will be provided by the local capital fund, and a further \$1.4 million from the annual facilities grant.

The Energy Management Plan has been posted to the school district website at [www.sd42.ca/sustainability](http://www.sd42.ca/sustainability)

### **TransLink Correspondence**

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan shared a letter from TransLink in response to an inquiry by district staff. District staff had inquired about the possibility of increasing public bus service within the school district in the event the Board is forced to discontinue providing busing services as a result of funding constraints. TransLink confirmed other school districts had been involved in similar discussion with their organization over the past few years, but noted they would not be able to provide additional services to areas currently covered by school bus routes. The Board Chair forwarded the TransLink response to municipal council for information, and requested assistance in making possible changes to existing routes so as to provide some level of service to students should school busing discontinue.

### **Board Authorized Courses**

The Board approved two new courses, proposed by Pitt Meadows Secondary educators and approved by district staff. The first course, *Community Service Learning 12*, is intended to provide students with a connection to the community and encourage in them the development of leadership and employability skills. The second course, *BAA Fitness and Conditioning*, seeks to train students for cardiovascular respiratory endurance, flexibility, power, balance, speed, and accuracy.

### **February 25 Letter to Minister Peter Fassbender**

Trustee Ken Clarkson noted that the Board's February 25<sup>th</sup> letter to Minister Fassbender was among the first ones sent, and that its sentiments were echoed in subsequent letters to the minister sent by other boards in the province. In their letter, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows trustees expressed concerns about the provincial budget, and stressed the need for further dialogue about education funding. Trustee Clarkson also noted that Deputy Minister Dave Byng has made a commitment to meet with Board representatives, though he was not able to make a similar commitment at this time to meet with the Minister himself.

### **IT Quarterly Report**

Director of Instruction David Vandergugten and Manager of IT Services Richard Eskandar reported to the Board on the progress of various information technology projects in the school district, listing the implementation of the MyEdBC system and the replacement of the district's internet network as among the current major undertakings. Mr. Vandergugten and Mr. Eskandar highlighted some cost-saving changes in district policies, including the eventual move to a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) model for students, but also sounded a note of concern about the lack of sufficient technology infrastructure funding, which is needed to maintain the district's existing systems.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Sylvia Russell shared a pink shirt day presentation that highlighted numerous district-wide and student-led anti-bullying initiatives. Superintendent Russell noted the presentation was reflective of the even greater emphasis placed on social emotional learning in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. Caring attitudes and social responsibility must be an everyday occurrence in all our schools, Superintendent Russell said, and staff are continuing to focus considerable energy on this area of school culture.

### **Good News**

The following items were noted in the good news portion of the evening: trustees reflected on the many heart-warming SD42 pink shirt day initiatives; trustee Beare shared that she had the pleasure to sit as judge for Eric Langton's French public speaking event.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on April 8, 2015 in the District Education Office.**