



**Trustees:**

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

**Executive:**

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), Shannon Derinzy (Director of Instruction)

**Presentation: Child Care Workers**

Child Care Workers Laurie Hamilton and Christa Dey-Girard presented to the Board on the roles and responsibilities of child and youth care workers in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. The speakers explained that youth work in action addresses Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs,” which includes self-actualization, esteem, sense of love/belonging, safety, and physiological needs. Youth workers develop relationships with students to address these needs, and work to determine what supports must be put in place. The approach is child-centred and holistic. The Board also received a letter on behalf of principals and vice principals from MRPVPA President, Kathy Watkins, noting the importance of the supports provided by all Child Care Workers in Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows public schools.

**2016/17 and 2017/18 District School Calendars**

The Board received a report from Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston on the feedback the school district received on draft calendars for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 school years. Deputy Superintendent Meston noted that the district received only a small number of responses during this consultation process, but tried to address some of the shared concerns.

Changes from the original draft calendars include switching the September 26<sup>th</sup> Pro-D day with the November 10<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Implementation day to allow for training on the new curriculum assessment regulations, and removing two additional instructional days that had previously been included in error. The calendars have been submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval and are available online at <http://www.sd42.ca/school-calendars>.

**Late French Immersion 2016/17**

The Board received a report on the Late French Immersion registration process at Golden Ears Elementary. Because only 16 students registered for the program, the district will not be able to offer the grade 6 Late French Immersion for the 2016/17 school year. The grade 7 program will

continue as planned for the coming year. The Board reluctantly acknowledged that this program may need to be cancelled for future years if registration numbers for September 2017 are again low. The low registration numbers have been attributed to a number of factors including higher Early French Immersion registrations and the greater availability of other programs of choice in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District.

### **MyEducation BC**

The Board received a presentation from staff involved in the MyEd BC student information system implementation, and approved the use of up to \$75,000 from the contingency reserve to fund the spring teacher training in April for the introduction of the Family Portal module.

### **South Albion Expropriation Bylaw**

The Board adopted a bylaw authorizing posting a Notice of Expropriation for property required for the proposed new South Albion Elementary School. The lands in question will be acquired and added to lands already owned by the school district for the school. 35% of the funding for this acquisition will be derived from the district school site acquisition reserve, and the remainder will come from the province. The additional lands will ensure adequate room for the proposed size of the school and sufficient on-site parking and play areas.

### **Energy Management Program Update**

The Board received a report on the implementation of Energy Management projects to date. The report noted an annual savings for the school district of \$230,000. The Board approved the transfer of \$250,000 of funding from the utility savings operating fund to local capital to supplement the funding of projects included in the Energy Management Plan. The overall goal is an annual savings of \$500,000 in the operating budget.

### **Contingency Reserve Policy**

The Board approved *Policy 4204: Contingency Reserve* following the required public consultation period. The policy requires the Board to maintain a contingency reserve of no less than one percent and no more than three percent of the annual operating budget, and identifies how contingency funds may be used. Policy 4204 is available online under the Policy Manual at <http://www1.sd42.ca/section4000>.

### **Course Challenge Policy**

A course challenge policy is required by the province and was approved by the Board following the required public consultation period.

### **Board Approved Courses**

The Board approved the following three courses, which had been recommended by the education committee:

- *Peer Social Support 12* – a course that gives students an opportunity to work with and support other students with special needs;
- *Conversational Française 11/12* – a course that provides students with the opportunity to develop language fluency in a French speaking environment;
- *Chess 11* – a course that will allow students to explore their interests in the discipline of chess and build their logical, critical, and analytical abilities.

### Youth Learning Community Pilot Project

The Board received a presentation on the Youth Learning Community Pilot Project proposal from principals Clayton Maitland, Grant Frend, and students Emily Hyde and Faith Fitzpatrick. The program will provide grade 8-12 students with an opportunity to access the self-directed learning options offered at Thomas Haney Secondary, and combine them with community/place-based ecological studies that have been so successful in the K-7 Environmental School. The Board approved this pilot program for the 2016/17 school year along with an expenditure of \$30K from the contingency reserve to fund the program startup costs.

### Maple Ridge Elementary French Immersion Update

The Board received an update on registrations for Maple Ridge Elementary school's new French Immersion program. The report indicated that 28 students had registered in this program for September 2016. It is anticipated registration will continue to grow and that Kindergarten and K/1 classes will be established. The classrooms will be supported with federal government French grants.

### Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Sylvia Russell presented the superintendent's update, which included the following highlights:

- Superintendent Russell played a PowerPoint with pink shirt day photos from schools across the district.
- Students and teachers at Thomas Haney, Garibaldi and Westview secondary schools will be benefiting from innovative learning concepts being put into action thanks to the 15 new K-12 Innovation Partnership projects.
- With help from teacher Andy Strothotte, Westview Secondary hosted the *Skills Canada Carpentry Competition*, which was won by Westview's own Riley Tierney. The school also had their Sumo Bot battles, using robots they'd designed and built in the *Industrial Design* course.
- 35 choir students from Garibaldi Secondary are attending a 3-day retreat at Loon Lake. In recognition of the commitment and support for initiatives and activities show by the school's *Rebels For A Cause*, Garibaldi was selected as one of two schools in BC to host a Leadership Conference at their school.
- Highlights from Maple Ridge Secondary include a successful multicultural week, a win for two students at the *Skills Canada* competition (Jonathan Caputo placed second; Isaac Dornbusch placed third), a captivating Cabaret Night, and upcoming Spring Concerts.
- Maple Ridge Elementary hosted the Google Expeditions virtual field trip, which enabled 11 classes to virtually explore ancient Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef, and Desert Landforms. The

school will also be hosting 24 Japanese high school students, who will teach MRE students about their school and culture.

- Glenwood Elementary hosted a dance-a-thon as a fundraiser for Canuck Place in memory of Loren Andres, who passed over the summer.
- Webster's Corners students duct taped their principal to the gym wall as part of a fundraiser for guided reading.
- Yennadon Elementary's *We Team* organized a *random acts of kindness* day, selling heart cookies for the community it supports in Haiti. The schools' intermediate students have been learning acting from the Young Actors Project thanks to the school's PAC; and the school's library has been converting into a Maker Space in the afternoons.

## Trustee Reports

**Trustee Committee Reports** – Trustees shared information on the Education, Inclusive Education and French Immersion Advisory Committees. The Education Committee work is reflected in the recommendations made earlier in the agenda. The inclusive Education Committee and Policy Committee met jointly to discuss a new policy on physical restraint and seclusion, which are required by the Ministry and will be brought forward shortly. The French Immersion Committee met to discuss both of the subjects on the Board agenda (MRE and Late French Immersion).

**BCSTA Budget Input** - The Board holds a membership with the BC School Trustees Association along with 58 other Boards from throughout the province. Each year the organization seeks input on the BCSTA budget. Trustee Murray sits on the BCSTA finance committee and advised there are no fee increases proposed for the coming year other than those derived from increased enrollment. He observed the fees would need to be reviewed for future years as the multi year budget projection indicates increases will likely be required, but also noted he was satisfied with the degree of cost containment being exercised by the organization. The Board received the report for information.

**Board input to the annual review of the MOU between the BCSTA and Ministry of Education** – The Board received the survey and agreed some progress had been made over the past year. It was noted that additional opportunities should be provided to Boards of Education to participate in discussions with the ministries of Education and Finance on the level of education funding. The Chair will prepare a draft survey response for circulation among trustees prior to a submission being made.

**Parks and Leisure Services** – Trustee Palis will attend a workshop on the transition to a two city organizational structure. Trustees expressed concern at no formal meetings being held between Pitt Meadows Consultants and School District staff to address the issues involving SD42 in the transition.

**Arts Council** – Trustees participated in discussions on changes to the constitution and bylaws of the organization given Society Act changes.

**Education Foundation** – Trustee Rempel talked about the MREF Board considering grant applications from schools to enhance various programs.

**Social Planning Advisory Committee** – Trustee Carr attended the recent meeting on behalf of the Board and also spoke about the Strong Kids Forum she coordinated with Municipal and School District Staff. She noted about 100 people attended the forum and additional events would be planned in future.

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees spoke about attending the Student Impact Summit at Loon Lake to hear from students on a variety of issues facing the community. They also shared observations from a visit to Whonnock Elementary and Edith McDermott Elementary. Trustee Palis and trustee Carr talked about a class studying a map of Katzie traditional territory by constructing a 3D relief map. They also talked about a project being undertaken by students to raise money for school supplies for children in Nepal.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 4 pm April 13, 2016 at Thomas Haney Secondary.**