



Trustees:

Ken Clarkson (Chair), Susan Carr, Mike Huber, Eleanor Palis (Vice-Chair), Dr. Dave Rempel, Stepan Vdovine, Kathie Ward

Executive:

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Stewart Sonne (Deputy Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer)

Chair looks forward to exciting challenges

Chair Ken Clarkson welcomed the Board back and expressed his enthusiasm and optimism for the coming school year. He said that full-day kindergarten and engaging the 21st Century learner were examples of exciting challenges for which the District was well prepared.

Board approves efforts to reduce car idling

Trustee Ward asked the Board to consider concerns raised by a parent who noted that some parents leave their cars idling for up to 15 minutes while they wait to pick up their children. It was agreed that a friendly reminder should be directed to parents, and that the concern should be forwarded to DPAC for their consideration.

Child abuse protocols to be reviewed

The Board received a letter from Minister of Education Margaret MacDiarmid outlining her expectation that all school districts have “up-to-date policies that set out specific details of how employees of the board are to respond when concerns about child abuse or neglect arise.” Superintendent Unwin said that while the District did have necessary protocols in place, it was important to review them periodically, which district staff were now doing.

Board calls for reinstatement of funding for Accessible Resource Centre

The Board approved a letter to be sent to the Ministry of Education calling for the reinstatement of funding support for the Accessible Resource Centre – British Columbia (ARC-BC). Superintendent Unwin explained that without funding the resource centre would not be updated with new titles and no training or other support would be available. Students with perceptual disabilities rely on the resource centre to provide digital alternate format materials based on the K-12 curriculum.

Board approves farm project

The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the school district, the Aldridge family and CEED Centre that will create an opportunity for students in district alternate education programs to participate in operating a farm as part of their studies. A steering team will be formed to formulate a work plan for the program. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson described the project as “an exciting opportunity to learn life skills, involving valuable community partnerships.” The farm program will benefit up to 100 students.

Audited financial statements show district finances in good shape

Secretary Treasurer Jefferson presented the 2010 Audited Financial Report for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. He said the District's financial affairs are in good order and that the District finished the financial year with a small operating budget surplus that will go towards balancing next year's preliminary budget. Donna Diskos of Grant Thornton LLP answered questions and noted that it was a "clean" audit that had been completed ahead of schedule, which she attributed to district staff being well prepared. The Board approved the report, which will now be submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Superintendent notes smooth start-up to school year

Superintendent Unwin noted the following during a brief update to the Board: an extremely smooth start-up to the school year; all teachers laid off in the spring had now received new assignments; the Achievement Contract will be shared with the Board in subsequent meetings; the start-up of Riverside Centre was progressing nicely, with large numbers of Community Education registrations; initial district enrolment numbers were positive; a crossing guard was in place on 216th to assist Mount Crescent students now going to Glenwood; a large amount of school supplies will be distributed to needy families thanks to Perry Bateson; and the raising of nearly \$4,000 for KidSports at the inaugural Wes Durkson Golf Tournament.

Good News items

Trustees and staff noted the following good news items: the important work done by all those who work in the background to support school athletics and other activities; an atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm surrounding school start-up; and kudos to summer school staff for the excellent work they do.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, September 29 at 6 PM in the District Education Office.