



**Trustees:**

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

**Executive:**

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer), Stewart Sonne (Director of Instruction), David Vandergugten (Director of Instruction), Harry Dhillon (Director of Human Resources)

**Presentations**

Garibaldi teachers Carlos Silva and Kyle Ludeman introduced five Grade 9 students who prepared the best proposal for a Youth Philanthropy Initiative grant of \$5000. The students had won the right to make the donation to the Josh Platzer Society for Teen Suicide Prevention.

**Reporting mechanism for WiFi concerns sought**

The Board approved a recommendation brought by Trustee Vdovine that the Board contact provincial and federal health authorities to report local incidents around WiFi and ask these same authorities for guidance in resolving concerns.

**District-wide school calendar proposed**

The Board received a proposal to alter the school calendar for the 2011-2012 school year to include a four day weekend in November 2011 around Remembrance Day and for an extra five days to be added to Spring Break in 2012.

Superintendent Unwin said the new calendar was being recommended primarily as a cost saving measure and as an attempt to build efficiencies and fairness across the district. She added that research conducted for the district indicated that the proposed changes would not have a detrimental effect on student learning, and in fact would bring many potential benefits. The proposed changes also align with other district's findings and implementation plans.

The Board agreed to make the proposal public for 30 days (as required by the School Act) prior to making a final decision on April 13. A survey has been posted on the district website ([www.sd42.ca/calendar](http://www.sd42.ca/calendar)) along with all the documents related to the proposal. Interested parties may also write to the Board at 22225 Brown Avenue, Maple Ridge, V2X 8N6 (All input must be received by Sunday, April 10, 2011), and there will be a special information session on Tuesday, March 29 at Thomas Haney Secondary School in Room 2032 at 7:00 pm.

**Board to receive \$1.2 million for All-Day Kindergarten implementation**

The Board approved an amended capital budget bylaw necessary to access \$1,225,941 in provincial funding related to the implementation of All-Day Kindergarten. The funding will cover classroom conversions, modular site costs, new modular classrooms and the cost of relocating portables.

### **Trustee remuneration increased to match cost of living index**

The Board approved a recommendation to increase the base honorarium for trustees by 2%, in accordance with a decision made in 2008 that for the length of the current term, trustee honorariums would be adjusted in January of 2009, 2010 and 2011, and that the increase would be pegged to the Vancouver Consumer Price Index, up to a maximum of 2% (The actual Vancouver Consumer Price Index for 2010 was 2.5%). The new adjusted amounts for 2011 are: \$20,402 for the Board Chair; \$19,385 for the Vice Chair; and \$17,850 for trustees.

### **Ministry gives high rating to proposed new school projects**

The Board received a report from Secretary Treasurer Jefferson outlining the Ministry of Education 2010-2011 Capital Plan. The Ministry approved \$4,073,000 in funding for mechanical upgrades (two schools) and building envelope projects (three schools) over the next three years. The Ministry also assigned a “high” ranking to two proposed major projects: a new elementary school in Albion South and an addition to Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary School increasing its capacity to 1000 students. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson said that this was not a guarantee of final approval but was a positive sign that the Ministry recognized the District’s needs.

### **Kindergarten registration update**

Superintendent Unwin updated the Board on Kindergarten registration for September 2011. This year approximately 1000 children were registered for kindergarten up from 855 at the same time last year. Most of these students will be able to attend either their first or second choice school. She said staff will be reviewing practices to see if there are ways to reduce the need for registration lineups in future.

### **Good News**

Trustees and staff noted the following good news items: recognition of all women in the school district in honour of International Women’s Day; a reading celebration week at Fairview Elementary; and a Social Justice event hosted by the MRTA at the ACT.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, March 30  
at 6 PM in the District Education Office.**