



Trustees:

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

Executive:

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer), David Vandergugten (Deputy Superintendent), Peter Bullock (Assistant Secretary Treasurer)

Presentations: Laptop inquiry project

Technology and Personalized Learning Facilitator Rory Payment described the district's one-to-one laptop project and the completion of this year's inquiry project. Grade 6 and 7 students from across the district worked in small groups on 200 projects. They chose community related topics, developed project plans, and then used their laptops and other technology to collect, analyze and evaluate various forms of data, which was then assembled into final presentations. Alouette students Sophia Dobischok, Kevin Tedder and Taylor Selle presented their project on the topic of learning disabilities. Mr. Payment said the project involved applying skills to real world problems and engaging the students' higher thinking skills.

Pitt Meadows field agreement amended to allow more Friday night football

The Board approved an addendum to the Pitt Meadows Secondary School Artificial Turf Field Operating Agreement. Under the terms of the addendum the school district gives up its right to have use of the field on four weekends each year. In return, the Pitt Meadows Secondary School football team will receive exclusive access to the field for two weeks in August, will have access to the field until 6 pm two nights per week during the months of September and October, and will have exclusive use of the field for a total of six games on Friday nights from 7:30 to 10:00 pm between September and November.

New Ministry funding will offset downloaded insurance costs

The Board received a report confirming that the Ministry of Education will provide an additional \$15 per student in funding for the 2010-2011 budget year. The total amount of additional funding will be \$210,518. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson said that the district will use \$63,964 to cover additional charges for school replacement insurance leaving a net gain to the district of \$146,554.

Facilities report projecting continued declining enrolment

Assistant Secretary Treasurer Bullock provided the Board with information on enrolment trends. He said that based on the best current data, the district will continue to experience declining enrolment until 2015. At that time levels will remain stable and then slowly increase, eventually getting back to 2010 levels by 2020.

Director of Facilities Rick Delorme provided a district-wide review of facilities. It showed that secondary facilities are currently at 93% capacity and that elementary facilities are currently at 96% capacity. He explained that the district had an understanding with the Ministry of Education that instead of adding nine new modular classrooms to accommodate the implementation of full day kindergarten, money for seven modulars will be applied to the eventual construction of a new school in Albion. Existing portables will be used in place of the seven modular units. Superintendent Unwin emphasized that the portables will not be used for kindergarten students.

School closure report outlines savings, smooth transition

The Board received a report outlining the outcomes of the closures of two schools and the transition of students and staff to different schools. Superintendent Unwin said that the families of all students who had moved from Mount Crescent and Riverside to Hammond, Glenwood and Maple Ridge elementary schools had been invited to provide feedback on their experiences via a survey. The limited responses received indicated that the students had adapted well and that parents felt the process had been handled well. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson said the district had saved approximately \$900,000 from reduced staff, energy and maintenance costs, from the sale of portables, and from departmental reorganizations.

The Board felt that the savings amount was not a true 'net' figure as it did not reflect money spent to re-purpose the two closed schools. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson explained that the savings from the school closures would be a direct and ongoing benefit to the district's operating budget, whereas the money spent renovating the two closed schools came from the district's Annual Facilities Grant, a completely separate source of funding specifically provided for maintenance related projects.

The Board approved a motion requesting that the Secretary Treasurer report back to the Board on June 28, all costs associated with the closure of the two schools and the related transition process.

Off-leash dog parks program working

The Board received an updated report on off-leash dog parks at Davie Jones and Laity View elementary schools. Secretary Treasurer Jefferson said minor issues had been resolved by Parks and Leisure staff and that implementation of the off-leash program is working as planned.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, June 8
at 6 PM in the District Education Office.**