



Board Meeting Highlights February 13, 2013

Trustees:

Mike Murray (Chair), Susan Carr, Ken Clarkson, Kathy Marshall, Sarah Nelson, Dave Rempel

Executive:

Jan Unwin, (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer)

Mentoring Report

District Helping Teacher, Craig Mitchell, provided the Board with an update on the SD42 Mentoring Program. Though the focus of the program has remained unchanged, Mr. Mitchell noted that his school visits have created a new space for meaningful dialogue with teachers, and that this dialogue has helped him to identify transitional moments and smooth them with mentoring support. The new Helping Teachers Directory has made District Helping Teachers more visible and reachable, Mr. Mitchell noted, adding that he has been able to seize upon and create networking opportunities to ensure that teachers are teaching smarter, not harder. Looking ahead, Mr. Mitchell cited the increasingly popular Japanese lesson design model as an approach he would like to explore through a pilot program. Thanking the Board for its support of the Mentoring Program, Mr. Mitchell concluded with the observation that the mentor – mentee relationship becomes more effective as it matures.

Presentation: Kids in the Know

Ms. Jo-Anne Landolt spoke to the Board about the *Kids in the Know* program, which addresses issues such as Internet, home, street and public place safety. Relating to the Board the story of her own niece's murder in 2010, Ms. Landolt observed that the program was developed for students from K to 9, and that it teaches students about personal boundaries, unhealthy/healthy behaviours, sexual exploitation, empathy and the need to ask for help. The cost of the program is \$260 for K to 9 and \$245 for K to 7. Additional information about the *Kids in the Know* program can be found at <http://www.kidsintheknow.ca>

Proposed BAA Courses

Director of Secondary and Adult Education Stewart Sonne introduced six proposed program options that the Board subsequently approved: Cosmetology/Hairdressing/Esthetics Academy; Plumbing/Piping Level 1; Music History II; Criminology 12; International Language, Culture and Travel; and Leadership 12.

The programs, Mr. Sonne explained, have been vetted and are cost neutral, with half of the courses being taught by the MRTA and the other half taught by the colleges that require red seal certification.

Kindergarten Update

Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston provided the Board with an update on the Kindergarten registration process, noting that while registration for choice programs (French, Montessori, and Environmental School) has once again exceeded the number of spaces available, school administration and support staff have done an excellent job in assisting parents in the registration process.

Budget process timeline and budget survey

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan reviewed the proposed budget process timeline, noting that a survey was being developed in order to solicit public feedback. Additional information about the budget process – including budget process timelines – can be found on the District website at <http://www.sd42.ca/2013-2014-Budget-Process>

Enrolment projections

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan reported to the Board that student enrolment in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District continues to be in decline. The forecasted decline, Secretary Treasurer Coughlan noted, is 177 full time students. The loss of an additional 19 students is projected for Summer School, Distributed Learning, and Continuing Education; and the loss of 17 more students is anticipated for Level 2 Special Needs. A Ministry of Education announcement on funding for 2013/14 is expected on March 15, 2013.

Good news

In the good news portion of the evening, the following items were shared: Trustee Carr reflected that Pink Shirt Day would be coming up, with all schools in the District participating; Board Chair Murray highlighted the Rotary Club's contribution of \$1000 to the school lunch program; Superintendent Jan Unwin congratulated Webster's Corners Elementary School, which raised \$5000 for KidSport on Jersey Day.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on February 27, 2013 in the District Education Office.