



**Board Meeting Highlights
March 13, 2013**

Trustees:

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

Executive:

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

Presentation: Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society (K.E.E.P.S.)

Coordinator and Program Interpreter Ross Davies highlighted for the Board some of the programs that Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society (K.E.E.P.S.) runs with participation from SD42 students. These programs include the *Walk for Habitat*, an SRT outdoor classroom and the *Bear Necessities* program. Regional Manager for GVRD Parks Wendy Holm followed Mr. Davies' presentation with an overview of the plans for the new Stewardship Centre.

Chair Report: Budget

Addressing the subject of the budget for the 2013 – 2014 school year, Board Chair Mike Murray explained that government expects boards to cover extra expenses out of the existing funding envelope, which would necessarily impact services in all school districts, including Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42. Chair Murray further noted that the Ministry of Education has failed to release and distribute the entire “holdback” amount, and explained that school districts rely on this basic funding to maintain services.

Together with its partner groups, the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District has prepared a letter to the Ministry of Education, outlining serious concerns about lack of Ministry funding and its effect on the budget.

School District No. 42 is also joining the *Me Too* the BCSTA campaign, which highlights the value and importance of public education.

2013 – 2014 School District Calendar

Addressing the public feedback received on the 2013-2014 School District Calendar, Superintendent Jan Unwin noted that parents and CUPE members were the predominant respondents to the online survey, which saw a total of 191 responses. The proposed calendar has been adjusted to address a concern raised by CUPE staff. The change reinstates February 7, 2014 as a schools-in-session day and moves the end of school year from June 26 to June 27, 2014.

The 2013-2014 School District Calendar is now available online at <http://www.sd42.ca/2013-2014-district-school-calendar>

Wheelhouse

The Board of Education ratified the proposed BAA course *The Wheelhouse* for implementation. *The Wheelhouse* was developed by Alouette Elementary grade 6/7 teacher Julie Hearn, who spoke to the Board about the program's five core elements: student-centered learning, community connections, the building of leadership and citizenship, learning through play, and technology supported learning. The program had gone through the Education Committee and had been reviewed by all stakeholder groups prior to its implementation.

Learn more about *The Wheelhouse* at <http://schools.sd42.ca/wheelhouse>

Good news

The following items were noted in the good news portion of the evening: trustees watched an uplifting video that featured Pink Shirt Day activities from across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, and trustee Palis commented on the powerful Epic Project presentation at MRSS, entitled "Slavery in the Modern World."

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on April 10, 2013 in the District Education Office.