



**Trustees:**

Mike Murray (Chair), Lisa Beare, Susan Carr, Korleen Carreras, Ken Clarkson, Dr. Dave Rempel

**Executive:**

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), David Vandergugten (Director of Instruction)

**Presentation: Community Literacy Committee**

Sheila Pace, Joanna Tomes, Lynn Easton and adult literacy facilitator Elaine Yamamoto presented to the Board on the Community District Literacy Plan. Ms. Yamamoto noted the committee underwent many challenging changes during the past year, and is on a good course. Ms. Yamamoto reviewed the numerous programs that fall under the committee's umbrella, which include family literacy within the community, a community book bin program, and financial literacy. She also noted that, internal changes aside, the past year was a status quo year for the committee. The Board learned that while the Community Literacy initiative no longer enjoys financial support from the Ministry of Education, it continues to be supported by community partners like the Pathfinder Youth Centre Society, Fraser Valley Regional Library, School District No. 42, Cythera House Transition Society, and many others.

**Presentation: Maple Ridge Teachers' Association, Bill 11**

Maple Ridge Teachers' Association Vice-President Todd Patrick spoke to the board about BCTF concerns regarding Bill 11 and the lack of consultation undertaken by government prior to this bill's adoption. Mr. Patrick listed the following four key concerns surrounding Bill 11: the diminishing of student privacy, the impact on teachers' professional development, the reduction of power for trustees, and the underfunding of public education. Bill 11 grants broad new powers to the Ministry of Education, said Mr. Patrick, and is in this way of great concern.

**MyEducation BC Update**

Project Manager Keith Kiraly updated the Board on the implementation of the new MyEducation BC software system. The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District will go live with the system at the end of August, said Mr. Kiraly, noting also that spring training for this platform has been completed and that the feedback received has been very good. Users find this new application, which replaces BCESIS, far more intuitive and user friendly. An additional 860 teachers will need to be trained on this system in early fall, Mr. Kiraly explained.

**District IT Plan Update**

Director of Instruction David Vandergugten and IT Manager Richard Eskandar gave the Board an update on the District IT Plan. Mr. Eskandar reviewed some of the key projects his department would be tackling over the summer months. These projects include the implementation of the Next Generation Network (NGN); the transformation of the existing library model into a more inclusive, school-central library learning commons; support for the MyEducation BC implementation process; teacher laptop deployment; district email/Sharepoint 2013 deployment; and the development of the International Education parent portal module.

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Sylvia Russell presented the superintendent's update, which included the following highlights:

- The feedback from the schools is that commencement ceremony celebrations went well. Thank you to trustees for attending these.
- Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston continues to work with helping teachers, developing a common language and common purpose for the district.
- Thomas Haney Secondary hosted coaches appreciation night on June 10, 2015. It was a very positive evening after a difficult year.
- The school district is facing the beginning of the new K-9 curriculum in the new year. This curriculum will become law the following September, so a lot of work lies ahead. No word so far about whether provincial government will be funding the implementation of this new curriculum.

### **Good news**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees noted the following items: trustee Carreras remarked that she has had the pleasure of attending many recent graduation ceremonies; trustee Carr reflected on her participation in grade 7 camp, and recommended the experience to other trustees; trustee Beare noted that she'd enjoyed this first half year as a new trustee; while Board Chair Murray spoke about the moving Environmental School drumming ceremony at Alco Park.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on September 23, 2015 in the District Education Office.**