



Board Meeting Highlights January 25, 2012

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), Wayne Jefferson (Secretary Treasurer)

Presentation: Achievement Contract

The Board received a presentation by Director of K-12 Education David Vandergugten, who outlined parts of the 2011 Achievement Contract that dealt with 21st Century Learning and Student Engagement. Vandergugten highlighted the following District Programs: the Grade 6 and 7 Inquiry Program, which has been responsible for increasing the number of students exceeding in key categories such as reasoning, collaborating, gathering and evaluating information; the 1-to-1 iPod Program, which in four months has lowered the percentage of students not meeting expectations in reading from 23% to 5%; and interventions such as the Reading Racers summer program. Vandergugten noted that students in the Reading Racers summer program in particular have shown 9 times the rate of progress than one would see over the course of 10 months in Grade 1.

The Fall and Spring Reading Assessment (RAD) for all Grade 8 students, which focuses on the rate of students' literacy, is also done across the district and is used by teachers for planning and student achievement goals.

Amended Budget

The Board accepted the Amended Budget for the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year. Secretary Treasurer Wayne Jefferson informed the Board that the District is in good financial shape with a current surplus of \$183,000 and an anticipated modest surplus by year-end.

Budget Timelines

The Board approved the 2012-2013 Budget Timelines for reference and use in the development of the 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget, and approved the

recommendation to expand public input process so that all partner groups have an opportunity to engage with and offer feedback on the 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget.

Trustee Reports

Trustees presented the following reports: Board Chair Murray noted that he had attended the District Student Advisory meeting and had been impressed with the great examples of youth leadership; Trustee Carr attended a meeting of the Ridge Meadows Educational Foundation at which Trustee Ward had been elected Chair. The next meeting of the Foundation will be on February 16th, 2012. Trustee Rempel attended a meeting of the Tzu Chi Foundation and noted that more requests for funding had been made than what was available.

Good News Item

Vice-Chair Eleanor Palis together with classes of First Nation students and Katzie First Nation representatives attended the Pole Blessing ceremony. The pole is to be carved by District students and a master carver. Trustee Palis also spoke about her visit to Samuel Robertson Technical School, at which motivational speaker Jeff Yeldon engaged students with a talk about Love, Hope and Time. Finally, Chair Murray extended his gratitude to employees who were honoured at last week's 25 Year Recognition Dinner.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on February 8, 2012 in the District Education Office.