



Board Meeting Highlights May 27, 2015

Trustees:

Mike Murray (Chair), Eleanor Palis (Vice-Chair), Lisa Beare, Korleen Carreras, Ken Clarkson, Dr. Dave Rempel

Executive:

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer)

Presentation: Special Education Teaching Assistant Program

Manager of Ridge Meadows College Craig Shupe and Deirdre Way spoke to the Board about the school district Special Education Teacher Assistant (SETA) program. The college implemented several recommended changes to this program, including increasing its instructional hours, extending the practicum, and introducing two weeks of directed observation in the early stages. Mr. Shupe reported that feedback on the changes has been very positive so far, and that the work that has been done has elevated the program's quality. Graduates of the SETA program are often hired by the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, said Mr. Shupe, and enjoy considerable success in their roles.

Regular Board Meetings for 2015-16

The Board considered and approved a modified public board meeting schedule for the 2016-17 school year, noting a greater need for more community outreach and a reduced requirement for formal regular meetings. Under the new schedule, public meetings of the board will take place once a month instead of bi-monthly as in previous years. This change is consistent with the meeting schedule typical of most other school boards in the province, and will allow the trustees to engage in more community outreach initiatives, including student and community forums. The Board will review this new schedule at the end of next school year to determine if further modifications are needed. The 2015-16 Board Meeting dates are as follows:

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| September 23, 2015 | February 24, 2016 |
| October 21, 2015 | March 9, 2016 |
| November 18, 2015 | April 6, 2016 |
| December 9, 2015 | April 27, 2016 |
| January 20, 2016 | May 18, 2016 |
| February 3, 2016 | June 15, 2016 |

Financial Statements for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2015

The Board approved the most recent quarterly financial statements as well as one-time needed capital expenditures pending receipt of current estimates on the school district's annual financial position. The needed expenditures were deferred from earlier in the year due to lack of planning opportunities in the summer and early fall of 2014. They include learning resources, replacement classroom furniture, and replacement technology, as prioritized by school staff.

Superintendent's Update

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

- Over 100 students from 20 of our schools participated in the DSAC COR Conference.
- 2015 Elementary Summer Learning registration will be done through the parent portal. The IT department has been working hard to set this up;
- Edith McDermott is hosting a school carnival;
- Davie Jones Elementary had a successful opening of its locker, which had stayed closed for 25 years;
- Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read and over 100 parents visited Harry Hooge's *Busy Town*;
- Several principals from our school district have been invited to participate in a session to review the Special Education Manual for the province.

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees reflected on the Aboriginal Achievement Award Ceremonies held on May 26, and congratulated all award recipients; Board Chair Murray noted that the trustee tours of schools are continuing, and that they offer all trustees a wonderful opportunity to spend time with students and staff.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 4 pm on June 10, 2015 in the District Education Office.