



## Board Meeting Highlights March 28, 2012

### **Trustees:**

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

### **Executive:**

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Peter Bullock (Assistant Secretary Treasurer)

### **Education, Awareness & Change: BC Responsible & Problem Gambling Program**

Registered Social Worker Pat Atkins presented to the Board on gambling and youth. Atkins explained that children typically begin to gamble around the age of 10 and are two to four times more likely to develop a gambling problem than adults. Atkins observed that there is insufficient recognition of the potential seriousness of youth gambling. The BC Responsible & Problem Gambling Program offers valuable workshops for children from grades 5 to 12 that aim to develop the skills children need to recognize and resist gambling problems. Program resources include Peer Helping Training, Free Counseling and a free Problem Gaming Help Line (1-888-795-6111).

### **Trustee Motion**

The Board approved Trustee Carr's motion to send a letter to the Minister of Education expressing the Board's disappointment with the mediator selection process. Trustee Carr stated that the Board's March 8, 2012 letter had supported the selection of a mediator acceptable to all parties, and suggested the appointment of a mediator not acceptable to the BCTF presents an additional challenge to an already difficult mediation process.

### **Safe Schools Policy**

The Board received the Timeline and Process from Superintendent Jan Unwin for addressing a Safe Schools policy that includes but is not limited to language on Sexual Orientation/ Gender Identity. The final policy will come to the Board for approval by the end of June 2012.

### **2012 – 2013 Operating Budget Funding Announcement**

The Board received Assistant Secretary Treasurer Peter Bullock's report on the 2012 – 2013 Operating Budget funding announcement. Assistant Secretary Treasurer Bullock stated that funding protection is currently in place due to decline in enrollment, and informed the Board that the District is waiting for clarification from the Ministry of Education on the administrative processes surrounding three newly identified funding categories – Learning Improvement Fund, Vulnerable Students, and Education Plan Supplement. Clarifications are expected by April 12, 2012.

### **Trustee Reports**

In the Trustee Reports section of the evening, Chair Murray passed on the District's appreciation to Joint Parks and Leisure Services for their organization of programs during teachers' job action and Spring Break, and Trustee Carr advised the Board that *Route 29* (a project supporting housing for 17 – 24 year-olds) is seeking donations of household items.

### **Good News**

The evening's good news items included the following: Trustee Palis noted that the upcoming Alouette Addictions presentation at Pitt Meadows Secondary School already has 60 registrants; Trustee Palis, Trustee Carr and Chair Murray praised the moving EPIC Project at Maple Ridge Secondary School and thanked Mr. Beale and his class for their hard work; Trustee Carr reported on the invaluable and impressive Spring Break RCMP Youth Academy program; and Chair Murray congratulated the Pitt Meadows Secondary School boys on their success at a recent tournament.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on April 11, 2012 in the District Education Office.**