



## Board Meeting Highlights April 8, 2015

### **Trustees:**

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

### **Executive:**

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

### **Presentation: Westview Secondary teacher Vicci Halabi**

Westview Secondary School teacher Vicci Halabi presented to the Board on her adaptive approach to the teaching of senior science classes. Realizing the traditional approach of presenting the biology curriculum was not meeting the needs of her students as 21C learners, Ms. Halabi researched and incorporated inquiry and problem-based learning into her classrooms. In an inquiry and problem-based approach, the teacher becomes the servant leader, while learning becomes a social and collaborative process, Ms. Halabi explained. Students are presented with practical, real life scenarios and are asked to prepare researched reflections and recommendations. The engaging process includes journaling, goal-setting, self-reflection, self-evaluation and group evaluations. The final product can come in many formats, including panel discussions, patient history files, mock trials, or filmed documentaries.

### **Capital Budget Bylaws**

The Board adopted two capital budget bylaws. The first bylaw was adopted to permit the expenditure of \$2,112,016 for annual facility maintenance projects, while the second was adopted to permit the completion of the Maple Ridge Secondary School building envelope program at a cost of \$1,150,000.

### **Policy Development Committee: Environmental Sustainability**

The Board approved the final version of *Policy 6530: Environmental Sustainability*, which incorporates public feedback received through the consultation process. The policy establishes the guiding principles for the school district's approach to environmental sustainability, and has now been posted to the district website at <http://www.sd42.ca/section6000>

### **4<sup>th</sup> Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement**

The Board received a presentation from Harry Dhillon (Director of Instruction), Ron Lanzarotta (Principal of Aboriginal Education), and Colleen Hannah (Ministry of Education) on the process and outcome of developing the fourth Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. The delegates noted that the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District is the first in the province to reach this important milestone. The Agreement outlines the following three key goals: 1) continue to develop a strong sense of community for Aboriginal students and families in their schools and within SD42; 2) support and improve the quality of school achievement for all Aboriginal students; and 3) transition Aboriginal students into their future learning, employment and life experiences after the completion of their secondary program.

Once all parties approve it, the fourth Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement will be in place from 2015 to 2020. The Board approved the Agreement and thanked committee members for their extensive work on the document.

### **Superintendent's Update**

In the Superintendent's Update portion of the evening, superintendent Russell highlighted the Holocaust Symposium at Westview Secondary, the district facilities review, the district Energy Management Program, the upcoming Ministry of Education Regional Education Forums, the budget process, the progress of school teams, Highland Park Elementary's *Kidsport Jersey Day*, and the success SRT students enjoyed at the Skills Canada Middle Lower Mainland Regionals in the previous week.

### **Proposed Preliminary Budget 2015/16 – 2016/17**

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan presented on the *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2015/16-2016/17*, noting the school district must address funding shortfalls of \$1.68 million for 2015/16, and \$1.44 million for 2016/17. The proposed budget encompasses two years, secretary treasurer Coughlan explained, to meet Ministry requirements for identifying administrative savings over that timeframe.

Contributing factors to the 2015/16 shortfall include unfunded new costs (\$0.35 million), costs related to declining enrolment (\$0.12 million), and required administrative savings (\$0.72 million). The most significant budget balancing proposals for the next two years include:

- the discontinuation of all SD42 regular busing (there are currently 370 registered for regular busing, with an annual cost of \$645,000 for the service);
- a move away from district provision of iPads, laptops and tablets and a transition to a Bring Your Own Device model by 2018;
- an annual general supply reduction of \$0.58 million;
- Support teacher and classroom teacher reductions amounting to \$0.592 million.

The *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2015/16–2016/17* is available on the district's budget process page at <http://www.sd42.ca/budget-process>

Trustees thanked staff for doing their best to minimize the negative impacts of the cuts, but expressed disappointment and concern that the district is once again in the position of having to consider a significant cut to its services.

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees Carr and Murray expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit many schools and shared how valuable they felt their visits have been, while trustee Beare reflected on her experience as a judge for the francophone public speaking contest at Eric Langton Elementary.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on April 29, 2015 in the District Education Office.**