



Trustees:

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

Executive:

Laurie Meston (Acting Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), Shannon Derinzy (Acting Assistant Superintendent), David Vandergugten (Acting Assistant Superintendent)

Letter: new capital project funding policy response

The board passed a unanimous resolution to forward a letter to the Ministry of Education, pending the outcome of the discussion between the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), the BC Association of School Business Officers (BCASBO) and ministry officials.

The letter is to communicate the board's concern about the ministry's new capital project funding policy, which would require school districts to fund up to 50% of capital project costs from available reserves.

May 14, 2014 public board meeting cancelled

The board cancelled the public board meeting scheduled for May 14, 2014, so that it could conduct the Superintendent of Schools selection process. All business scheduled for the May 14th meeting will be addressed at the April 30, 2014 and May 28, 2014 board meetings.

2014/15 Proposed preliminary operating budget

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan presented the 2014/15 Proposed Preliminary Operating Budget. Due to cost pressures beyond its control, the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District is facing a \$5.02 million shortfall for the 2014-15 school year. Contributing factors include increases to salaries and benefits (\$1.84M), enrolment decline (\$0.44M), inflation and utilities rate increases (\$0.29), and other factors such as the reserves used to fund the 2013/14 budget. The full Proposed Preliminary Operating Budget 2014/15 document together with the budget presentation are available on the district website at www.sd42.ca/budget-process.

The board will receive input on the proposals at a public input meeting, which is scheduled to run from 6 pm to 9 pm on April 16th, 2014 at Maple Ridge Secondary School. Public feedback may also be sent to the board at budget@sd42.ca. The board will make its final deliberations and adopt the 2014/15 Preliminary Operating Budget on April 30, 2014 at 6 pm in the district education office boardroom.

Strategic facilities review

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan presented the phase 1 report for the district's Strategic Facilities Review, explaining that the review constituted a necessary foundation for any planning decisions for SD42 facilities over the next ten years. The district will seek public input over the next few months, and final recommendations about the content of the district's Strategic Facilities Plan will be presented in the fall. The phase 1 document and additional information are available on the district's new facilities review website at <http://facilitiesreview.sd42.ca>

Good news

The following items were noted in the good news portion of the evening: trustee Palis attended grad transitions at MRSS and was impressed by the presentations; trustee Nelson and Palis have been giving presentations at local schools, educating parents about the funding shortfalls many school districts are now facing; trustee Marshall attended a successful premiere of the Environmental School documentary film *Found in the Forest* at The ACT; and the board congratulated SD42 teacher Scott Ormiston for being a co-recipient of the prestigious UBC Faculty of Education Alumni Award for 2014. Mr. Ormiston was recognized for his work on Aboriginal Education in the district.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on April 30, 2014 in the District Education Office.