



**Board Meeting Highlights
December 11, 2013**

Trustees:

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

Executive:

Jan Unwin (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer)

Annual Report of Chairperson

Board Chair Mike Murray presented the *Board of Education 2013 Year in Review*, which touched on the following highlights: the Fraser Valley Student Conference; the SD42 Roadmap to Excellence; the initiation of the Long Term Facilities Planning Process; the Policy Development and Review; Board and Staff Advocacy; 2013 Leading Edge Initiatives including the *Parent Portal* and the new elementary reporting system; the addressing of fiscal challenges; and 2013 Student Achievement.

Chair Murray also listed priorities for 2014. These include the implementation of the Roadmap, the completion of the Facilities Plan, the preparation of a balanced budget, succession planning, and successful bargaining with MRTA.

The full year in review presentation will be available online at <http://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/chair-annual-reports>

Board Elections: Mike Murray and Eleanor Palis Continue in Chair and Vice-Chair Roles

The Board held its Annual Organizational meeting to elect Board officers for the next 12 months. Chair Mike Murray was acclaimed and will continue in that role. Vice-Chair Eleanor Palis was also acclaimed and will again continue in her role.

Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement

The Board approved the *Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement* for submission to the Ministry of Education. The report provided a snapshot of areas in which the school district has improved, including graduation rates, graduation rates

for alternate students, and reading fluency. Superintendent Jan Unwin noted that the District 6 year grad rates were especially impressive. The District had moved from a 76.3% grad rate in 2007/2008 to a 90.7% grad rate in 2012/2013.

Areas that continue to be a challenge for the District are grade-to-grade transitions, and the transition of grade 10s to grade 11 more specifically. The District also continues to be concerned about the number of its Children in Care who regularly miss school.

The complete report is available online at <http://www.sd42.ca/system/files/SD42%20-%20SuperintendentAchievementReport%202013-2014.pdf>

Online Kindergarten Registration

Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston spoke to the Board about the school district's new online kindergarten registration process, which will begin in mid-January, 2014. Deputy Superintendent Meston explained that the registration process in past years could be stressful, as some parents would line up for up to 48 hours before registration.

Online registration will be divided into the following three phases:

1. SIBLING REGISTRATION (opens January 15, 2014 at 12 pm, closes January 19, 2014 at midnight)
2. CHOICE REGISTRATION (opens January 22, 2014 at 12 pm, closes January 26, 2014 at midnight)
3. REGULAR REGISTRATION (opens February 4, 2014 at 12 pm, closes February 10, 2014)

Parents who do not have computer access at home will be able to access the online registration form from a dedicated computer terminal at any of the District elementary schools. Maple Ridge Public Library and Pitt Meadows Public Library will also have computer terminals set aside for kindergarten registration on the first day of each registration period (January 15, January 22 and February 4).

Deputy Superintendent Meston said the District was pleased to be able to offer parents an easier, stress-free registration experience.

Additional information on kindergarten registration for the 2014-2015 school years is available at <http://www.sd42.ca/kindergarten-registration>.

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening, trustee Carr reflected on the impressive sit-down Christmas dinner/lunch that Maple Ridge Secondary was preparing for its local elementary schools this week, while Chair Murray praised the quality of the MRSS Christmas Desserts concerts.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held at 6 pm on January 15, 2014 in the District Education Office.