



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: Board Chair Annual Report

Chair Mike Murray presented the Board Chair Annual Report, highlighting a number of the organization's many achievements. These highlights included the signing of the fourth Five Year Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, the completion of the strategic facilities plan, the completion and implementation of the school district's Energy Management Plan, and the adoption of numerous new and updated policies. Chair Murray also spoke to student achievement, including the award of the prestigious Loran Scholarship to Westview's Emerald UnRuh and Maple Ridge secondary's Joanne Banh, Nash Taylor's silver medal win in Excel 2013 at Microsoft World Competition, and the school district's continued rise above provincial averages in all categories of the six year graduation rates. The Board Chair Annual Report is available in its entirety on the school district website at: <http://goo.gl/Pzmseo>

Board Elections

During the board elections portion of the evening, Mike Murray was re-elected Chair, and Susan Carr was elected Vice-Chair. Trustee Palis, who served in the Vice-Chair role for many years, did not run for the position due to an increase in work commitments.

Presentation: Arts Council

Arts Council staff Lindy Sisson and Landrie Davies spoke to the Board about the many ways the Arts Council is working with students and teachers in the district. The overview included student volunteer opportunities, programs, as well as scheduled gallery field trips and performance opportunities.

Committee Appointments

Trustees adopted the annual list internal committee appointments and liaison roles. Chair Murray noted each trustee is involved in at least four separate committees outside the regular Board meeting schedule. The full list of committee appointments is available online at <http://www1.sd42.ca/node/2330>

Superintendent's Update

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

- The Garibaldi Interdisciplinary Arts (AI) Academy presented *Psychosession* on December 3, featuring over 120 students who performed skits, danced, and played music.
- SRT Secondary is starting its annual food bank collection, and is competing with Garibaldi secondary. The administrators of the losing school will have to wear the winning school's shirt for the day.
- Maple Ridge Secondary is sending out a special mention to dedicated staff member Daniel Rushton, student volunteers and the local Alliance Church for providing a breakfast twice a week to hungry students.
- Albion Elementary hosted Minister of Education Mike Bernier on November 30.
- Fairview Elementary is putting on the *Grinch That Stole Christmas!* on December 15 and 16. The production will involve the whole school.
- Glenwood Elementary congratulates division 1 for bringing in the most cans of food for the school's *Scare Hunger Drive*.
- 430 students from Laity View Elementary participated in the worldwide cup-stacking event, helping to break the Guinness World Record for the most cup stackers on a single day.
- Yennadon Elementary has a number of wonderful initiatives on the go this holiday season, including two Christmas themed fundraisers for their ongoing work with *Free the Children* organization.
- Finally, a big thank you to the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club, which has approved the *Meadow Ridge Rotary Dictionaries* pilot program for the next three years. The first batch of roughly 1,070 dictionaries will be distributed in October 2016 to all grade 4 students in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District.

Good News

The following items were noted in the good news portion of the evening: trustee Carreras attended the Salvation Army Dignity Breakfast and acknowledged the role of three Thomas Haney students who delivered slam poetry readings on the subject of poverty during the event; trustee Carr mentioned her visits to Kanaka Creek and Pitt Meadows elementary schools; and Chair Murray shared highlights from the Minister of Education, Mike Bernier, visit. Trustee Murray noted the visit was focussed on the school district's need for a new school in the south Albion area.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on January 20, 2016 in the District Education Office.