



**Trustees:**

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

**Executive:**

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), Shannon Derinzy (Director of Instruction)

**2015/16 Amended Annual Budget and Second Quarter Financial Update**

The Board approved the 2015/16 Amended Annual Budget for submission to the Ministry of Education. Highlights from this amended budget include increased revenues from increased enrolment and increased costs to accommodate additional students. The Board approved several one-time expenditures from the available contingency reserve; funding will be held in the reserve to assist with anticipated operating shortfalls in future years.

**Garibaldi Secondary Fine Arts Program Review**

School principal Darren Rowell and vice principal Tom Levesque presented to the Board their report on a number of fine arts program models run by other school districts. The objective of their research into these programs was to determine which of these models (if any) might be effectively implemented at Garibaldi Secondary. The desire for an expanded fine arts program at Garibaldi was identified during the *Facilities and Learning for Today and Tomorrow* public consultation process, at which time the Board commissioned the review.

Principal Rowell and vice principal Levesque visited and reviewed several programs, including the Langley Fine Arts School, Lord Byng Arts Mini Program, and the Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts. They will continue their investigation over the coming months and will bring their recommendations to the Board at a later date.

**Superintendent's Update**

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

- Fairview Elementary will be hosting the school's first grandparents day on March 9;
- Maple Ridge Elementary community raised over \$3,400 for the family of one of its kindergarten students who is currently undergoing chemo for a rare cancer;

- Grade 6/7 teachers at Edith McDermott Elementary school won \$1000 through BC Hydro Power Smart community Champions;
- Glenwood Elementary will be doing its annual WITS (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help) week in anticipation of Pink Shirt day;
- Teachers at Webster's Corners Elementary are in the midst of visiting an International Baccalaureate (IB) school in North Vancouver as they investigate the possibility of making Webster's an IB school. On Friday, March 4, the school will host a "duct tape the principal" fundraiser to raise money for leveled reading books;
- Congratulations to Mr. Henderson and his Grade 7 math team from Albion Elementary for winning the Mensa Problems Award at the Fraser Valley Math Olympics;
- Garibaldi Secondary Interdisciplinary Arts Academy presented *Grease*, which ran from February 15-20. This amazing show featured over 50 students, and had 6 sold out shows and 2 sold out matinees;
- Maple Ridge Secondary hosted a Multicultural Week, which started on Friday with Japanese Day. The school's wrestling team won the Upper Fraser Valley Championships. And Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Randle has become the face of the *Take a Bite of BC* program!

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees shared the following items: Trustee Carreras spoke about her visit to Pitt Meadows Elementary, and about her enjoyment of the Garibaldi Secondary musical production of *Grease*; Trustee Carr noted that Strong Kids speaker night is coming up on March 7; and Chair Murray reflected on the successful 25 Year Employee Recognition evening at Maple Ridge Secondary School.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm March 9, 2016 in the District Education Office.**