



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: The HIVE Neighbourhood Centre

The Board received a presentation on the community HIVE, operating out of Eric Langton elementary school. The HIVE houses a number of community programs, including the Healthy Babies Program, StrongStart, L'il Cook Kids, as well as breakfast and lunch programs. Shawn Matthewson and Elaine Yamamoto spoke individually to the history and community benefits of The HIVE, while Jennifer Simon and Donna Servant reflected on the ways this community hub has enriched the school itself. The school, Ms. Servant noted, has become a place of caring on every level. Staff have recorded over 12,000 visits to The HIVE over the course of the year, foregrounding the value of the HIVE's programs. Student enrolment has also increased since The HIVE was introduced into the school, which has created some challenges when it comes to finding enough physical space for the program.

2014/15 Amended Annual Budget and Second Quarter Financial Update

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan presented the 2014/15 Amended Annual Budget and Second Quarter Financial Update, highlighting the changes that have resulted in a larger than anticipated surplus of \$2.29 million. These changes included higher enrolment numbers, additional education funding, increased provincial grants to cover labour settlement, the release of the provincial holdback, and increased International Education fees. The Board approved the transfer of the surplus to the contingency reserve to offset the anticipated funding shortfall for the 2015/16 school year, and adopted the 2014/15 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw.

My Education BC Project Update

Director of Instruction David Vandergugten and Project Manager Keith Kiraly provided the project charter for the district's implementation of the BCeSIS replacement program, MyEdBC. The charter underscored the need for proper training both leading up to and following full implementation of this new student information system. The Board had set aside \$0.40 million for this project, with the largest portion of the funds to be used for training. Mr. Kiraly noted that the current information system, BCeSIS, will be shut down entirely by 2016.

Late French Immersion at Golden Ears Elementary Moving Ahead

Superintendent Russell advised the Board that the Late French Immersion program at Golden Ears Elementary already has 30 registrants, and is therefore at capacity and will be

moving ahead for the 2015-16 school year. The Late French Immersion program did not run for the 2014-15 school year due to low registration numbers.

Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent's Update included the following highlights:

- Each school in the district was represented by a School Team at Feb 16, 17 and 18 sessions, facilitated by Penny Ketoa and Randy Cranston. Superintendent Russel thanked CUPE, MRTA, MRPVPA and Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston for their contributions;
- Glenwood Elementary is running their W.I.T.S. program (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help);
- Yennadon Elementary is exploring the word "compassion," which is one of the five points of courage words in the school's code of conduct;
- Pitt Meadows Elementary hosted a Quebec Carnaval evening last Friday;
- Pitt Meadows Secondary student Samantha (Sam) Porta received media recognition for her tireless effort in organizing the local Hockey Against Bullying and Skate for Change events;
- Alouette Elementary student Emma Doucette was featured in the local paper and also appeared on Breakfast Television as the show's Athlete of the Week;
- Senior SRT science students in Chemistry, Physics and Engineering are preparing a "Chem Magic Show" for students in feeder elementary schools;
- The Aboriginal Education Department ran a successful two-day Student Leadership Conference;
- Whonnock Elementary hosted Busy Town;
- And Maple Ridge Secondary School is gearing up for another fantastic Epic Project.

2015 Provincial Budget Update

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan provided the Board with an update on the 2015 Budget for the province. The budget includes a call for administrative savings in the education sector of \$29 million for 2015/16 and a further \$25 million for 2016/17. For the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, this translates to a reduction of \$0.73 million for 2015/16 and a reduction of \$0.625 million for 2016/17. The province will also not be funding net increases in salary increments, BC Hydro rate increases, inflation, or MSP and other benefits.

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan cautioned that full details will not be available until mid-March, at which time the provincial government will announce its grants to school districts. The Board issued a news release, expressing concern about the impact of the provincial budget on local finances.

2014/15 Budget Implementation Report

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan presented the Board with the Budget Implementation Report, summarizing verbal and written input on the budget reductions made over the past two budget cycles. The report is available online in the public agenda package for February 25, 2015 (www.sd42.ca), and will be made available to media, local MLAs, as well as the Ministry of Education. Trustees thanked all those who contributed to the feedback process, noting that the information will inform the upcoming budget cycle. They also expressed concern about the announced provincial budget, since it makes unlikely the restoration of services that have already been cut and puts additional pressure on the system.

Environmental Sustainability: Draft Policy 6530

The Board received *Draft Policy 6530: Environmental Sustainability* for information and for continuation with the consultation process. Draft Policy 6530 has now been posted to the district website (www.sd42.ca) for public input.

Good News

The following items were noted in the good news portion of the evening: Trustees Palis and Carr reflected on their visit to Environmental School, noting they were impressed by the confidence with which some of the young students presented to the larger group; Trustees Carr, Palis and Murray mentioned their visit to Harry Hooge, Maple Ridge Secondary School, and Yennadon; several trustees referred to their participation in the MRSS Grad Transitions interviews, which went very well.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on March 25, 2015 in the District Education Office.