



Board Meeting Highlights
January 28, 2015

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)

Westview Secondary: 2014-2015 Microsoft Showcase School

Westview principal Patricia Giesinger, teacher Todd Goodman, two Westview students, and Microsoft account manager Matt Burke presented to the Board about Westview Secondary's **2014-2015 Microsoft Showcase School** designation, which Westview shares with only three other schools across Canada. Mr. Goodman traced the beginnings of the school's *Microsoft IT Academy* program, while both students spoke to the invaluable practical experience the program provides. Students work at their own pace in this self-directed program, with an official Microsoft Certification as the final result. Although this is the *Microsoft IT Academy's* first year at Westview Secondary, the school has already seen approximately 90 certifications. Such certifications, both Mr. Burke and Westview students testified, give certificate holders an invaluable advantage in the workplace.

Trustees Appointed to Facilities Plan Steering Committee

The Board appointed chair Mike Murray and trustee Susan Carr to sit on the school district's Facilities Plan Steering Committee, alongside superintendent Sylvia Russell, secretary treasurer Flavia Coughlan, facilities manager Rick Delorme, communications manager Irena Pochop, and facilitator Catherine Rockandel. The committee will be tasked with preparing and – upon receiving Board approval – implementing a public engagement plan for the *SD42 Strategic Facilities Plan*.

Learn more about the *SD42 Strategic Facilities Plan* at <http://facilitiesreview.sd42.ca>.

2015-2016 Proposed School District Calendar

Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston presented the *2015-2016 Proposed School District Calendar* to the Board. The proposed calendar includes:

- a two (2) week Christmas break from **Monday, December 21, 2015 to Friday, January 1, 2016**
- a two (2) week Spring break from **Monday, March 14, 2016 to Friday, March 25, 2016** (*excluding Kanaka Creek Elementary*)
- a one (1) day not in session to coincide with the Family Day holiday on **Friday, February 5, 2016**. (An optional training day for 10 month CUPE employees)

The Board approved the release of the proposed calendar for public feedback and review. The calendar has been posted to the school district website at <http://www.sd42.ca/proposed-calendar>. A link to public feedback is included on this page.

Board Appoints Auditors

The Board appointed the firm *KPMG LLP* as the *Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District's* auditor for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 years. A proposal call is issued every five years for this contract; this will mark *KPMG LLP's* third year of undertaking this responsibility.

Superintendent's Update

In what will become a regular report on the Board's public agenda, superintendent Sylvia Russell presented the following school district highlights:

- The school district's new *Masonry Program*, run in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, starts up this February at Thomas Haney Secondary School;
- District staff worked hard to implement a new business systems software that encompasses finance, payroll and HR;
- Students at Harry Hooze Elementary have been forging friendship with the residents of Greystone Manor, and have also been working with Thomas Haney students on Project H.E.L.L.O, reconnecting the project's 500th family;
- Glenwood students have been focusing on Active Living and are running a wide range of fantastic clubs, including a chess club, a games club, and a Lego club;
- Fairview Elementary is benefiting from an initiative that involves several teachers sharing ideas on social emotional learning;
- Samuel Robertson Technical student Megan Kina just made the u19 Canadian National Lacrosse team, while the school itself is enjoying the benefits of a thriving trades program;
- Many wonderful things are happening across all the secondary and elementary school libraries in our district.

Motions for the BC School Trustees Association AGM

The Board moved to endorse three resolutions for submission to the BCSTA annual general meeting. The first is a request that BCSTA Board conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the recently signed co-governance agreement between the BCSTA and provincial government, while the next two ask that BCSTA membership encourage

government, BCPSEA, BCTF and support unions to engage in regular discussions before the next round of bargaining.

Good News

The following good news items were noted: trustee Rempel noted that Garibaldi Secondary is preparing for its production of Footloose, which will run from February 17 to 21; trustee Carreras noted that Lindy Sisson, executive and artistic director of the Arts Council, was named *Presenter of the Year* by the Canadian Association of Performing Arts Presenters; trustees Carr and Beare spoke about their recent, well-received visits to Eric Langton Elementary; and trustees reflected on the invaluable feedback they received on the effects of the recent budget reductions.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on February 11, 2015 in the District Education Office.