



Trustees:

Eleanor Palis (Vice-Chair), Susan Carr, Ken Clarkson, Kathy Marshall, Sarah Nelson, Dr. Dave Rempel

Executive:

Laurie Meston (Acting Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), David Vandergugten (Acting Assistant Superintendent)

Presentation: Casey Wright

Maple Ridge Elementary School student and Children's Hospital fundraising spokesperson Casey Wright shared his story with the Board. Casey was diagnosed with a brain tumour when he was six months old. When he turned six, the tumour had enlarged and had begun to press on Casey's optic nerve. Although Casey had successful brain surgery, the intervention led to a stroke a few weeks later that left him paralyzed on his right side. Casey spoke to the Board about this recovery at Sunny Hill Health Care Centre for Children, and about his journey back to health. The Board was impressed with Casey's incredible positivity and resilience, while Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston noted that Casey epitomized the District's most firmly held beliefs. Acting Superintendent Meston thanked Casey for being a great role model in this District.

Board Authorized Approved Course: Masonry – Level 1

The Board approved a new trades course, *Masonry Level 1*, clarifying that this approval is contingent on the new course remaining cost neutral to the district. District Vice Principal of Partnership and Trades, Steve Wiebe, explained that the course will be able to accommodate 16 students, and that 5 students have already expressed interest at this early stage. Acting Superintendent Meston noted that the masonry course is one from which a great many of students in this District would be able to benefit, but that a number of details (including the contract with Kwantlen College) must still be worked out before the planned February 2015 start-up for the course can be confirmed.

Financial Statements

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan presented the First Quarter Financial Report for the 2014-2015 budget year. She said that the District should see a slight end-of-year surplus of \$260,000, though these projections assume that the new collective agreement negotiated with teachers will be fully funded by the Ministry at provincial level. Secretary Treasurer Coughlan also noted the unpredictable manner in which holdback funding is distributed to school districts. The Board highlighted the need for further discussions with Ministry about improvements to the distribution of holdback funds.

Budget Planning and Reporting Policy 4203

The Board rescinded *Policy 4203: Operating Budget* and approved *Policy 4203: Budget Planning and Reporting*, which had gone out for public consultation for the required period of time. *Policy 4203* will provide the Board with greater flexibility to set budget consultation schedules and processes. The new policy has been posted online to the *SD42 Policy Manual* at <http://www1.sd42.ca/section4000>.

Class Size and Composition Report

The Board received the *Class Size and Composition Report* from Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston. Acting Superintendent Meston noted a continued increase in class size averages despite the recent teacher settlement, and observed also that the allocation committee was unable to address all of the requests for support this year given the lack of available funding. Acting Superintendent Meston further stressed that secondary class size averages as submitted to the Ministry are lower than actual class size averages at secondary level due to Ministry reporting requirements. The Ministry asks that school districts include all classes – including those with students with special needs – in their final numbers.

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees reflected on the Remembrance Day ceremonies, and reflected that this was the last meeting of the 2011-2014 Board of Education. The Board thanked trustees Nelson and Marshall, who are not seeking re-election. The Board also thanked Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston for stepping into the acting superintendent role during an especially challenging year. Acting Superintendent Meston will be resuming her Deputy Superintendent role next week as Sylvia Russell steps into the superintendent role on November 17.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 4 pm on December 3, 2014 at Thomas Haney Secondary School.