



Trustees:

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

Executive:

Laurie Meston (Acting Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), Shannon Derinzy (Acting Assistant Superintendent), David Vandergugten (Acting Assistant Superintendent), Harry Dhillon (Director of Instruction, Learning Services)

Presentation: Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning

The Board endorsed a \$10 per day child care plan presented by Ms. Emily Mileczko on behalf of the *Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC*. The *Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District* is the 27th district in the province to endorse the plan.

Under the plan, families with an annual combined household income of under \$40,000 would pay \$10 per day for full time child care and \$7 per day for part time child care. The benefits of the plan are significant, Ms. Mileczko explained, ranging from the reduction of child poverty and the enhancement of child development in the early years, to broad economic advantages that include an increased workforce. A number of countries have already moved to a similar system, Ms. Mileczko said. In Canada, Quebec has implemented a system similar to the one proposed by the Coalition.

Presentation: [Achievement Contract] Early Learning - Early Indicators for Student Success, Including Aboriginal Learners

Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston presented the third instalment of the Achievement Contract, which focuses on early learning. The overview highlighted the district's play based models of learning, and its general focus on each child's specific needs. Acting Superintendent Meston noted that the district's continued commitment to personalized learning is especially evident in its adoption of the student-inclusive kindergarten report card, which has been implemented in 20 out of 22 elementary schools in Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows SD42.

The 2014 Achievement Contract is available online at <http://www1.sd42.ca/2014-achievement-contract>.

Amended 2014-2015 School Calendar

The Board adopted an amended school calendar that incorporates two professional development days originally scheduled for September. Had the district kept the original timelines, these days would have fallen immediately at the conclusion of the labour dispute, Acting Superintendent Meston explained. The new proposed dates were selected following consultation with parents and partner groups, and are as follows:

January 27, 2015 – Growth Planning Day (tied to January 26, 2015 Non-Instructional Day)
March 23, 2015 – Non-Instructional Day (tied to the end of Spring Break)

Learning Improvement Fund

The Board received the Learning Improvement Fund Spending Plan Summary for information. Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston noted that while the district doesn't have the final numbers yet, 59 classes currently have over 30 registered students. The district will continue to add staffing in order to reduce these numbers, Acting Superintendent Meston explained, noting also that enrolment at secondary is higher this year than anticipated. The Learning Improvement Fund allocations have been completed in collaboration with teachers, though the committee was unable to do everything it would have wanted to do because of some limitations to the funding. This issue, as well as other funding concerns, will be discussed with the Ministry of Education at a scheduled meeting either later this fall or early in the new year.

Energy Management Program

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan spoke to the Board about the opportunity to create a full time Energy Manager position, which would be co-funded by BC Hydro (up to \$75,000 annually) and the Board. To fund its portion of the salary, the Board would draw on the annual utilities savings resulting from the implementation of an energy management program, Secretary Treasurer Coughlan explained. The Energy Manager would oversee the implementation of various capital projects over the next few years, helping the district realize reduced annual costs of up to \$400,000. Most school districts embarked on this project in 2008, Secretary Treasurer Coughlan noted. The Board approved the project implementation, observing that the pursuit of energy savings was identified as a key strategy in its annual budget deliberations.

Facilities Related Policies

Upon recommendation from the Board Policy Development Committee and following a public consultation process, the Board rescinded *School Size* (Nov. 25, 2008), *School Closure DNB* and *Student Attendance Areas/JC* policies, and approved in their stead the policies and procedure that follow:

Policy 6425: School Size

Policy 6801: School Closures

Policy 9200: School Catchment Areas & Student Placement

Procedure 9200.1: Student Placement

The approved policies and procedure have been posted to the *SD42 Policy Manual* on the school district website at <http://www1.sd42.ca/board-of-education/sd42-policy-manual>

Anaphylaxis

The Board adopted *Policy 9601: Anaphylaxis* following a month-long consultation period. The policy reflects guidelines proposed by public health. A parent expressed concern that the allergy notification should be extended to the entire school rather than just the student's classroom. Board members and district staff noted, however, that the *Anaphylaxis* policy does provide for school-wide awareness. Acting Assistant Superintendent David Vandergugten stressed that school administrators take life-threatening allergies very seriously and said he would issue a reminder on this subject at the upcoming meeting of school principals.

SD42 Roadmap to Excellence Strategic Plan: Operational Plan

Board Chair Mike Murray, Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston, and Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan presented the district's operational plan, which identifies the critical strategies adopted by the following five key district areas over the next few years: The Board of Education, Education, Business Division, Information Technology Division, and Human Resources Department. These operational plans are the next step in implementing the *SD42 Roadmap to Excellence*, and can be reviewed online at <http://www1.sd42.ca/strategic-review>.

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening, trustee Rempel reflected on the successful political science classroom session at Westview Secondary, while Board Chair Murray noted that the Rotary Clubs are holding an information session at 7pm in the MRSS library to talk about the International Exchange program, and observed also that 42 students have already signed up for the Rotary Youth Summit at the end of November. The trustees also extended their congratulations to SD42 teacher Scott Ormiston, who received a Certificate of Achievement as a part of the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on November 12, 2014 in the District Education Office.