



Trustees:

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

Executive:

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

Presentation: Apple Distinguished Program for 2014-2016 (Apple Canada)

Acting Assistant Superintendent David Vandergugten introduced representatives from Apple Canada, who presented the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District with an Apple Distinguished Program recognition award for its work on the Inquiry Program. Mr. Allan Gauld, regional manager for Western Canada, spoke about the award, which recognizes achievement in the following five key areas: 1. visionary leadership, 2. innovative learning and teaching, 3. ongoing professional learning, 4. compelling evidence of success, and 5. a flexible learning environment. These criteria, Mr. Gauld emphasized, have been set by educators working in the field.

The SD42 Inquiry Program is currently in its ninth year and has seen tremendous success. Teacher Julie Hearn spoke on behalf of her colleagues, thanking both Apple Canada and the Board of Education for their support of the program over the years.

To learn more about the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District Inquiry Program, visit the program website at <http://schools.sd42.ca/inquiry>

Presentation: Achievement Contract, Secondary Education

Acting Assistant Superintendent Shannon Derinzy presented to the Board on the secondary education portion of the Achievement Contract, highlighting the district's steadily improving graduation rates, which are considerably higher than the provincial average. Acting Assistant Superintendent Derinzy noted that SD42 graduation rates for Aboriginal students and for students with special needs are especially impressive, and that they have seen significant improvement over the past five years. The district's grade-to-grade transition rate data is also quite high, said Derinzy, though the transition rates do drop in grade 11. Derinzy attributed this drop to the stress associated with writing provincial exams.

Derinzy identified Skills and Technical Training programs as areas of significant growth, explaining that these programs are valuable not only because they give students great apprenticeship and job

opportunities, but also because they attract students who may otherwise be disconnected from conventional schooling.

International Teachers' Day

As presentations concluded, Board Chair Mike Murray reflected on the critical role that teachers play in student success. Teachers inspire and lead students to greatness, said Chair Murray, noting that without their skill and passion, many of the programs and accomplishments listed in the Achievement Contract would not be possible. Chair Murray concluded by acknowledging the week's International Teachers' Day, and extending a heartfelt thanks to all teachers on behalf of the Board of Education.

School District Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan presented the School District Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) to the Board. The SOFI report shows the schedule of remuneration and expenses to trustees and employees exceeding \$75,000, and supplies and services exceeding \$25,000. Listed expenditures included the costs of graduation ceremonies, which are funded at school level and with which there are therefore no associated net costs to the district. The SOFI report is available online at <http://www1.sd42.ca/board-of-education/financial-information>

Trustee Remuneration

The Board approved a recommendation that trustee remuneration for the next term be adjusted to reflect a 1.5% cost of living adjustment over the past two years (effective December 1), and an annual cost of living adjustment (July 1) in each of the following years during the next term. SD42 trustee remuneration will still be significantly lower than the average remuneration for surrounding school districts, including Delta, Langley, Abbotsford, Burnaby and Coquitlam. Remuneration for Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows trustees was last adjusted effective January 1, 2012. Trustees reflected that the initial increase will be minimal at \$279 per trustee per year, and noted also that the Board reduced trustee professional development funding by \$7,000 during the last budget review.

Policy Development Committee

The Board received the following policy and associated procedure, which replace existing *Policy 4203: Operating Budget*.

Policy 4203: Budget Planning and Reporting
Procedure 4203.1: Budget Procedure

The policy and procedure have been posted to the district website for public input at <http://www1.sd42.ca/node/2008>

Good News Items

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees reflected on the evening's two presentations, which highlighted the good work being done in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. Board Chair

Murray acknowledged a Salvation Army grant that will ensure the continuation of the brown bag lunch program for over 200 children every day, and the provision of school start up supplies and back packs for 223 district students. Chair Murray also referred to November's *Rotary Youth Impact Summit* at Zajac Ranch, which will see the participation of up to 70 grade 10 to 12 students

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on October 29, 2014 in the District Education Office.