



Board Meeting Highlights
September 23, 2015

Trustees:

Mike Murray (Chair), Eleanor Palis (Vice-Chair), Lisa Beare, Susan Carr, Korleen Carreras, Ken Clarkson

Executive:

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer)

Input on Draft Strategic Facilities Plan

Blue Mountain staff and the school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) provided the Board with input on the *Strategic Facilities Plan* draft recommendation that the International Baccalaureate program hosted at Garibaldi Secondary be expanded to Blue Mountain Elementary. Both staff and PAC representatives maintained their school would not be a good fit for this program, and recommended the school district look at other elementary schools where this program may be hosted. The Board will adopt the finalized Strategic Facilities Plan at its next public meeting on October 14, 2015.

For additional information about the *Strategic Facilities Plan* public consultation process, go to <http://facilitiesreview.sd42.ca>

Presentation: Inclusive Education

In their presentation to the Board, Gary Lozinski and Dennis Lacroix highlighted the various inclusive education models implemented in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows public secondary schools, and spoke also of the various agencies that help support students with special needs in their transition to the work force. The Board commended the staff for their work, congratulating them also for the award the transitions program received from the Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility Issues last spring.

MRTA Social Justice Committee

Karen Learmonth, Martin Dmitrieff and Hilaire Ford brought forward a draft multiculturalism policy researched and prepared by the school district Social Justice Committee. The Board thanked the Social Justice Committee, and acknowledged the work that had gone into the development of this document. The proposed draft policy will be included for review in the Board's policy committee work plan.

For additional information on SD42 policies and procedures, go to <http://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/sd42-policy-manual>

Board Meeting Change

The next public meeting of the Board, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, was moved up by one week to Wednesday, October 14, 2015 to address a conflict with Ministry of Education meetings.

Universal Washroom Signs

The Board approved the use of universal washroom signs recommended by the Safe and Caring Schools Policy Implementation Committee for one washroom in every school. The original request came from the Maple Ridge Secondary School Gay and Straight Alliance. The Board thanked the students present for bringing the matter to the committee's attention.

2015/16 Routine Capital Plan

The Board approved the minor capital submission related to building lifecycle maintenance presented by staff. Several mechanical systems are included in the submission, all of which are due for replacement and will provide enhanced energy efficiency. The second step of the capital submission process stretches across a longer timeframe and includes major projects such as land acquisition and the request for new schools. This step will be completed by the Ministry's October 2015 deadline and will be based on the finalized *Strategic Facilities Plan*.

Audited Financial Statements

The Board approved the June 30, 2015 audited annual financial statements. The statements show that the Board's available contingency reserve – once commitments are addressed – will be \$2.58 million, or less than the 2% amount that is generally acknowledged as the minimum level required by school districts.

My Education BC Update

David Vandergugten, Keith Kiraly, Meghan Murden and Anne Woloszczuk provided the Board with an update on the training sessions provided to staff in support of the implementation of this new system. Mr. Vandergugten acknowledged that the start up has been challenging because the system has been slow province-wide. In response to these delays, the Ministry has extended the deadline for submitting student information and is working with the service provider to improve this solution's capacity and speed. The presenters agreed that, temporary performance problems aside, the new system will be an improvement on the BCeSIS system it replaces.

Summer Learning

Principal of Riverside Centre Kim Bondi provided the Board with an update on the school district's successful 2015 Summer Learning program. The final student enrolment numbers for the program exceeded expectations, Mr. Bondi said, and the parent feedback has been very positive. 447 elementary and 650 secondary students participated in Summer Learning. The program is anticipated to expand over the next few years following this year's start-up. The net cost was minimal due to Ministry of Education funding.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Sylvia Russell presented the superintendent's update, which included the following highlights:

- The school district hosted a successful session with Maureen Dockendorf on the new draft BC curriculum;
- A group of 80 Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows students donated more than \$3,200 to BC Children's Hospital and received sincere thanks from the BC Children's Hospital Foundation;
- Alouette Elementary is going green with a new "pack it in, pack it out" initiative;
- Glenwood Elementary is already implementing the new draft curriculum with imaginative education, wonder-based learning, inquiry-based learning at intermediate, and play-based and exploration-based learning in primary.

Health Related Procedures

The Board received updated procedures on addressing the needs of students dealing with anaphylaxis, seizures, diabetes, and other medical interventions. The updated procedures are available online at <http://www1.sd42.ca/section9000>.

Strategic Facilities and Learning for Today and Tomorrow: Draft Recommendations

The Board received the *draft Strategic Facilities Plan*, which is a culmination of the *Strategic Facilities Review* and the *Strategic Facilities Consultation* process. The draft plan includes a number of draft facilities planning recommendations, which will be presented for public feedback at a September 30, 2015 Open House. Additional public input on these draft recommendations will be sought through an online survey, which will be open between September 24, 2015 and October 8, 2015. The Board will adopt the finalized *Strategic Facilities Plan* at its next public meeting on October 14, 2015 and submit it to the Ministry of Education as part of the school district's Five Year Major Capital request.

Good News

In the good news portion of the evening, several trustees noted upcoming meetings of the committees in which they are involved, and spoke also of their participation in the Raise A Reader fundraiser at the West Coast Express station. A number of trustees also participated in the Terry Fox run and the Professional Development Day at The ACT, which featured the Arts as an integral element of education.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on October 14, 2015 in the District Education Office.