



Board Meeting Highlights  
September 24, 2014

**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: Achievement Contract**

Acting Assistant Superintendent David Vandergugten presented to the Board on the elementary and student wellness portions of the *2013-2014 Achievement Contract*, highlighting the district iPod Literacy Project and Inquiry Program in particular. Both of these district initiatives have been successful and are achieving solid results, though the data for the 2013-2014 school year is regrettably unavailable due to job action. The Inquiry Program currently runs in all Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows schools, while the iPod Literacy Program runs in 35 classrooms across the district. In light of the program's success, district administration will be looking at the possibility of expanding the iPod Literacy Program moving forward, Vandergugten explained.

**Policy Development Committee: Site Development Policy Rescinded**

Upon recommendation from senior staff, the Board rescinded a site development policy that will be superseded by the *District Facilities Plan*. Because the plan, anticipated to be completed by spring 2015, will address all the site development issues the rescinded policy identifies, the *Site Development Policy* will no longer be needed.

**Aboriginal Education Report**

Acting Superintendent Laurie Meston presented the annual Aboriginal Education Report to the Board, identifying several key district accomplishments. A particular source of pride for the district is the dramatic improvement in Aboriginal Six Year Graduation Rates, which rose to 74% and are significantly higher than the provincial average of 53%. Acting Superintendent Meston identified numerous initiatives that contributed to this success, including the department's case management program, its student leadership program, the achievement awards, large-scale cultural projects, and Ignite Camps for grade 6 students. "We've increased every year and are extremely proud of that,"

Acting Superintendent Meston said. "Both students and staff have worked hard to lead to this improvement."

### **School Start-Up**

Acting Superintendent Meston provided an update on the first few days of school, noting especially the professionalism and commitment to students on the part of teachers, support staff and principals. While it does not seem that student enrolment numbers have gone down considerably, it will take some time to determine precisely where the enrolment numbers will fall and what further reorganization may be necessary, Acting Superintendent Meston explained. The district will submit its final numbers to the Ministry of Education on October 17, 2014.

### **Policy Development Committee: Work Plan 2014-2015**

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan reported on the Board's work with respect to the review and development of district policies, and provided the Policy Development Committee's work plan for the upcoming year. The ambitious plan includes the review of 50 existing policies and the development of two new policies. The Board thanked district staff for their essential contributions to the policy development process.

### **Policy Development Committee: Policy 9601 Anaphylaxis, Facilities Related Policies**

The following policies and procedures were reviewed by the Board and have been posted to the district website for public input:

*Policy 9601 Anaphylaxis; Procedure 9601.1 Anaphylaxis*

*Policy 6425: School Size*

*Policy 6801: School Closures*

*Policy 9200: School Catchment Areas & Student Placement; Procedure 9200.1: Student Placement*

The policies are available for review at [www.sd42.ca/node/2008](http://www.sd42.ca/node/2008).

### **Good News**

In the good news portion of the evening, trustees reflected on how happy they were to have teachers and students back in the classrooms, and acknowledged the impact of the labour dispute on everyone involved. Board Chair Mike Murray noted that the Salvation Army Community Council was able to assist 200 students with start-up supplies, and ensure the continuation of the lunch program, which supports over 175 students every day that schools are in session. In a similar vein, Trustee Rempel noted that the Ridge Meadows Education Foundation had been named the beneficiary in a citizen's will, with a potential bequest of \$200,000.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on October 8, 2014 in the District Education Office.**