

1. WELCOME

Board Chair Helen Parker welcomed everyone present including Sean Hayes (STA) Grant Franceschini (SAA) Dean Coates (CUPE), Cathy Fountas (COPACS) and executive staff, to the Board Meeting of November 16, 2011. Chair Parker made special mention that this was the first Board meeting with new Secretary Treasurer Monica Schulte. She extended a warm welcome to Ms. Schulte as the newest member of the executive team.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- Ken Pinder and Treva Pinder, brother and mother to Marilyn Pinder who recently passed away, presented to School District 63, an endowment of \$20,000 to be applied to two annual bursaries in the amount of \$500 each per year, for students graduating from the district who have faced difficulties but who have been successful in the French language.

3. REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

- Chair Parker gave her annual report at this, the last meeting of her three year term as chair She covered the following topics:
 - student engagement and achievement;
 - the spring's budget process and the board's advocacy and action regarding the 2011/12 budget;
 - submission to, and participation in, the BCSTA Funding Formula Review Committee Contribution of outgoing trustees to students and the board;
 - retirement of the district's Secretary-Treasurer Joan Axford and welcome to Secretary-Treasurer Monica Schulte;
 - appreciation for senior staff's leadership and support for the board;
 - teacher job action and acknowledgement of additional workload on excluded staff;
 - reflection on board goal to demonstrate and foster strong positive relationships; and
 - appreciation to education partner groups for their commitment to students and their support for the board.
- Trustee MaryLynne Rimer personally thanked many people who have supported her in the years she has stood as trustee for Saanich. She thanked the members of the public in Saanich, noting that her feelings regarding the importance of public education have been a priority for her for a long time. She thanked members of the executive and management team for their knowledge, commitment and heart. She thanked partner groups for their willingness to work with the Board, and the district staff for their patience and kindness. Ms. Rimer said that she found Saanich to be one of the best working environments she has personally encountered. She finally thanked her fellow trustees and said it was a privilege to work with all of them. She acknowledged the culture of respect and the support for public education.
- Trustee Allan Collier also spoke to the Board about his two years as a trustee. He noted that he has learned much about the important role of trustees in the communities. Mr. Collier expressed that it was a privilege to work "inside" the district and said that Saanich is a fabulous district and will continue to be into the future.

4. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent Elder began his report by offering his thanks and congratulations to the outgoing board. He acknowledged their stand taken in support of public education and the important deliberations engaged in with respect and great wisdom. He wished all the best to exiting trustees Allan Collier, Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Elsie McMurphy and MaryLynne Rimer, congratulated trustee Husband for her acclamation to the Board and wished Helen Parker and Jim Standen all the best in the upcoming election.
- Dr. Elder outlined current challenges for the Claremont Rowing Academy. The Greater Victoria Rowing Society has disallowed the use of boats that are needed for the students at Claremont at critical times of the year and have also increased the fees. He noted that the district is still looking for a fair rate and appropriate boats as used in the past. No resolution has been arrived at to date.
- Superintendent Elder provided a further draft of the Strategic Directions document. He asked the Board to provide direction as to the disposition of the document, to receive and endorse it, or to send to the new Board for further deliberations. He noted that action steps may flow out of the directions contained throughout this document. Trustees expressed appreciation for the work

done on the elements by all parties, including the opportunity for parents recently. The Board endorsed the Strategic Directions formally at the meeting.

5. SCHOOL SUCCESSES

- Keating Elementary was recently recognized for its contributions to National Philanthropy Day held on November 7, 2011 at Fairmont Empress. The Youth in Philanthropy Award for students aged five to 10 was presented to Keating School and specifically to Madame Pike's class, by the United Way of Victoria. Mme. Pike's students organized a number of unique and successful fundraisers throughout last year and have been responsible for teaching younger student the value of giving and supporting people in need.
- KELSET students raised more than \$5,200 in the Terry Fox campaign. A grade four student raised over \$600 and a grade three student raised more than \$850 having his head shaved to support "Locks for Love" and the Tour de Rock Cops for Cancer campaign.
- Brentwood Elementary held a very successful Elders' luncheon at the school on October 24th, with a great turnout and excellent food!
- Bayside administrative staff put on a staff breakfast and invited everyone to break bread and gobble bacon. It was a fun way to start a Friday and it put everyone in a good mood.
- Bayside grade eight students, with the help of Info Systems staff from the Board Office, were able to enjoy a live webcast featuring David Suzuki. They joined many middle and secondary school classes from across the country. This was exciting for students and staff alike as Dr. Suzuki urged our students to be "bio-centric" persons. He answered live questions from students across the country and let our students know how and why he is very connected to BC and the First Nations culture here.
- SENCOTEN students from Bayside will travel to North Saanich Middle School for the second time to share their knowledge and teach other students phrases and words that they have learned. This is a proud occasion for these students and they take it very seriously.
- Sidney Elementary participated in the Great BC Shakeout on October 20, 2011. Once the students had evacuated the school and gathered on the field, staff walked through their emergency roles and responsibilities. It was a great exercise to help everyone be more prepared in case of an earthquake.
- Sidney has started a Friday lunch time choir led by Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Braithwaite and Ms. Mackay. It is great to hear the sound of music coming from the multipurpose room. There are approximately 30 student participants from grades 3, 4 and 5 in the choir at present.
- Claremont recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Claremont Review. The Claremont Review is a magazine that showcases the work of inspiring young adult writers. The magazine publishes twice a year, in spring and fall

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Directions Committee:

- An overview of the Trades Awareness, Skills and Knowledge (TASK) Program was provided to members of the Education Directions Committee.
- Mark Fraser, Principal of Parkland provided an update on the school.
- Nancy Macdonald conducted a review of the Education Directions Overview calendar.

Finance and Facilities Committee:

- The Board approved the timelines for the 2012-2013 budget process.
- The Board approved a Capital Project budget bylaw in the amount of \$50,000 for the North Saanich Playground Equipment

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