

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**REGULAR PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
DISTRICT OFFICE, BOARD ROOM**

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023

Chair:

Michael Thomas

Vice-Chair

Craig Woods

Trustees:

Jennifer Blatherwick

Chuck Denison

Kerri Palmer Isaak

Lisa Park

Christine Pollock

Regrets:

Carol Cahoon

Zoe Royer

Administration:

Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Patricia Gartland

Secretary-Treasurer

Randy Manhas

Assistant Superintendents

Carey Chute

Gerald Shong

Nadine Tambellini

Robert Zambrano

Executive Director, Facilities and Planning

Ivano Cecchini

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer,

Nita Mikl

Corporate and Financial Services

Director of Instruction

Paul McNaughton

Director of Instruction

Stephen Whiffin

Assistant Director of Communications and

Community Relations

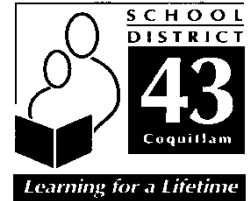
Ken Hoff

Recording Secretary

Colleen Stavert

Michael Thomas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Acknowledgement of Territory was expressed by Trustee Park.



*Our mission is to ensure
quality learning opportunities
for all students of all ages.*

PRESENT

CALL TO ORDER

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF TERRITORY**

**ACCEPTANCE OF
AGENDA**

The Chair asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

PALMER ISAAK/POLLOCK moved acceptance of the agenda.

Question was called.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA), Coquitlam Principals and Vice Principals Association (CPVPA), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 561, and Coquitlam Music Teachers Association representatives in attendance introduced themselves. The District Leadership Team (DLT) members in attendance introduced themselves. Member of Parliament (MP) Port Moody-Coquitlam Bonita Zarillo was also in attendance.

There were no delegations/presentations.

There were no education matters to report.

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the consent agenda, which included the following items:

- a) Approval of March 7, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- b) Update on the Administrative Procedures Review
- c) Trustee Calendar Planning Report for Information
- d) Trustee Reports for Information

PALMER ISAAK/POLLOCK moved approval of the consent agenda.

Question was called.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A copy of the Trustee Reports is attached to the official minutes.

There were no responses to previous delegations.

Patricia Gartland, Superintendent, provided a report on news and events. The noteworthy highlights of March and April 2023 were shared.

a) Acceptance of Agenda

INTRODUCTIONS

a) Partner Group

b) DLT

**DELEGATIONS/
PRESENTATIONS**

EDUCATION

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS
DELEGATIONS**

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

**a) Superintendent
Report**

i) News & Events

A trustee's request for clarification regarding the SD43 Indigenous Trade Sampler at Port Moody Secondary School was responded to.

A copy of the Superintendent's News & Events report is attached to the official minutes.

Patricia Gartland, Superintendent, provided an update regarding Canada Study Week in Reggio Emilia, Italy, on March 13-17, 2023. Meadowbrook Elementary Principal Shawne Callihoo, Blakeburn Elementary Principal Tara Fisher, and Coquitlam River Elementary Teacher Heather Poudre attended the Canadian Study Week in Reggio Emilia, Italy, during Spring Break.

Patricia Gartland, Superintendent, provided information on the provincial government's Feeding Futures School Food Programs Fund. Through Budget 2023, the Province is investing \$214 million over three years so school districts can create or expand local food programs in schools throughout BC. The funds will be used for purchasing food and hiring dedicated staff to coordinate the provision of meals and snacks to students. SD43's portion of the fund will be \$3.5 million per year for three years (for students in grades K-12). The details related to provincial direction and guidelines have yet to be announced.

Trustee questions regarding the delivery mechanism (particularly in middle schools) and the program delivery timeframe were responded to. A trustee expressed concern about the operationalization of the program on a large-scale basis and the potential for expanded food options to more students. A trustee inquired if the \$3.5 million per year for three years will continue after cessation of the three year period. A trustee requested confirmation that there will not be a reduction in our community link funding.

There was no unfinished business.

At 7:27 p.m. the Chair opened the floor to questions.

There were no trustee questions.

CUPE Local 561 President Jane Gibbons inquired whether middle school kitchens that were previously closed would be reopened for the Feeding Futures School Food Programs Fund. \$5 million for the entire Province has been allocated for capital funding for this initiative (very small amount per district).

ii) Superintendent's Update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

QUESTION PERIOD

a) Trustees

b) Gallery

Ms. Maxine Wilson inquired how government and community are engaged to identify the important issues in education. Ms. Wilson provided an article titled, *“Conversations That Matter”* regarding the effect of not supporting students and its resulting impact on our economy related to mental health and addictions.

Ivano Cecchini, Executive Director, Facilities and Planning, provided an update regarding the Burke Mountain Project Open House which is scheduled to occur on April 26, 2023, at Smiling Creek Elementary, Coquitlam, from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Ivano Cecchini, Executive Director, Facilities and Planning, reviewed the 2023-24 five-year capital plan projects.

PALMER ISAAK/POLLOCK moved to hold all three readings and have the three readings, final passage and adoption of the 2023/24 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw at this meeting.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

WOODS/PALMER ISAAK moved first reading of the 2023/24 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

PARK/BLATHERWICK moved second reading of the 2023/24 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

POLLOCK/DENISON moved third and final reading, final passage, and adoption of the 2023/24 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

A copy of the 2023/24 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw and memo are attached to the official minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

a) 2023-2024 Capital Response Letter Bylaw

b) 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget

The Board Chair provided an overview of the budget process citing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary goal of the strategic vision for student success, that relationships are key, sound financial stewardship is a priority of the Board, the introduction of Directions 2025 and the Board's key budget objective to continue to maintain a financially healthy, stable and sustainable school district.

Patricia Gartland, Superintendent, provided comments regarding Directions 2025 (the district's strategic plan), the preliminary budget presentation, the upcoming budget, the impact of COVID-19 on the International Education program, and the stability and certainty of the budget.

Nita Mikl, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, and Randy Manhas, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the 2023/24 preliminary budget and fiscal plan and provided a summary of highlights in a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Mikl reviewed the Ministry funding announcement, the preliminary budget overview, the preliminary budget, the multi-year financial forecast, key budget dates, and reviewed how the budget supports the Directions 2025 Strategic Goals and Objectives.

Mr. Manhas expressed gratitude to the entire Finance team and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nita Mikl regarding the development of the 2023/24 budget. Gratitude was also expressed to the Board and the entire District Leadership Team (DLT).

Trustee inquiries regarding challenges resulting from staffing shortages, the asset retirement obligation related to our capital accounts, middle schools' conversion of one Education Assistant (EA) position from 30 to 35 hours/week, the role of a Filter Technician (Tech), the importance of the surplus policy, increases to Canada Pension Plan (CPP) & Employment Insurance (EI) amounts, and the federal government's dental assistance program for low-income individuals were responded to. A trustee expressed gratitude for the budget consultation and engagement process with stakeholders and the DLT.

A copy of the 2023/24 Budget & Fiscal Plan and the 2023/24 Budget PowerPoint presentation are attached to the official minutes.

There were no motions.

The members of the Board of Education reviewed the list of commencement ceremonies and the trustee representative at each ceremony.

i) Overview of Budget Process

ii) Remarks from Superintendent

iii) Presentation of 2023/24 Preliminary Budget

NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEMS OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS

a) Trustee Representation at

**Commencement
Ceremonies**

At 8:43 p.m. the Chair opened the floor to questions.

There were no trustee questions.

Representatives from the CTA, CUPE Local 561, CPVPA, and Coquitlam Music Teachers Association expressed gratitude for the budget on behalf of their memberships.

MP Bonita Zarillo commented she regularly hears from parents about their difficulty in obtaining supports for their children. Ms. Zarillo provided recognition for minor department heads at elementary school levels. Ms. Zarillo also spoke regarding the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Article 24 which prohibits discrimination against children with disabilities and mandates the right to inclusive education. Superintendent Patricia Gartland referenced the Ministry's Anti-Racism Action Plan and the importance of respecting peoples' language and culture.

Trustee Pollock commented she will be attending a Mental Health in Schools Conference on May 2, 2023, in Richmond, BC, and will report back regarding updates.

POLLOCK/WOODS moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Question was called.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

QUESTION PERIOD

a) Trustees

b) Gallery

ADJOURNMENT

"Original Signed by"

Chair

"Original Signed by"

Secretary-Treasurer