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

REGULAR PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
EDUCATION LEARNING CENTRE, ROOM 104

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

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

PRESENT

Chair:	Michael Thomas
Vice Chair:	Craig Woods
Trustees:	Carol Brodie
	Chuck Denison
	Rosey Manhas
	Kerri Palmer Isaak
	Lisa Park
	Christine Pollock
Regrets:	Zoë Royer
Administration:	
Superintendent of Schools/CEO	Nadine Tambellini
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO	Randy Manhas
Assistant Superintendent	Carey Chute
	Anthony Ciolfitto
	Jeremy Clarke
	Andrea Hunter
	Paul McNaughton
	Stephen Whiffin
Executive Director, Facilities and Planning	Ivano Cecchini
Executive Director, Human Resources	Michelle Daycock
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Corporate and Financial Services	Nita Mikl
Assistant Director, Communications & Community Relations	Ken Hoff
Recording Secretary	Colleen Stavert

CALL TO ORDER

Michael Thomas, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

The Acknowledgement of Territory was expressed by Trustee Manhas.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Thomas welcomed Rosey Manhas to her first meeting as trustee. Trustee Manhas has served in leadership roles in the SD43 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) over the past five years.

The Board Chair noted Trustee Zoë Royer is on a leave of absence effective April 1 – 28, 2025, pending the results of the upcoming federal election.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

a) Acceptance of Agenda

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

BRODIE/PALMER ISAAK moved acceptance of the agenda.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

INTRODUCTIONS

a) Partner Groups

Representatives in attendance from the Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 561, Coquitlam Principals and Vice-Principals' Association (CPVPA), and the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) introduced themselves.

b) DLT

The District Leadership Team (DLT) members in attendance introduced themselves.

DELEGATIONS/ PRESENTATIONS

a) New Westminster & District Labour Council – Day of Mourning

Diether Malakoff, New Westminster & District Labour Council (NWDLC) delegate, spoke regarding the upcoming Day of Mourning. On April 28, flags are lowered across the district to observe the National Day of Mourning dedicated to honouring workers who have lost their lives, suffered injuries or illnesses as a result of a work-related incident. SD43 remains committed to protecting staff and preventing workplace injuries.

b) Earth Day

Board Chair Thomas spoke regarding Earth Day, which is celebrated annually on April 22 to raise awareness about environmental issues locally and across the country. The 2025 theme is "Biodiversity" and citizens are being encouraged to learn more about biodiversity, ecosystem balance, food security, and resilience to climate change.

EDUCATION

There were no education matters to report.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

a) Approval of March 4, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
b) Trustee Calendar Planning Report for Information
c) Trustee Reports for Information

POLLOCK/WOODS moved approval of the consent agenda.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS

There were no responses to previous delegations.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS
a) Superintendent Report
i) News & Events

Nadine Tambellini, Superintendent, provided a report on news and events including several noteworthy student and school accomplishments. On April 23, the SD43 Student Leadership Council (SLC) will host its 8th annual SLC Leadership Summit, *Empowerment Forum*. The Board Chair commented SLC Chair Mason Mattu was voted Youth Volunteer of the Year.

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

ii) Superintendent's Update

Nadine Tambellini, Superintendent, provided a general update regarding current events impacting the school district.

A trustee question regarding clarification on upcoming dates was responded to.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

At 7:20 p.m. the Chair opened the floor to questions.

QUESTION PERIOD

a) Trustees

There were no questions from the trustees.

b) Gallery

There were no questions from the gallery.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Approval of the Annual School Calendars for the 2026/27, 2027/28, & 2028/29 School Years

Anthony Ciolfitto, Assistant Superintendent, provided an overview of the annual school calendars for the 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29 school years. After the February 11, 2025, Public Board Meeting, the District put out a survey to students, parents and school district staff for feedback on proposed calendars for the three upcoming school years. All partner presidents were satisfied with the results of the survey and are in support of the three proposed calendars.

Trustee questions regarding calendar alignment with other districts, and 4-day versus 5-day week calendars were responded to.

PALMER ISAAK/POLLOCK moved to approve the annual school calendars for the 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29 school years as presented.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

A copy of the proposed school calendars for 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29 are attached to the official minutes.

b) 2025/26 School Site Acquisition Charge Bylaw

Nita Mikl, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, provided an overview of Capital Bylaw No. 3, Amendment Bylaw No. 2.4-2025, which sets the School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC) rates. The District identified six elementary school sites in its 5-year capital plan submission (2025-2029) which totals 11.1 hectares of land at an estimated cost of $192,724,900 at Riverwalk, Marigold, Port Moody Centre, Fraser Mills, Coquitlam City Centre, and Hazel Coy. The Ministry has accepted the 2025-26 capital plan, and the Board of Education may proceed to adopt a bylaw setting the School Site Acquisition Charges for the School District. Capital Plan Bylaw No. 3, Amendment Bylaw No. 2.4-2025, once adopted, will be forwarded to the local municipalities and villages advising them of the rates, which will come into effect after 60 days (June 15, 2025).

A trustee question regarding the consistency of the SSAC was responded to.

BRODIE/PALMER ISAAK moved to pass a motion to hold all three readings and have all three readings, final passage and adoption of Capital Bylaw No. 3, Amendment Bylaw No. 2.4-2025.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PALMER ISAAK/DENISON moved first reading of Capital Bylaw No. 3, Amendment Bylaw No. 2.4-2025 which sets the School Site Acquisition Charge rates.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MANHAS/PARK moved second reading of Capital Bylaw No. 3, Amendment Bylaw No. 2.4-2025 which sets the School Site Acquisition Charge rates.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WOODS/POLLOCK moved third and final reading, final passage, and adoption of Capital Bylaw No. 3, Amendment Bylaw No. 2.4-2025 which sets the School Site Acquisition Charge rates.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A copy of the School Site Acquisition Charge Bylaw memo and documents are attached to the official minutes.

c) 2025/26 Capital Response Letter Bylaw

Ivano Cecchini, Executive Director, Facilities & Planning, provided an overview of the 2025/26 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw. The Ministry has advised support for advancing project development or delivery of the following capital projects for 2025/26:

1. Hazel Trembath Elementary – replacement (supported)
2. Dr. Charles Best Secondary – seismic upgrades (deferred)
3. Bramblewood Elementary – SEP – roofing upgrades
4. Baker Drive Elementary – SEP – HVAC upgrades
5. Central Elementary – CNCP – HVAC upgrades
6. Hillcrest Middle – CNCP – HVAC upgrades

In accordance with the *School Act*, the Board is to adopt a single capital bylaw for the approved 2025/26 Five Year Capital Plan.

A trustee question regarding the deferral of the seismic upgrade at Dr. Charles Best Secondary was responded to.

PALMER ISAAK/BRODIE moved to pass a motion to hold all three readings and have the three readings, final passage, and adoption of the 2025/26 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WOODS/MANHAS moved first reading of the 2025/26 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARK/DENISON moved second reading of the 2025/26 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BRODIE/PALMER ISAAK moved third and final reading, final passage, and adoption of the 2025/26 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw.

Question was called. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A copy of the 2025/26 Five Year Capital Plan Bylaw and memo are attached to the official minutes.

d) 2025/26 Preliminary Budget
i. Overview of Budget Process

The Board Chair provided remarks on the 2025/26 budget presentation acknowledging there may be some challenging months or years ahead for all members of our school communities. Chair Thomas spoke to our strategic vision prioritizing student success, building strong relationships, sound financial stewardship, and the development of *Directions 2030* in the near future. The Board's key budget objective is to maintain a financially healthy, stable and sustainable school district for the long term in order to continue to achieve our vision and mission.

ii. Remarks from Superintendent

Nadine Tambellini, Superintendent, provided remarks on the strong relationships with stakeholders and continued efforts of SD43 staff along with support from the Board of Education to fulfill our commitment to the students of our district and adhere to the *Directions 2025* district plan. Ms. Tambellini expressed gratitude to the entire Finance team regarding the development of the 2025/26 budget. Gratitude was also expressed to the Board and the District Leadership Team for their role in this budget process.

iii. Presentation of 2025/26 Preliminary Budget

Nita Mikl, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, and Randy Manhas, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the 2025/26 preliminary budget and fiscal plan and provided a summary of highlights.

Mr. Manhas expressed gratitude to Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nita Mikl, Assistant Director of Finance & Corporate Services Patricia Bigonzi, and the Finance team regarding the development of the 2025/26 budget.

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 concluded the presentation of the preliminary budget by stating that the District has worked hard to create a preliminary budget proposal for 2025/26 that preserved what has been added prior years despite facing very significant increases to expenses. The District was able to arrive at a balanced budget through a combination of increased investment revenues, increasing rental rates, increasing international education fees and reducing non-staffing budgets to the maximum extent possible. Contingency funds for staffing, benefits, and maintenance were requested.

Trustee questions regarding staffing reductions related to declining student enrolment, clarification regarding the net difference of Education Assistants (EAs), International Education (IE) revenue, future budget projections, one-time Human Resources (HR) and Information Technology (IT) initiatives, funding for Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS), furniture & equipment reductions, school supply budget reduction impacts, procurement with respect to U.S. tariffs, the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF), teacher layoffs, and clarification on the five alternate schools were responded to.

A copy of the 2025/26 Budget & Fiscal Plan and presentation are attached to the official minutes.

NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion for discussion.

ITEMS OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS

There were no Items of Trustee Business for discussion.

QUESTION PERIOD

At 8:33 p.m. the Chair opened the floor to questions.

a) Trustees

There were no trustee questions.

b) Gallery

CTA President Ken Christensen reiterated the importance of the avoidance of teacher layoffs.

Megan Macdonald, Hazel Trembath Elementary parent, thanked the Board for their advocacy to rebuild Hazel Trembath and inquired which proposal was accepted for the rebuild.

ADJOURNMENT

WOODS/PALMER ISAAK moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

"Original Signed by"	***"Original Signed by"***
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Chair	Secretary-Treasurer