

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

**SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING - BUDGET
DISTRICT OFFICE, BOARD ROOM**

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

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 Superintendents	Anthony Ciofitto
	Jeremy Clarke
	Andrea Hunter
	Paul McNaughton
	Stephen Whiffin
Executive Director, Facilities & Planning Services	Ivano Cecchini
Executive Director, Human Resources	Michelle Daycock
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Corporate and Financial Services	Nita Mikl
Assistant Director of Communications and Community Relations	Ken Hoff
Executive Assistant	Nicole Schenato

Michael Thomas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

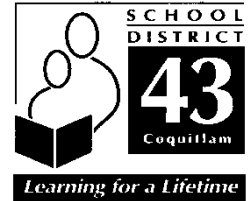
The Acknowledgement of Territory was expressed by Trustee Brodie.

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

POLLOCK/PALMER ISAAK moved acceptance of the agenda.

Question was called.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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

PRESENT

CALL TO ORDER

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF TERRITORY**

**ACCEPTANCE OF
AGENDA**

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.

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

The Board Chair reviewed the budget process, guidelines, and sequence of events for the Special Public Board Meeting.

Michael Thomas, Board Chair delivered remarks regarding the Board's continued financial focus and decision making guided by the goals and objectives of the *Directions 2025* strategic vision document.

The Chair commented that the Board's key budget objective continues to be to maintain a balanced, financially stable, and sustainable school district for the long term, ensuring we continue to achieve our vision and mission.

Nadine Tambellini, Superintendent, praised the Board of Education and the District Leadership Team for their dedication. Throughout the budget process, feedback was diligently considered, ensuring all voices were heard. Guided by the Board and aligned with *Directions 2025*, the district has maintained high student success rates while ensuring financial stability. Transparency and accountability remain key commitments.

Secretary-Treasurer Manhas was commended for his remarkable leadership within the finance department, aligning efforts with the district's strategic vision. Appreciation was extended to the Board, the District Leadership Team, and partner organizations for their leadership and support.

The district is currently financially stable and achieving positive student outcomes.

Jessica Bell, Indigenous Resource Teacher, expressed concern over the school district's decision to cut one of the four Indigenous Education resource teaching positions due to budget constraints. Ms. Bell emphasized the importance of this role in supporting staff, students, and schools by embedding Indigenous perspectives and building relationships with the local

INTRODUCTIONS

a) Partner Groups

b) DLT

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET PROCESS AND

REMARKS FROM BOARD CHAIR

REMARKS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

STAKEHOLDER BUDGET FEEDBACK QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

SD43 EMPLOYEE

Nation. Ms. Bell questioned how the decision aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and stressed that reconciliation work should not be compromised due to financial issues.

Ken Christensen, CTA President, provided budgetary comments on behalf of the Coquitlam Teachers' Association membership. Mr. Christensen noted the difficulty in presenting a balanced budget due to high volume of unfunded cost pressures. Mr. Christensen expressed concerns about the absence of teacher layoffs/recalls and requested the removal of EA scheduling from their membership as it creates situations of conflict.

Mr. Christensen voiced concern over the removal of 1.0 FTE from the Indigenous Education Department, which significantly impacts the department's ability to support students and staff with Indigenous ancestry. This decision increases the workload of the remaining teachers by 25%, each of whom already supports over 20 schools. Teachers play a crucial role in integrating Indigenous knowledge into classrooms and planning culturally relevant activities, contributing to true reconciliation.

Mr. Christensen requested reversing the staffing change to uphold the district's commitment to truth and reconciliation, emphasizing that its impact is too significant for the SD43 community.

Mike Myers, Vice President of CUPE 561, expressed gratitude to the Board of Education and the district for their diligent efforts regarding the budget. Mr. Myers urged the Board to continue prioritizing personnel over material resources.

Staff provided responses to trustee questions and comments regarding the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget, which included:

- The potential impact of staff reductions on the quality of services provided.
- If any conversations were had with the First Nations and with our District Principal regarding staffing reductions.
- Projected decline in enrolment
- The district's plan to safeguard the budget and what contingency measures are in place in case of further enrolment decline.
- Layoff/recall.
- Staffing trends in the Indigenous Education department

At 7:01 p.m. the Chair opened the floor to questions.

There were no questions from trustees.

**COQUITLAM
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION (CTA)**

**Canadian Union of
Public Employees
(CUPE) Local 561**

TRUSTEE DISCUSSION

QUESTION PERIOD

a) Trustees

b) Gallery

Meggan Crawford, CTA 2nd Vice President, raised concerns about the increased workload for teachers due to the reduction of one teaching position, as well as the potential reduction in services to students.

Danielle Kraichy, Teacher, inquired about targeted funding for Indigenous Education, the commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, and the sustainability of the funds allocated for the existing full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Ronak Pahlevanlu, CTA Labour Relations Officer, discussed Truth and Reconciliation and self-identification, questioning how the reduction in staff reflects our community's commitment to and honoring of Truth and Reconciliation.

Diether Malakoff, CTA 1st Vice President, urged the trustees to reconsider their decision regarding the potential reduction of 1.0 FTE in the Indigenous Education department.

Catherine Hodges, CTA Local Representative to the BCTF, asked the trustees to reconsider their decision regarding the potential reduction of 1.0 FTE in the Indigenous Education department, emphasizing the importance of equal opportunity in education.

A Trustee commented on the potential reduction of 1.0 FTE and the retention of 17 youth workers, highlighting the youth workers significant impact both inside and outside the classroom. It was noted that while the loss is unfortunate, retaining 17 positions is a positive outcome

PALMER ISAAK/POLLOCK motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7: 14 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Question was called.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

"Original Signed by"

Chair

"Original Signed by"

Secretary-Treasurer