



# 48 FORUM

Issue 64 December 14, 2004

## BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Doug Hackett  
Chair  
892-1023

Amy Shoup  
Vice-Chair  
898-4463

Constance Rulka  
Trustee  
898-5638

Andrée Janyk  
Trustee  
932-2461

Don Brett  
Trustee  
938-8894

Judy Bourhis  
Trustee  
452-0004

Mike Milner  
Trustee  
452-3241

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District Principal  
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## Board Meeting Highlights December 8, 2004

### ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & VICE-CHAIRPERSON:

Nancy Edwards called for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Doug Hackett and Amy Shoup were nominated, however Amy Shoup chose not to accept the nomination. Doug Hackett was acclaimed and assumed the position of Chairperson.

Chairperson Doug Hackett called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Judy Bourhis, Don Brett, Mike Milner, and Amy Shoup were nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

Judy Bourhis and Mike Milner declined to let their names stand as nominated. An election was held. Amy Shoup was elected Vice-Chairperson.

### CHAIRPERSON:

#### Doug Hackett:

- Thanked Amy Shoup for her many years of service as Board Chair.
- A dedication of a stained glass window was held at Howe Sound Secondary School recently. Trustee Judy Bourhis was commissioned by the 2004 Grad class to create the window as their legacy to the school.
- Thanked Trustee Rulka for writing and sending Christmas cards to all School District staff. This is a huge project that Mrs. Rulka has done for many years.
- Library Task Force – announced that the Board has supported most of the recommendations of the Library Task Force and that there may be a further announcement after the reworked budget is adopted.

### SUPERINTENDENT:

#### Dr. Rick Erickson:

- Whistler Blackcomb “Matching Funds” - Reworded Budget 2004/05 - \$170,000 for matching funds for the Whistler/Blackcomb Foundation Grant (\$85,000 for this year and \$85,000 for future years).
- French Immersion - Elementary Program in Whistler - A meeting has been held in Whistler and a survey is underway to determine the interest in a French Immersion Program at Spring Creek Community School.
- SnowSmart – announced that several Grade 7 and 10 teachers have been trained to implement the SnowSmart Program. The Canadian Ski Association have covered the cost of the Teachers on Call to replace those receiving training. He also noted that the Province newspaper ran an article on the district’s SnowSmart Program in the Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Action Schools! BC – A representative of this organization which encourages physical fitness activities in the classrooms for intermediate and junior secondary students made a presentation to the school principals to encourage participation in activities.
- Junk Food – The Ministry of Education has announced that “junk food” would be completely removed from schools in the next few years and he was pleased to report that many of the schools in our district have already reduced or eliminated the sale of soft drinks and chocolate at schools.
- The District School Calendar Advisory Committee will be meeting next month to review the 2005/06 calendar and collaboration days.
- Magy Butterfield and Beth Miller are the co-conveners of the October 2005 BC Student Leadership Conference to be held in Whistler and the leadership students will play an active role in the conference.



## SECRETARY-TREASURER:

### Nancy Edwards:

- Pemberton Bus Route – Staff are requesting the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to reclassify the road to a development north of Mt Currie, so that the school bus can access the development year round. Currently students are walking approximately 4 km to catch the bus.
- Emergency Social Services – Advised the Board that she was waiting for the draft agreement for use of schools by Emergency Social Services during emergencies.
- BC Hydro Work Experience Program – There are four Grade 10 Don Ross Secondary students who are working with Rick Hume to conduct energy audits of the schools. The objective of this ten-week program is to save energy, and at the same time teach students about energy conservation, resources as well as develop their presentation skills. The students will be making a presentation to the Board at the March meeting.
- School Board Office – The office will be closed on December 24 and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- At the recent BCSTA Trustee Academy, Trustees and staff heard a presentation on a new program called Youth Safe that is in the development stage. This program will cover the procedures required for safe youth activities. The School Protection Program will review the project and we may see changes to our field trip procedures as a result of this. Staff will investigate the possibility of School District No. 48 being one of the pilot school districts. Trustee Andree Janyk suggested that a Press Release be developed regarding the BC Hydro Work Experience Program.

## PRESENTATIONS & DELEGATIONS – no presentations or delegations

## TRUSTEES

### i) Trustee Reports

#### A Information Items

i) BCSTA Update - Nothing to report.

ii) Annual Finance Committee Report - The Annual Finance Committee Report was received.

The Board passed the following motions:

**“THAT the School District review the benefits of entering into district-wide contracts for beverage machines and school photographs commencing with the 2005/06 school year.”**

**“THAT each school and the district annually create a plan for dealing with declines in international student revenue. Specifically, each school and the district should identify what budget items will be reduced/cut for specific reductions in international student revenues (e.g. Down 10%, down 20%, down 50%).”**

iii) Reworked Budget 2004/05

The proposed reworked budget for 2004/05 was adopted as recommended by the Finance Committee. It was noted that \$50,000 has been allocated for school library books and \$170,000 for matching funds for the Whistler/Blackcomb Foundation Grant (\$85,000 for this year and \$85,000 for future years).

iv) Annual Student Achievement Committee Report

Mike Milner gave a verbal report outlining the work of the Student Achievement Committee this year.

v) Trustee Reports

- Andree Janyk reported on her attendance at a Ready Set Learn session. She also outlined some concerns regarding rules of the BC School Sports Association. She will bring forward a report for the next Board meeting.
- Mrs. Rulka reminded everyone to attend the school Christmas concerts.
- Amy Shoup announced that a photo was taken of School District representatives receiving the cheque for \$275,000 from the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation and she was hoping that there would be some press coverage of it.
- Mike Milner commented on the discussions of the DPAC meeting held recently and also reported on the sessions he attended at the BCSTA Trustee Academy.

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

### A. Information Items

Report of Receipts and Disbursements – October 31, 2004

## BYLAWS, POLICIES & REGULATIONS

### A. Policies and Regulations:

i) Policy 502.1 District Code of Conduct

Policy 502.1 District Code of Conduct was adopted.

ii) Policy 502.2 and Regulation R502.2 School Code of Conduct

Policy and Regulation 502.2 School Code of Conduct was adopted.

iii) Policy 1003.2 and Regulation R1003.2 Incompatible Land Use Near Schools

Policy and Regulation 1003.2 Incompatible Land Use Near Schools was adopted.



**Howe Sound**  
*School District No. 48*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 9, 2004

### **PRIMARY STUDENTS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS AIDED BY SOUND AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM**

Would it be a surprise to learn that many, if not most, primary students with perfectly normal hearing abilities sometimes have difficulty comprehending what their teachers are saying in the classroom, and, as a result, are not as successful academically as they could be.

That is what the research suggested, said Howe Sound School District Superintendent Dr. Rick Erickson. "Improving student achievement is the district's number one goal, and we wanted to know if something as simple and inexpensive as putting a sound system in a primary classroom could help us achieve that goal."

The District undertook a research project during the 2003-2004 school year involving seven primary classrooms, and the results are in: student comprehension of what their teachers said increased by 20% when their teachers voices were amplified by a sound system.

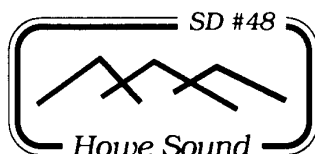
"A child's auditory development is not complete until somewhere between the ages of 13 and 15," Student Services District Principal Pius Ryan said. "Therefore he or she requires a quieter environment and a louder signal than an adult does to process information accurately and efficiently." Children under 15 require a signal-to-noise ratio of six or more decibels to hear effectively. A signal-to-noise ratio is the difference between the ambient room noise and the teacher's voice.

The pilot project began with testing the background noise in seven primary classrooms. "What we found is that not one of the unamplified classrooms could meet the minimal signal-to-noise ratio," Ryan said. "In the unamplified classes, the background noise was louder than the teachers' voices. In all of the amplified classrooms, the teachers' voices were significantly enhanced by the sound system."

The classroom teachers who participated in the project reported marked improvement in several areas, including academic achievement and student behaviour. One teacher commented: "Soundfield system is a definite asset for a primary classroom. I noticed a marked improvement in listening skills and academic tasks related to listening and speaking." Another teacher remarked: "I've loved having this system in my classroom. It has made a big difference in explaining instructions. I now, usually, only have to say the directions once! I have not had a sore throat all year."

The district has installed sound systems in 11 additional classrooms this school year. Each system costs between \$1,200 and \$1500.

For further information contact Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rick Erickson or District Principal of Student Services Pius Ryan at 604-892-5228.



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