

# A Year in Review—2008

## Board Of Education

### School District No. 51 (Boundary)



Board of Education S.D. 51 2005—2008

The Board of Education for School District No. 51 started the first meeting of 2008 discussing a plan for marking FSAs. 2008 was the first year FSAs were moved to February and marking was to be done locally.

The beginning of 2008 also saw the first meeting of the District Improvement Committee with all our partners. We set terms of reference, changed our name to the District Development Team and moved the Achievement Contract agenda to a sub committee. The biggest piece that came out of that first meeting

was to get the ball going on the Appreciative Inquiry process.

In February, the Board decided to provide physical activity grants for all schools to try and help with the aging playgrounds and to assist the secondary schools in their DPA requirements.

2008 was also the year the Board and senior staff attended School Planning Council meetings as a way of reaching out to parents and schools.

Green initiatives were often on our agenda this year, and microfiber technology had all Trustees wanting to be guinea pigs for the material.

We started planning in March for our District to host the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Annual General Meeting.

Then there were all those meetings. Committee meetings, liaison meetings, Parent Advisory meetings, provincial meetings for BCSTA and BCPSEA, regional meetings, and of course our Board meetings and many more.



In April we held a joint meeting with the BDTA, the Board and senior staff. It was a great meeting; one that we hope to repeat. We identified strengths of the District and what we can do together to build on those strengths. We talked about more pro-d opportunities for teachers, keeping communication lines open, and providing students with as many opportunities and options as possible. Pro-d for teachers was plentiful this year and schools have worked hard to keep as many options as possible in place



for students, even in the face of declining enrolment. Another suggestion was for Trustees to be more visible in schools during school hours. We did do our visits to School Planning Councils this year, and with a new Board in place the opportunity is there for us to begin with visits to the schools. We have some ideas for Trustee visits to schools that will not be onerous for schools and staff.

September school opening saw our student enrolment up from projections but still down overall. We also saw our secondary schools struggling with the DPA requirements. Not much help from the pilot districts, and the Ministry of Education is silent on the issue.

September and October were very busy. The District hosted Kootenay-Boundary zone meetings for both Trustees and Superintendents. In October we organized the Appreciative Inquiry Summit for all employees and parents. Not to mention, August days was held just prior to these events.

We officially signed the lease to rent with an option to buy 525 Central, and our maintenance staff did a great job of converting the space for the Walker Development Centre.

We lost our technology portable to arson, and to date are still working on getting the tech department moved into the old Fred Walker building across from the Board Office and replacing all the equipment that was lost.

We came full circle at our last Board meeting for the year, planning for the FSAs in February and a plan for marking again.

Wrapped up in all that we do are the students. They are the lens through which our decisions are made. It is always a highlight to attend sporting events, the district track meet, concerts, plays,



classrooms, and schools to see the kids in action.

Another significant highlight of the year is the annual Christmas card contest. Next year will mark 10 years of this annual event. Each year Susan Routley and myself figure out more ways to make it a smoother process, so much so that this year 63 designs were made into Christmas cards. It is something we all look forward to with great anticipation each year.

I see our challenges for next year will be to keep the Appreciative Inquiry agenda alive and flourishing throughout the District. We truly want all of our employees to feel valued and appreciated in everything they do. Another very big challenge for us will be our funding and the uncertainty of what it will look like with funding protection disappearing, the transportation review being revealed and continued enrolment decline. We have pledged to work positively through our challenges, using an appreciative point of view.

The last highlight of the year is our new Board and all the opportunities that brings. We have fresh eyes to look at what we have been doing, new minds to help with upcoming issues and we have trustees that add experience and history to the mix.

Happy holidays to all,

Teresa Rezanoff

## **Board of Education for School District No. 51**

2009—2011



**Back Row** - Jeanette Hanlon (Secretary Treasurer), Michael Strukoff (Superintendent), Vicki Gee  
**Middle Row**—Cathy Riddle, Teresa Rezanoff (Board Chair), Sally Garcelon, Ken Harshenin  
**Front Row** - Kris Sabourin, John Malloff, Maxine Ruzicka (Director of Instruction)