



## **Chair stepping down**

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Page: 14

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School trustee Michael Ewen stepped down as chair of the board of education at Tuesday's meeting, citing health issues as the reason for his decision.

Ewen would only say he has some "minor health issues."

Trustee James Janzen, who had been co-chair of the board, became the chair by acclamation, while Ewen became co-chair.

Ewen has been continuously re-elected to the board of education for the last 28 years and has been chair of the board several times throughout that period.

Janzen acknowledged the "amazing amount of work" Ewen has done as chair over the years.

## **START WALKING**

School district staff will bring forward a report on the cost of hosting a walking school bus program at local elementary schools.

Parents in the district have raised the issue of traffic congestion around local schools.

Premier Gordon Campbell also brought up the idea of a walking school bus in his recent throne speech, so it seems a natural progression for the district to explore the topic, which was raised by trustee Michael Ewen at last Tuesday's board of education meeting.

The district had offered a similar walking school bus program in the past, but it was run by volunteers, which meant the level of commitment sometimes waned.

Ewen suggested the district explore the possibility of paying support staff to help operate the program.

Staff will return with a report on the matter for the board.

## ADMIN AWARDS

Two New Westminster School District administrators recently received educational research awards for their work.

Former assistant superintendent Susan Close, who retired from the district in December, and her replacement, Sandra Pace, were each awarded a Todd Rogers Research Award for their individual work.

To receive the award, the winners must have demonstrated a sustained commitment to:

- facilitating the building of formal research/investigative networks to support informed student achievement improvement.
- providing direct leadership and support to educators to enhance evidence-informed knowledge and mobilization-based professionalism in schools and classrooms.

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