

## **Desperate cost cutting measures in SD43**

*By Mallee Stanley*

With a hike in electricity rates along with other increased costs, but no increase in funding, Coquitlam School District has come up with a variety of ways to “cut down” on expenses. Here’s some examples I’ve noticed:

### **Floors**

Floors used to be polished each semester. Ten years back, this was reduced to hallways polished three times a year, but classrooms once a year. The reduction may seem like a saving, but exposed floor tiles wear out faster without protection. In elementary schools where there are carpeted areas, the district no longer cleans them.

### **Painting schools**

I can’t vouch for other schools, but at Anmore, the exterior, hallways and gym have been repainted during my time in the school but I don’t remember classrooms being painted. Like the floor polishing, this seems like “keeping up appearances,” but neglecting the environment the children spend most of their time in.

### **Paper towels**

Paper towels are now a thinner ply. I used to pull off two paper towels to dry my hands. Now I pull off three. Unless the thinner towels are more than a third cheaper, this isn’t a saving.

### **Paper Tape**

We’re now using a cheaper paper tape. Everything falls off the walls unless I use five times as much as I had to with the stronger brand. Need I say more?

### **The District’s other cost cutting measures**

According to the gardener I saw for the first time in about three years, he is now the only gardener to tend seventy schools.

I think the number of schools closed in the district was five but on a grander scale, over 120 have closed province wide. That reduced monetary costs. We won’t think about what it cost those students and parents.



The condition of the walls in division 4’s classroom. There are patches everywhere because, I’m assuming, as a cost saving measure, no primer was applied to the walls when it was painted about twelve years ago when this room was added to the school.

