



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.
WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**

Present: C. Broady, Chair; D. Stevenson, Vice Chair; Trustees: N. Brown, S. Donahue, P. Dorsman; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; D. Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; S. Nosek, Director of Instruction; L. Tomlinson, Director of Instruction; D. Nelson, Director of Instruction; K. Martin, Director of Human Resources; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; B. Pausche, Manager of Communications

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Broady called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation and that we very much appreciate the support and guidance that we receive from our friends in the Nation.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

"AP Capstone: An Inquiry-based Approach" – Ecole Sentinel Secondary

Vice Principal Kathy Grant, teachers Christian Obeck and Aaron Fuller, and students John, Eva and Bella

Vice Principal Kathy Grant gave an update on the AP Capstone program, reviewing the implementation in the 2014-2015 school year, noting 100% of Sentinel students who wrote the College Board AP examination were successful. Sentinel's students ranked 14 out of the 135 schools world-wide on the exam. This school year, 24 students who completed AP Seminar 11 last year are enrolled in AP Research 12 and will be eligible for the AP Capstone Diploma. As well, 60 students are enrolled for AP Seminar 11, so the course has more than doubled in size in one year.

Teachers Christian Obeck and Aaron Fuller explained the structure of the courses and then introduced AP Research 12 students who spoke of their experiences in AP Seminar 11. John spoke of learning to navigate a sea of information, rather than simply regurgitating facts. He said he felt he could now deconstruct his learning and rebuild it in such a way that he increased understanding. Eva spoke of authentic understanding and using analogy to explain her complicated area of research, which helped to simply communicate her ideas to others. Bella spoke of engagement and the freedom to choose content. She said she was excited about inquiry-based learning and found essay writing on a topic of her own choice far easier and much less a chore.

Mr. Obeck and Mr. Fuller concluded by saying how blessed they feel to have such a great curriculum and how they are impressed by their students' knowledge and expertise.

"Enhancing learning in our own backyard" – Ecole Pauline Johnson

Directrice Chantal Trudeau and Joanne Gauthier

Ecole Pauline Johnson Principal Chantal Trudeau and Grade One teacher Joanne Gauthier outlined the evolution of the outdoor learning and community garden project. They described how it has grown from a simple playground upgrade to a well thought-out project with a scope that takes into account the social-emotional and academic needs of students, as well as those of school and community stakeholder groups.

A website has been set up at <http://www.pjcommunitypark.com/projects-bedford> , showing details of the master plan for the multi-use outdoor space and allowing people to donate to the project.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1167	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting September 15, 2015 be adopted.
	<u>Carried.</u>

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- Welcomed everyone back and said teachers are excited and looking forward to a great year
- On behalf of the WVTA executive, would like to arrange a liaison meeting with the board for January 2016

Chair Broady thanked Mr. Millard for his comments and asked that he work to get a date arranged as soon as possible.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting June 16, 2015

#1168	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting June 16, 2015 be approved.
	<u>Carried.</u>

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Trustee Brown noted that with the appointment of Mr. Mike Bernier as the new Minister of Education, perhaps there was an opportunity for the board to re-extend an invitation to the

minister to visit West Vancouver Schools. The board's invitation last spring to former Minister Fassbender never received a response.

#1169	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board write a letter to Minister of Education Bernier, to invite him to West Vancouver Schools and meet with the Board of Education.	<u>Carried.</u>
-------	--	------------------------

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

Superintendent Kennedy gave the board a brief update on several areas of interest:

Early Enrollment Numbers

- Higher than June projections – unanticipated increases at Chartwell, Hollyburn and West Van Secondary
- International numbers as predicted, but will be reduced next year – target number will be reduced and recruitment patterns adjusted accordingly. Homestays at capacity across district
- Final numbers for provincial funding to be confirmed on September 30
- Deputy Superintendent Eberwein will report further at October board meeting

New Curriculum

- West Van Schools has been having this discussion for three - four years already
- 100% written by BC teachers and Aboriginal Education incorporated in each area
- Grades K-9 implemented 2015-2016
- Grades 10-12 in draft form this year, implemented 2016-2017
- District Curriculum Implementation Team has district, administrator and teacher representatives
- Is guiding professional development day opportunities and innovation grants also available

Ministry Directions

- Revised secondary assessments to be implemented 2017-2018
- New FSA being developed, perhaps for use next year
- New reporting guidelines for Grades K-9 in 2016-2017 and for Grades 10-12 in 2017-2018
- New achievement contract requirements to be announced shortly for submission in 2016
- Increased emphasis on Aboriginal Education – both historical awareness and support for aboriginal student success

Technology

- BCeSIS being phased out – all schools will be on My Education BC by later in the fall
- There have been issues with speed and unexpected additional costs associated with My Ed implementation across the province

- New public websites launched for West Vancouver Schools and International Programs
- Inside45 Portal updated to SharePoint2013 until overhaul in the future
- Use of Google classrooms, e-portfolios (eg FreshGrade) increasing across district

Branding

- New logo and tagline gives greater consistency of our brand across the district and with the international department
- The district is more than a number (ie. SD45) – misunderstood in some international markets as a ranking

Community Events

- Grade 5 – 7 classes across the district are participating in the Students' Spaceflight Experiments Program with NASA and the International Space Station. Matt Trask is spearheading the project.
- Tentative screening of the film Beyond Measure on October 27 at Kay Meek Centre
- Trying to arrange a West Van Schools parent information night with Yong Zhao in the spring. Perhaps one in English and another in Cantonese.

Chair Broady thanked the Superintendent for his presentation and said she wanted to formally thank Bev Pausche, Manager of Communications and Engagement, for her work with the rebranding.

2. Aboriginal Education Update

Lynne Tomlinson, Director of Instruction

Director Tomlinson began by introducing Sa7plek, Squamish Cultural Advisor to West Vancouver Schools. Sa7plek said he was happy to have the opportunity to share his nation's history, teachings and learning spaces. He performed a drumming song which was a greeting of the day, reflecting his female ancestors' medicine, spiritual beliefs and power. By doing so, he said he was sharing strength with us and bringing the canoe symbolizing our journey together into more interesting waters.

Director Tomlinson gave a brief history of the growth of the Aboriginal Education program in West Vancouver Schools, which was formalized with the signing of the Enhancement Agreement in 2014 and which will be supported by the new curriculum, which has aboriginal education embedded throughout, and will help move us towards a greater understanding of history and context for all students. She noted that while the number of self-identifying students within West Vancouver Schools is growing, with 68 students in 2014-2015, most Squamish Nation students still attend school in North Vancouver. The majority of our Ab Ed students are Metis or Cree.

Monthly meetings are held with the Squamish Education team and Director Tomlinson also meets every two months with the team from the Ministry of Education to discuss direct support for Ab Ed programs. The hiring of a district Aboriginal Success teacher, who works one on one with students, has built relationships with both students and their families, an important element in making families feel welcome in our schools.

Historically, information about aboriginal people was disseminated without input from those people themselves, was almost always incorrect, and was covered in a very short period of time,

Regular Minutes September 15, 2015

usually as a token art project or brief units of study. Textbooks still contain a lot of misinformation. Teachers should not feel blame for how things have been taught in the past, but we are now working in a different context and awareness, so we need to move beyond tokenism and acknowledge that a rich history builds a strong society.

Professional development is being provided in response not only to the new curriculum, but to the concern expressed by teachers that the work they do around this topic be authentic and informed. It was noted that we are lucky to have strong relationships and resources in our partners in the Nation, including Sa7plek, Xwalacktun, K'etx̱imtn and Yeltsilewet. They, along with the Aboriginal Education Committee, support a variety of enhancement activities in the district, including blessing ceremonies, student surveys, language instruction, careers fair and family feast. Parent education is an important part of the district mandate, and will receive increased support this year as well.

Aboriginal Education is now not only embedded in the curriculum, but in all school plans as well. Director Tomlinson introduced Principal Tara Zielinski and teachers Lorraine Hartley, Jeff Muthanna and Doni Gratton from Hollyburn, who spoke about how a focus on aboriginal education in their school plan has provided a rich basis for inquiry learning across all grades. They believe the age-appropriate work they have done around residential schools and truth and reconciliation speaks to the heart, and said the language of the heart brings all students together, despite their diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Chair Broady thanked Director Tomlinson and the Hollyburn team for their presentations and asked Sa7plek if the trustees can organize a date for their paddling session with him. She noted that we have a long journey ahead of us, but that we have started it well and she looks forward to seeing where it takes us.

3. Early Development Indicator (EDI) Results

Sandra-Lynn Shortall, District Principal

District Principal Sandra-Lynn Shortall gave the board a brief history of the Early Development Instrument (EDI), which is used to measure developmental change in populations of children. She noted that while results are used to inform community practice, the tool is not used to assess or diagnose individual children, or to compare schools.

Wave 6 results (2013/14 – 2015/16) are still being gathered province-wide, but Kindergarten teachers in West Vancouver Schools collected their data last winter. She reviewed trends both provincially and locally, noting that while West Vancouver's rate of vulnerability is lower than the provincial average, it is still cause for concern. Vulnerability in the areas of social, physical and emotional development has risen, but has decreased in communication and particularly language. This was good news, as it shows the local efforts with literacy are having a positive effect.

District Principal Shortall concluded by saying that though there is clearly something going on provincially with increasing rates of vulnerability being documented, this should be seen as a good news story, as it means that we have the information we need to accurately and effectively inform planning and practice in the future.

4. Excluded Compensation

Kim Martin, Director of Human Resources

In 2012, the Ministry of Finance imposed a ban on increases in compensation for any non-unionized positions. Director Kim Martin noted that this was not about education, but fiscal responsibility across government. While executive compensation (assistant superintendents and secretary treasurers) remains frozen, there has been an amendment to allow interim relief for other excluded positions.

As of July 1, 2015, an increase of up to 2% can be given if compression between levels can be demonstrated. West Vancouver Schools has done the required data analysis and has submitted it to BCPSEA – the only district to do so thus far. Director Martin noted that our data shows that there is compression and, therefore, an increase is warranted. She also reported that she has now received word that a single proposal for principals, vice principals and all other excluded positions will be compiled and submitted to PSEC, likely in November. This does mean a delay in the decision regarding principals and vice principals, but it is hoped that there will be a quick turnaround and decision after submission. West Vancouver Schools is in a good position, as we have already collected and submitted data, but are in a holding pattern until others have done the same.

Chair Broady thanked Director Martin for her report and said the Board feels that this is a topic that deserves attention. With the BCSTA provincial council taking place in October, two emergent motions have been drafted regarding excluded compensation – one regarding principal and vice principal compensation and the other regarding executive compensation.

The wording of the emergent motions is as follows:

That BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Finance and PSEC amend the current salary freeze on exempt compensation and support the transitioning of school and district vice principals and principals to the grids recommended in the Exempt Staff Compensation Working Group (ESCWG) report.

And

That BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Finance and PSEC amend the current salary freeze on exempt compensation and support the inclusion of executive positions, which were excluded from the initial temporary relief, allowing districts the ability to include these staff members in any salary increases.

If approved, these motions must be submitted by Friday, September 18 to be included in the October provincial council meeting.

#1170

MOTION THAT the Board approve the submission to BCSTA of the two draft motions regarding exempt compensation for consideration at provincial council.

Carried.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – September 15, 2015

- WVSS track project
- Staffing – payroll department
- BMO rebate
- ERAC savings
- Shared services
- Capital plan – Routine Maintenance
- Audited Financial Statements 2014/15

Vice Chair Stevenson reviewed the minutes from this morning's Finance and Facilities meeting and briefly explained the new capital plan and audited financial statements.

#1171	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the 2015-2016 Routine Maintenance Capital Plan be approved and filed with the Ministry of Education.	<u>Carried.</u>
-------	--	------------------------

#1172	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the audited financial statements for the 2014-2015 fiscal year be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Education.	<u>Carried.</u>
-------	--	------------------------

#1173	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting of September 15, 2015 be received.	<u>Carried.</u>
-------	--	------------------------

I. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of the correspondence from the past month is posted at www.sd45.bc.ca/board

J. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Administrator's Social BCSTA Metro meeting Coho Festival Finance and Facilities Committee meeting Lions Bay PAC barbeque	School Traffic Safety Advisory Committee WV Memorial Library Summer Reading Medals Ceremony WV Schools District Student Council meeting West Vancouver Schools Opening Day
--	---

Trustee Brown noted that the Coho Festival has been going for 36 years and said it was great to see West Vancouver Schools represented by teachers and students from Chartwell and Cedardale.

K. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Judy Duncan, President - WVAA

- Thanked the Board and the District Leadership Team for submitting the proposal on their behalf
- Said she appreciated being involved in the process and was looking forward to the presentation at the WVAA meeting next week
- Thanked the Board also for their advocacy

L. ADJOURNMENT

9:22

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER