



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00pm

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

Absent: 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. She said we appreciate and value our relationship with the Nation as we continue to learn together.

The Chair then highlighted the Grade 8 information evenings being held at the secondary schools during the week of January 11, 2016.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

"Fuelling Our Passions" – Ecole Cedardale

Principal Michelle LaBounty, teachers Chelsea Read, Trisha Sampson and Kristina Hayes, and students

Principal LaBounty introduced her teachers and students, saying that they were going to give three examples of the many initiatives taking place at Ecole Cedardale this year, each one fuelled by the passions of students and teachers.

Grade 4 student Inez explained how she took action after discovering the effects of microbeads on our oceans and ecosystem. Her discovery was aided in part by the use of microscopes connected to classroom computers, funded by a grant from the Fuel Your Schools program. Inez explained that after performing the experiments in class, she was inspired to organize and host a meeting for staff regarding the effects of microbeads, encouraged them to stop using products containing them – everything from facial products to toothpaste – and asked them to sign a petition (<http://www.5gyres.org/banthebead/>) to support a ban on microbeads. As well, she is now going class to class, to educate peers and their families about what she believes is an important issue.

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Next, students Flora, Mika and Avalon told trustees about the experiment they designed as part of the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program (SSEP) program. They explained how they hope to use E.coli and recombinant DNA to artificially synthesize Human Growth Hormone (HGH). The ability to do so would have the potential to help people spending prolonged periods of time in space better deal with the adverse physiological effects of microgravity on the human body.

Finally, students in the choir performed two seasonal songs, one in English and one in French.

Chair Broady thanked staff and students for their presentations, saying how impressed she was with the depth and breadth of the topics covered.

“Raven’s Base Camp: A Grade 8 Transition” – Rockridge Secondary

Principal Jeannette Laursoo, teachers Kelly Skehill, Kelly Brady, Parnaz Kashani and Jennifer Towers

Principal Laursoo introduced teachers Kelly Skehill, Kelly Brady, Parnaz Kashani and Jennifer Towers, who gave a detailed presentation of the new Rockridge Grade 8 transition program – Raven’s Base Camp. Designed to smooth the transition to high school, the concept grew out of collaboration with teachers on the BYOD/tech committee, the Grade 8 orientation sub-committee and others. Utilizing the spirals of inquiry methodology, and inspired by the skills and tools embraced at the Google conference, teachers identified four guiding principles for working with Grade 8 learners.

The result was the two-day Base Camp, comprised of six different workshops, which students moved through in cohort groups. Activities included indoor and outdoor challenges, games and team-building exercises, dealing with everything from an introduction to IB MYP and Google classroom to high school survival: myths and facts and stress management.

Feedback was sought from students, parents, staff and administrators and the focus now is on additions and adjustments for next year. Possibilities include more outdoor activities, a Grade 9 mentorship program and efforts to connect students to Rockridge while they are still in Grade 7 at feeder schools. The responses to this year’s pilot were overwhelmingly positive and anecdotal evidence of success re: better Grade 8 engagement is seen in increased numbers in school-based clubs and at sports team tryouts.

Trustee Brown congratulated Rockridge, saying it was great work and so smart to get students engaged from the very beginning of their secondary school careers. Chair Broady agreed and said she hoped that they would share their ideas with the other high schools. Kelly Skehill said they were looking forward to connecting with other innovation teams working on the same concept.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was agreed that item 4 under Board Business be changed to read BCPSEA AGM / BCSTA Provincial Council.

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| #1185 | <u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting December 8, 2015 be adopted as amended. |
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Carried.

D. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Outgoing Chair Carolyn Broady passed the floor to Secretary Treasurer Julia Leiterman for the election of Chair.

The Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for Board Chair and Carolyn Broady was nominated.

Nominations were called for a second and third time. There being no further nominations, Trustee Broady was declared Chair by acclamation.

The Secretary Treasurer then passed the floor back to the newly-elected Chair. Chair Broady called for nominations for Vice Chair and Dave Stevenson was nominated.

Nominations were called for a second and third time. There being no further nominations, Trustee Stevenson was declared Vice Chair by acclamation.

Vice Chair Stevenson then said he wanted to publically thank trustees Brown, Dorsman and Donahue for their passion, respectfulness and willingness to be part of a team during the first year of their term. He said they are amazing trustees and "as good as it gets."

E. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions or comments from the gallery.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting November 17, 2015

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| #1186 | <u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 17, 2015 be approved. <u>Carried.</u> |
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G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Trustee Brown asked for an update on enrollment in the AP Chemistry 12 class at Rockridge.

Deputy Superintendent Eberwein replied that as of yesterday, December 7, the AP Chemistry 12 class is at 30 students. He also reported that there is now a Foundations of Math 10 class at WVSS with 31 students. During the conversion from BCeSIS to MyEdBC, a manual clerical addition of a student to that course pushed enrollment to 31 unintentionally. After discussions with counsellors, administration and the teacher, it was decided that it is in the best interests of the student to remain in that class and allow enrollment to remain at 31.

Chair Broady asked if Director Nosek could provide an update on the MyEdBC conversion at January's board meeting, after the first round of report cards.

Director Nosek replied that he would be happy to do so.

Chair Broady then asked Superintendent Kennedy if there had been any response to the announcement of the two additional curriculum-based non-instructional days added to the school calendar, either from parents or other school districts.

The Superintendent replied that he had received emails from two or three parents, and that though we have shared our dates with other districts, some, including North Vancouver, have not yet selected dates. He also reported that he would be meeting with Rob Millard, WVTA President, to discuss possible NID dates for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

H. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Board Chair Report

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Chair Broady reported that the first year of the new board's term had been a busy one. The year began with an extensive orientation, allowing new trustees to gain in-depth knowledge and become familiar with all areas of the school district, from human resources and accounting, to the international department, to the facilities department. As well, trustees built relationships with their liaison schools and settled into their various committee assignments. After the orientation, the Board's next task was to create their strategic plan, outlining their vision for their four-year term. They identified, clarified and focussed on the values that will guide their work: excellence, inclusiveness, accountability, authenticity, innovation, community engagement and happiness. From these, the four key areas were developed to guide their strategic plan: Educational Excellence; Visionary Governance; Thoughtful Transitions; and Community Evolution. The intention is to focus on one area of the plan each year of the term, with the overarching theme of a continued and sustained focus on educational excellence, ensuring that the high achievement levels for which West Vancouver Schools is known are maintained, while continually searching for opportunities for innovative programs and practices.

The Board has held a number of liaison meetings with local political and community organizations and last week hosted new Minister of Education Mike Bernier. The morning was spent with the Minister, sharing the West Van story and showing him some of the programs that make our district special: ACE-IT Carpentry; the Special Education Department at West Van Secondary; and the innovative and exciting French Immersion IB Primary Years Program at IB candidate school, Ecole Cedardale. They also had the chance to raise some of their concerns with the Minister, including salary harmonization, the continued administration compensation freeze, the financing of legal shared services and the pressures of increased ELL numbers in our classrooms. The Chair said she hoped it would be the beginning of a collaborative and positive relationship with Minister Bernier.

The Chair concluded by thanking the fantastic staff, saying each member, from educational assistants to the superintendent, plays an important and integral part of ensuring students' success and making West Vancouver Schools the premier place for learning. The Board is

committed to continually supporting our educators, administrators and support staff as they transition into the new curriculum and looks forward to continued success, engagement and innovation in 2016.

2. Superintendent's Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

The Superintendent gave updates on five different areas:

Enrollment planning 2016-2017

Kindergarten requests are excellent across the board, with positive increases at most sites over the same period last year. It was noted that District Principal Sandra-Lynn Shortall has visited our local preschool providers, encouraging early registration, and the same push will be made to current Kindergarten – Grade 7 students with younger siblings. The EFI lotteries have been completed as well, with 36 spots offered at Ecole Cedardale and 44 at Ecole Pauline Johnson.

New Curriculum

Thirty-five volunteer Curriculum Lead Teachers have been identified and they will be working with the Curriculum Implementation Committee, led by Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson. As well, the WVTA, WVAA and DLT have been collaborating to plan the January curriculum non-instructional day. A district survey has indicated the greatest interest is in learning more about the changes to the core academic areas. An information session for Principals and PAC representatives about the new curriculum will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016. The Superintendent, Principal Judy Duncan, president of WVAA, and DPAC Chair Abbie Milavsky are meeting to plan the joint session.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Authorizations

West Bay and Cypress Park both recently had their IB review visits, which are conducted every five years. Both schools did very well and the Superintendent praised the excellent work of Judy Duncan, Kim Grimwood, and IB Coordinators Janet Hicks and Morikke Espenhain and staff. The final results will be available in the spring. Candidate school Ecole Cedardale will be going through its evaluation on April 7-8, 2016 as part of the authorization process.

Syrian Refugees

While very few refugees are anticipated on the North Shore, both school districts are working together, along with the North Shore Multicultural Society and other partners to support those who may enroll in our schools. Provincially, efforts are being coordinated across BC Government ministries. Our key point of contact is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education. As well, regular bi-weekly conference calls have been held with district personnel to focus on any emerging issues.

Budget Planning 2016-2017

The annual budget planning process will begin in January for the 2016-2017 school year. While our enrollment numbers are strong, that good news is mitigated by unknown challenges. With increased enrollment of 6000+ students across BC, hold back funds will likely be affected and may not be available at all. Combined with regular cost of living increases, possible unfunded pay increases for excluded staff, and a planned reduction in the number of international students, there will be some pressure on the budget next year.

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3. Choice Consultative Committee

Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction

A. Premier Academies

Director Nelson reviewed proposals for three new premier academies: Dance; Rugby; and Mechatronics Robotics. She said she was excited to be able to expand the Premier Academies beyond sports for the first time. She reported that for her, it is all about the people when designing and launching academies, saying that if you have a passionate educational leader at the helm who is truly invested in the program, it will be a success.

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| #1187 | <u>MOTION</u> THAT the Premier Dance Academy, Premier Rugby Academy and Premier Mechatronics Robotics Academy be approved for the 2016-2017 school year. <u>Carried.</u> |
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Chair Broady thanked the teachers, Choice Consultative committee and Director Nelson for their hard work.

B. Board Authority Authorized (BAA) courses

Director Nelson then presented summaries of proposed BAA courses Theory & Principles of Mechatronics Robotics 10/11/12, 200-Hour Yoga Teacher Training, Outdoor Connections 11, and Drama Improvisation 10-12. Again, she noted that these courses are given passion and life when designed and taught by someone working in their area of strength.

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| #1188 | <u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board Authority Authorized courses “Theory & Principles of Mechatronics Robotics 10/11/12”, “200-Hour Yoga Teacher Training”, “Outdoor Connections 11” and “Drama Improvisation 10 – 12” be approved for the 2016-2017 school year. <u>Carried.</u> |
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4. BCPSEA AGM / BCSTA Provincial Council

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Chair Broady reported that this board does not have any motions for the BCPSEA AGM at this time. She noted that the BCSTA Provincial Council is in late February, but the deadline for motions is January 19, and must be emergent since the last AGM.

Trustee Brown said that there was a lot of discussion at the Fall Academy around new curriculum and how exciting and important it is. She said she feels it would be great to have support for a provincial communication plan about the new curriculum – a higher-level marketing to the community at large, to extend the excitement beyond the school environment.

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| #1189 | <p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board work with district staff to formulate and put forward a motion to work with co-governance partners and the Ministry to help support and market the new curriculum implementation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Carried.</u></p> |
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The Chair noted that in January, trustees will need to discuss motions for the April AGM. She also said she would like to consider a motion to decrease lead time for motions, as technology now allows for much more immediate communication.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Human Resources Committee Meeting

- Economic Stability Dividend
- Director of Facilities Recruitment
- Professional Development (WVMEA)
- New Curriculum Non-Instructional Days (WVMEA)

Trustee Brown reviewed the minutes of the meeting and extended a warm welcome to new Director of Facilities, Wade Hickey, who will join West Van Schools effective January 18, 2016.

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| #1190 | <p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting of December 8, 2015 be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Carried.</u></p> |
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2. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting

- No meeting this month

J. CORRESPONDENCE

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

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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| BCSTA Fall Academy Coffee Meeting with Mayor Smith Human Resources Committee Meeting Meeting with Education Minister Bernier Pauline Johnson Community Park Team | WV Chamber of Commerce Christmas Dinner WV District Christmas Party WV District Parent Advisory Council Meeting WV School District Student Council Meeting |
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Chair Broady extended thanks on behalf of the board to Superintendent Kennedy and executive assistants Sharon Pierce and Tricia Buckley for their organization of the district staff Christmas party, saying it was a great event and she enjoyed seeing so many teachers and staff.

Trustee Brown reported that she was one of the judges at the West Van Legion for the Remembrance Day contests and was thoroughly impressed by the quality of work produced by Sentinel teacher Barb Sunday's students. As well, she mentioned the outstanding essays written by Jody Billingsley's intermediate students from Irwin Park, saying their work shone.

L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- Recalled talking to Diane Nelson years ago when she was considering starting the soccer academy and being concerned about her being able to handle running two academies – hockey and soccer

- Hearing about all the new premier academies, he thinks Diane is amazing

- Asked if the French Immersion Kindergarten lottery is open to students outside West Vancouver and if so, how is the waitlist ordered?

Superintendent Kennedy replied that students from outside the district are allowed to apply and be included in the lottery, but that priority is given to West Vancouver students and siblings. He reviewed the various priority categories and explained that offers and waitlists are ordered according to lottery number.

- Mr. Inman then said that he had heard that Catholic schools in Alberta are banning school trips outside Canada, based on recent events in Paris and elsewhere

- Asked if there are any such trips planned for West Van schools and this is something that the board is looking at?

The Superintendent replied that they have a list of planned trips to Europe, the US and Central America, most of which will take place in late February or around Spring Break. He and the Deputy Superintendent met with the secondary principals about these trips and it was reported that principals have heard no expressions of concern from parents. At this time, we are taking a monitoring approach. He said it is a topic of discussion across metro districts and that generally, districts take guidance from the Government of Canada travel advisories.

Rob Millard – President, WVTA

- Said he hopes everyone has a good holiday and is looking forward to working with the board in the new year

- Said it was a full fall with no let-down in pace

- Agrees with Trustee Brown regarding communications around the new curriculum, saying it would be beneficial for all to have a greater understanding

- Noted that some may find the change intimidating

Chair Broady thanked Mr. Millard for his comments and concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a restful break, happy holidays and Merry Christmas.

M. ADJOURNMENT

9:04pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER