



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00pm
West Vancouver School Board Office

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

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 said we look forward to continuing our work to move education ahead together.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

"Live Different" – Sentinel Secondary

Principal Mike Finch, teacher Angie Higgs, students Abbie C, Lauren M, Claire Z, and Callan G

Principal Finch introduced Ms Higgs and students Abbie, Lauren, Claire and Callan. Ms Higgs told trustees that Sentinel will be going on their fourth humanitarian trip this school year, having already travelled to Mexico once and the Dominican Republic twice. The students then presented trustees with highlights of last year's trip to the Dominican Republic with the Canadian humanitarian organization Live Different.

Students visited the community of Nuevo Renacer (New Beginning), which has benefitted greatly from Live Different's help building 200 homes. The ultimate goal is to complete 400 homes and helping to build one such home for a particular family was the main focus of the Sentinel trip. Students spent five to eight days rotating through various construction tasks, from making cement, to sanding walls, to manual labour, while contractors built the roof and hung the doors. While not working on the house, students spent part of the day with another family in the village, cooking and cleaning with them and being immersed in Dominican culture. Students reported that families were happy and grateful for what little they had, and very proud to be able to share it with their visitors. This was the most striking part for them, as it made their own advantages more meaningful and they realized that those people they met were no less deserving than they. Another of the trip's excursions was to Monkey Jungle, a botanical garden

Regular Minutes November 15, 2016

and zip line attraction run by Americans Chuck and Candy Ritzen, with all proceeds going to provide free healthcare for all Dominicans.

Students said they returned home with a re-evaluated appreciation of the value of family and material possessions. Students thanked Ms Higgs and West Vancouver School District for providing the opportunity and said it opened their eyes and hearts and the education they received was more valuable than anything they could have learned from a text book. The 15 students who went have shared their experiences with others and now 40 students are signed up to go on the trip this school year. It will be bittersweet though, as Live Different employee Benjamin Cole Brown and the Ritzens were killed in a plane crash returning from delivering aid to Haiti after Hurricane Matthew.

C. DELEGATION

Vancouver Coastal Health New Partnership with the BC-Integrated Youth Services Initiative

Terry Bulych, Clinical Planner - VCH

Terry Bulych of Vancouver Coastal Health gave trustees an informative presentation about a new provincial public / private partnership to integrate youth-related services in a one-stop storefront that heralds a new approach to health care for youth. Significant funding has been provided for five pilot sites around the province, which will house primary care, public health care, counselling services, and employment services. This will be a huge improvement over the current system which can be discouraging and confusing to navigate.

Requests for proposals were submitted in the spring of 2016, with 30 applicants and ultimately the North Shore was selected as one of the five successful locations, along with Kelowna, Prince George, Campbell River, and Abbotsford. There was considerable support for the North Shore proposal from local community partners, and the new facility in Lower Lonsdale, due to open in April 2017, will co-locate existing VCH services including: addiction prevention education; addiction and concurrent disorders service; primary care and public health; and Intensive Youth Outreach Team (iYOS). This should provide a seamless, more responsive service delivery model.

It was noted that under this new scheme, youth is defined as individuals 13 – 24 years old. This is an important recognition of the transition age group and the ability to bridge with adult services. Clients must be either resident or attending school on the North Shore to be eligible for service at the new facility, but others who ask for help will be linked back to services in their home community. Immediate benefits include improved service access for youth, the possibility of earlier intervention, improved outcomes and continuity of care. West Vancouver Schools District Administrator Maureen Lee said she and Ms Bulych had been working together for a long time and that this was the realization of a dream.

All five sites will be evaluated on an ongoing basis, and a second round of funding is possible in two years, with Richmond likely another candidate. As well, all five facilities will have the same branding, to reflect the shared values and intentions.

D. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was agreed that, at the Chair's request, the Supreme Court Ruling be added as item 5 under section H – Board Business

#1260	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting November 15, 2016 be adopted as amended.	<u>Carried.</u>
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E. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions or comments from the gallery.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting October 18, 2016

#1261	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 18, 2016 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Broady asked for an update on classes over 30. Deputy Superintendent Eberwein replied that of the five he reported on in September, two are now below 30, and three others have dropped, but are still above 30. There are two classes of AP Pre-Calculus 11 at 31 and one class of Calculus 12 at 32.

H. BOARD BUSINESS

1. International Education Update

Michael Frankowski, District Administrator, and Crystal Tanfara, Vice-Principal - International

District Administrator Frankowski briefly outlined the future of West Vancouver Schools' International Programs, noting that the global demand of international education remains strong. While there is some geopolitical uncertainty relating to the US election and the perception of the USA and its allies, Canada will continue to gain market share and may even see a bump in interest as a result of concerns about the situation south of the border. China's economic transition may also have an effect, but we are well positioned in that market and right now are not too concerned. BC is the premier destination in Canada for international students and the biggest challenge for program providers is accommodation.

For a program to be successful, it must have a successful delivery model for the full cycle of the student, be well-positioned in overseas markets, and be involved in provincial programs and committees. There is good cooperation across Canada and provinces and districts do regularly share best practice. West Vancouver remains a top brand globally as it remains a stable choice for high-quality education. We have seen our lead shrink, however, as we are emulated by many others who have adapted and grown.

Moving forward, West Vancouver wants to focus on retaining revenue, by increasing the number of independent applications, rather than dealing mainly through agents. Many former international students are now parents and are considering sending their children to us. As well, Mr. Frankowski is monitoring emerging markets in Indonesia and India. Demographics in Indonesia are promising and more families are looking beyond Kuala Lumpur for opportunities. Two professional organizations are going to India in December and West Vancouver will follow up if things look positive. We will also adapt our screening process for potential students. Standardized language tests for grade 10 and 11 students may be introduced, as higher levels of proficiency in English equate to better preparation for success, and mental health screening will be incorporated, as pre-existing conditions can be triggered by the experience of moving away from home for the first time. The challenging work of securing more homestay accommodations will continue.

Vice Principal Tanfara then spoke about West Vancouver's orientation program, the most comprehensive in BC. Run by eight teachers and 16 students, the program has become increasingly collaborative. Teachers, and community partners are working together to give students the tools for success educationally and in terms of personal safety. This launching pad can also be an early predictor of issues and concerns, as well as success. With early identification comes the opportunity to begin to address issues before students enter the classroom in September. The orientation has been extended into the school year as well, with fee-based opportunities for students to go on short trips, attend hockey games etc.

Ms. Tanfara noted that communication is the key to success, and West Vancouver is looking to provide a variety of methods for international students to keep in touch. She said the face to face work of the multicultural worker (MCW) is critical, and the MCW now regularly goes to the three secondary schools to meet students, rather than just seeing them in the international office. Meetings with school counsellors are held on a regular basis as well, to discuss not just individual student progress, but how things can be improved overall as well by adapting the support model for students. There is now an international programs app and it is hoped that school-based personnel will be added to it in the near future. Support is vital for success, and Ms. Tanfara and the MCW work closely with counsellors, administrators, and teachers so that each student and their story is a familiar one. Much of this work is being done with the help of an innovation grant, which has allowed inquiry and collaboration around consistency of models of support and the creation of an international handbook for teachers.

Academic rigour remains the mainstay of the program and the requirements to be accepted into and remain in West Vancouver are transparent and fair. Achievement and attendance are reviewed regularly and intervention is intended as an opportunity to improve, rather than something punitive. Requiring higher ELL levels moving forward will help to address parental expectations regarding university and the realities of passing English 12 with limited ability to read and write in English. Student performance at post-secondary and in the work force after they leave our schools will hopefully be tracked in the future as well.

Scholarships are available and students are encouraged to apply. Success stories will be shared and celebrated, whether small or large.

The 2016-2017 international program has 622 students, with an FTE of 570. This is an increase over the January 2016 forecast of 586 students or 536 FTE. Most districts have a dozen countries, but in West Vancouver there are students from 29 countries attending 12 different schools in the district, a testament to the diversity, popularity, and success of our program.

2. A Walk Through West Van's Digital Landscape

Sean Nosek, Director of Instruction

Director Nosek began by giving a brief review of the district's infrastructure, saying that it is really good and only getting better. He touched on several different areas, including classroom modernization, device management, Nimble storage to allow for faster back-up and recovery, and the introduction of the Bradford wireless network, with its improved connectivity, increased access points, and improved ability to manage devices. A three-day snap shot of the number of individual connections to the network by school was displayed, showing that they number in the thousands, even at elementary schools.

He then gave updates on a number of software platforms used throughout the district:

Vivos forms

This online form solution is now used for student admissions, district policies and procedures, elementary band registration, and summer learning registration. It has received good feedback from end-users and has a robust back-end for administrative functions.

MyEd BC

The now fully-adopted student information system is a critical and vital part of our infrastructure. The IEP module has now been launched in the district, and Rockridge is the first school to use the parent portal, which allows parents to log on and print interim and regular student report cards. This allows parents to access and understand their students' learning and progress wherever they may be geographically and cuts down work load for office staff around printing and stuffing envelopes.

Website project

To align with the refreshed district site, all school sites are now on a WordPress platform. This ambitious project saw 17 sites launched for the beginning of the school year, with training sessions for staff and PACs held over the last couple of months.

Google classroom

We are now about two years into using this platform and usage continues to increase. An analytics slide was displayed, showing that as of October 30, 2016 more than 782,000 files had been uploaded. The same day, Gmail was accessed more than 2,000 times, and google drive more than 4,500 times.

Fresh Grade

This e-portfolio software was used by 100 teachers during the trial last year, with almost 900 – 1,000 student accounts created. This year, usage is expected to increase with the introduction of district-managed accounts.

Discovery Education

Many people are aware that Discovery provides digital textbooks, but it also offers more. It can be interactive, with assignments embedded within it, and can also allow teachers to network. Director Nosek said that he is looking to do a big launch of this exciting resource in the new year for a district K – grade 8 initiative.

IXL

After much discussion with elementary teachers and administrators, the district bought licenses for this online math software for all students in K – grade 5. By buying the licences in bulk, we received better pricing and are able to maximize the money spent. There has reportedly been good uptake, with 1,971 hours of practice so far, and more than 300,000 math problems attempted.

Director Nosek then spoke about the several new coding opportunities that align with the new curriculum. The Coding Quest initiative, supported by The Learning Partnership, aligns with the new curriculum and is being led by Nathan Blackburn, vice principal at Ridgeview. All elementary schools are participating and their work using Scratch software will be highlighted in a district showcase later in the year. The new mechatronics robotics academy is fully subscribed and students have participated in several competitions already this year. As well, the Ignite Your Passion program ‘All Hands on Tech’ gives students in grades 6 and 7 a chance to try coding, digital imaging, and 3D modelling. The Hour of Code is not a new initiative in the district, but is growing in popularity. Cari Wilson, district digital innovation support teacher, believes that potentially all students in Kindergarten to grade 12 will experience an hour of code during the week of December 5th.

The presentation concluded with Director Nosek saying that this was an ever-shifting landscape, with continuous changes and updates to infrastructure, software, teaching and learning tools.

3. Policy Updates

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

Superintendent Kennedy presented two updated board policies to trustees, noting that they will be voted upon during the January board meeting. This adheres to the policy requirement that 60 days’ notice be given for consideration and review before adoption.

The updates to Policy 8 – Board Operations were not substantial, just housekeeping items, as it had not been updated in about 10 years.

The update to Policy 9 – Board Committees is more significant, with the proposed adoption of a new committee, in addition to the traditional two that already exist. The creation of an audit committee is considered best practice, and comes out of recommendations from the Milburn Report and other provincial reports. The purpose of the committee would be to review the annual audited financial statements of the board of education and give increased transparency around the audit process. Additional responsibilities would include oversight of the internal financial control structures designed to safeguard district assets, and ensuring any recommendations from the auditors are implemented. The committee would

also work with the external auditor and follow-up on implementation of their letter of recommendation. The structure of the committee would be similar to the Finance and Facilities and Human Resources committees, with two trustees, one acting as chair. As well, members of the community with the appropriate expertise may also be invited to join. The committee would meet three or four times each school year.

The Chair thanked the Superintendent for the work done updating the policies and asked trustees to direct feedback and comments to the Superintendent before the January board meeting.

4. Meeting with MLAs

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Chair Broady reported that she, Superintendent Kennedy, Secretary Treasurer Leiterman, along with their counterparts from North Vancouver and Sea to Sky school districts, met with three local MLAs – Jordan Sturdy, Ralph Sultan, and Joan Thornthwaite. MLA Yamamoto was unable to attend. The meeting lasted longer than expected, and was focussed mainly on budget constraints and funding of exempt staff. MLAs apparently now have a better understanding of compression and MLA Sultan asked if the administrative increase should be limited to metro, rather than across the province? The district chairs replied that the increases need to be province-wide, but a change to the funding formula in metro would be welcome. Other topics of concern for districts included mental health and, in Squamish, housing has become an issue for both students and staff, with many teachers having to try and find boarding options due to lack of affordable housing.

The bulk of the meeting was spent on emphasizing the need for sustainable, predictable, long-term funding. MLA Sultan would like a follow up meeting and there was some talk of making this an annual event.

5. Supreme Court Ruling

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Chair Broady passed the floor to Director of Human Resources, Kim Martin, for more information about the recent decision. Director Martin described the ruling as a big win for the BCTF, saying that the court essentially adopted the dissenting reasons from the BC Court of Appeal – that the charter rights of the association were violated when the ruling was passed. The trial and dissenting judge found that when the government entered into consultations, they had a pre-conceived notion of the outcome, therefore the consultation was void.

Director Martin noted that there was a provision included in the last round of bargaining that should this ruling come about, the parties will discuss and re-negotiate. At this point, nothing will change locally and the Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) will remain in place until an agreement is reached. It was also noted that the restored language around student support services is very outdated and most is no longer in use. She said that there is a lot of work to come for BCPSEA and the BCTF, but there is no information about timelines, as there has been no contact as yet regarding moving forward.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – November 1, 2016

- School Enhancement Program funding
- Transportation Grant
- West Vancouver Place for Sport update
- On-line payment implementation
- Preferred vendor list

Trustee Donahue, who chaired the committee meeting, briefly reviewed the minutes and encouraged people to read them online for more detail.

#1262	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting of November 1, 2016 be received.	<u>Carried.</u>
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J. FOR INFORMATION

Chair Broady highlighted the updates to AP 280 – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting of Student Results and thanked Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson for her work on what was called an organic process. The updated version has been posted on the public district website.

K. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of the correspondence from the past month is posted online at <http://westvancouver.schools.ca/board-correspondence>

L. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

The Chair thanked trustees for their time during another busy month.

BCPSEA Conference Call BCSTA Board Chair Meetings BCSTA Ministry Meetings Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Joint Meeting with MLAs, North Vancouver and Sea to Sky School Districts Laying of the Wreath at the Cenotaph Meeting with WVTA President	Presidents' Committee Meeting Provincial Council Remembrance Day Assemblies in various schools Streamkeepers Data Collection Refresher VSO Chamber Players Concert at Kay Meek Centre WV DPAC Meeting
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M. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Millard – President, WVTA

- said he hopes for a speedy resolution to the negotiations arising from the Supreme Court decision
- commented about class size and composition, noting that he used to teach a class of 35 students and it was enjoyable
- emphasized the important thing to realize is that class composition is what has changed
- said it is composition that has bled the system dry and left teachers anxious that they can't meet the needs of all their students
- said the district does its best with what it has, but that teaching should be a joyful experience, not a tearful one
- wanted trustees to know that teachers are continuing to work hard amid many changes

Chair Broady thanked Mr Millard for his comments, saying that the decision was good for teachers and for kids, and that the board also hopes for a speedy resolution. She also thanked teachers for all they do and recognized that this is a very busy time of year, with report cards coming up.

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- related stories about his recent trip to Ontario for Remembrance Day ceremonies
- said he prefers our traditions in BC and West Vancouver regarding ceremonies, where veterans, students, and families are involved on the statutory holiday – no politicians speaking
- said that principals at the Ontario ceremony overheard that he was from BC and asked if he knew, in light of the Abbotsford stabbing incident, whether schools would be changing or increasing security procedures
- said that those principals reported that they are going to have security monitors on every office staff member's desk in order to watch all school entrances
- wondered if we will review security in West Vancouver and perhaps include changes in the upcoming budget

Chair Broady thanked Mr Inman for his comments and said that while the incident at Abbotsford Secondary was devastating and that her thoughts go out to the friends and families of the victims, thankfully such incidents are rare in BC. She said there is a fine line between living our lives and living in fear, and that she doesn't want to change the safe, welcoming places that our schools are in West Vancouver. The Chair reported that she has not received any feedback from stakeholders regarding fear or security concerns, but that if there is a concern, that it can be brought up as part of the budget process in the new year.

Chair Broady then echoed Mr Inman's sentiments about Remembrance Day in BC, noting that she had attended five different school assemblies, all of which exceptionally well done, and that she found the interaction between students and the veteran at Chartwell particularly moving.

N. ADJOURNMENT

9:05 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER