



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, January 17, 2017 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

Absent: 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 territory of the Squamish Nation and said we value our strong relationship with them as we move education forward in our district.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

"School Connectedness" – Ridgeview Elementary

Principal Val Brady, Vice Principal Nathan Blackburn, teacher Dianne Wanless, and grade 6 student Trevor

Principal Brady began by reporting that Ridgeview is continuing to try to provide diverse opportunities for its students, based on a recognition that success comes with exposure and exploration. As well, research has shown that students are more likely to succeed if they feel connected to their school. Vice Principal Blackburn continued, explaining that a commitment to ongoing education, a positive peer group, adult support, and a positive school environment are essential to school connectedness. He reviewed a number of extracurricular activities available to Ridgeview students, including sports teams, choir, and community service initiatives. Each builds character, dedication, and the opportunity for students to be part of something bigger than themselves. Mr Blackburn then highlighted some of the initiatives that show the school's commitment to education and efforts to instill a passion for learning in students, including the creation of learning profiles, diversifying interests, and providing the opportunity to connect their learning to the real world.

Grade 3 teacher Ms Wanless spoke about how much more meaningful students find their learning if they can connect it to real life. To that end, she creates cross-curricular projects that encompass language arts, fine art, and social studies. One of the most affecting was a recent project that began with a book about Afghanistan. After reading the story, students discussed storytelling and character, which led to a conversation about what traits a veteran may have. The project culminated in a visit on Remembrance Day from Ms Wanless' cousin, a Canadian veteran who served in Afghanistan. The result was engaging, meaningful learning for students. It was also eye-opening, as they realized that not all veterans are elderly.

Mr. Blackburn then shared another engaging opportunity for students around coding. He said he believes that we have moved beyond teaching digital literacy, to teaching digital fluency – i.e. the ability to know not just how, but when to use digital tools. He explained that in partnership with Coding Quest through the Learning Partnership, he is organizing the West Van Arcade. It will be held at the West Vancouver Memorial Library and 26 elementary classes from across the school district are participating. He introduced Trevor, a grade 6 student who is passionate about coding. Trevor explained that he enjoys coding because he likes sharing his ideas, and creating games allows him to do what he wants, when he wants, within a digital context. He uses the block coding program Scratch and has built three games so far. He then showed an example of how he combined coding games with his other favourite activity – soccer. Trevor said that coding wasn't always easy and that he had learned that you need resilience and perseverance to solve problems.

The presentation concluded with Mr Blackburn speaking about the importance of adult support and positive peer groups, and the joy that comes from a sense of connectedness.

"Irwin Park's Shared Values" – Irwin Park Elementary

Principal Liz Hill, Vice Principal Jody Billingsley, teacher Robyn Evans, and students Edward, Christina, and Madelyne

Principal Hill told trustees that during the last two years, she and staff have worked hard to create a common language around what they have identified as Irwin Park's shared values. That language has now become an integral part of the school. She then introduced grade 6 student Christina and grade 5 students Madelyne and Edward, who collaborated with Principal Hill, Vice Principal Billingsley, and teacher Ms Evans to explain those shared values to trustees.

The students took turns explaining each of the values: care – pay attention to the well-being of oneself, others and the world; engage – focus and actively participate; inquire – ask questions and work to find the answers; and persevere – keep trying when things are challenging. They then gave examples of school activities that demonstrate each value and told trustees that there are written and visual reminders of the values all over Irwin Park. As well, each value has an "I statement" that helps to remind students of who they are as global citizens and what is important to them as a school.

Ms Evans explained the process by which the values were identified, based on the traits of an Irwin Park learner and connected to the core competencies. Connections and priorities were emphasized and, ultimately, the language and supportive statements were developed, accompanied by visual representations.

The group as a whole told trustees how the school has learned about the shared values over the course of the school year. During the opening week in September, there was a common school

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focus on the values, and classroom lessons and learning connections contributed to them very quickly becoming foundational. Ongoing collaborative assembly lessons with two grades each week focus on those values, and the meanings and definitions are reviewed. The use of the language and values occurs in all aspects of school life, from the classroom to the playground, and not only by students and teachers, but also by education assistants, supervisors, and office staff. This is supported by information and language in parent education sessions, PAC meetings, ebulletins, the school website, and staff and student first term reflections.

Ms Evans made clear that shared values provide not just a common language, but also a common vision and framework that bring together a diverse community. They contribute to a shared understanding of what makes Irwin Park special, and help students to make good decisions, set goals, guide actions. Moving forward, they will continue to develop deeper understanding around each value in the context of global citizenship and there are plans to have the values translated into various languages. They will also be used as a base for a refreshed code of conduct. Staff and students have become very proud of their shared values and have embraced the different ways in which they can be identified and demonstrated.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was agreed that Recruitment of Specialty Area Teachers be added under Board Business as item G 4.

#1270	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting January 17, 2017 be adopted as amended.	<u>Carried.</u>
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D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions or comments from the gallery.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting December 13, 2016

#1271	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting December 13, 2016 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair asked for an update on any classes over 30 in the district.

The Deputy Superintendent replied that there is now only one class over 30: Pre-Calculus 11 at Sentinel, with 31 students.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. English Language Learners (ELL) Update

Maria Yioldassis, ELL Coordinator

West Vancouver Schools ELL Coordinator Maria Yioldassis reported that our ELL numbers continue to grow, unlike districts such as Vancouver and Richmond. In October 2016, our funded students totalled 1104, a 5.6% increase over February 2016, when we had 1046 students. Total numbers, including international (fee-paying) students indicate that 21% of our student population is ELL: 25% at elementary and 17.5% at secondary.

West Vancouver Schools was selected as one of eight districts in the province to rework the ministry ELL standards written in 2010. The five levels of the quick scale were reviewed and it was explained that West Vancouver, previously a four-level district, will transition to five levels. The fifth level, “bridging”, is for those students who are approaching near-native proficiency, and will benefit those students previously held at level four for several years. The delivery model for ELL support in elementary schools continues to be a coordinated co-teaching approach between ELL specialists and classroom teachers. The model also helps to reduce the stigma of the ELL teacher. The model remains the same at secondary, too, with teachers who have received Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) training providing collaborative support in language-adapted courses in order to improve student achievement. There is now closer collaboration with the international department regarding the needs of incoming students, which allows for better support for teachers as well.

Moving forward, considerations for support centre around resources and time for teachers to learn and understand the new standards. Having parents understand the process of language acquisition continues to be a challenge. It was reported that students are becoming increasingly appreciative of the help, but parents need to realize that acquisition takes time. Graphics to show progress both with and without ELL support have been developed to help parents better understand, and with greater understanding has come greater support.

West Vancouver continues to participate in the ELL Consortium, Metro ELL, and the UBC Assessment Consortium, as well as working with the ministry. The connections made through the ministry work will allow us to be part of the discussion regarding the Annual Instructional Plans (AIP), which every ELL student is required to have. It is hoped that there will be integration between the new ELL standards and AIPs.

Trustee Brown, who also sits on the ELL Consortium, thanked Ms Yioldassis and said how important it is to finally have ministry standards and resources as a tool kit for teachers, especially with such a large percentage of students needing support.

2. Choice Consultative Committee

Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction

Director Nelson presented a summary of proposed program of choice the Premier Outdoor Connections Academy. This program, exclusively for grade 10 students, was developed by Rockridge teachers Daphne Lambie and Cristina Herman. Open to students from any of the

district's three secondary schools, students will have a unique timetable, with academy courses and activities on Day 1 at Rockridge, and their remaining courses timetabled on Day 2 at their home school.

The Chair asked how non-MYP students from Sentinel and WVSS would be assessed on the courses they take at Rockridge. Director Nelson replied that while Rockridge students will continue to be assessed according to the MYP standards, marks will be converted for non-MYP students. She said that teachers will be very transparent re: assessment and letter grades and that academic rigour will be maintained. Assessment will be adapted according to unique school circumstances.

The Chair asked Director Nelson to commend Ms Lambie and Ms Herman for their comprehensive program outline.

#1272	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Premier Outdoor Connections Academy be approved for the 2017-2018 school year.	<u>Carried.</u>
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3. Policies 8 and 9 Updates

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

The Chair reported that, further to the November 2016 agenda item, the updates to Board Policies 8 and 9 have now been posted for the required 60 days. No feedback has been received.

#1273	<u>MOTION</u> THAT West Vancouver Board of Education Policies 8 and 9 be updated as presented.	<u>Carried.</u>
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4. Recruitment of Specialty Area Teachers

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

The Superintendent reported that with the recent Supreme Court ruling, there is a short-term urgency to hire teachers in specialty areas. We are trying to fill positions equalling 16 FTE in the next few weeks. Many of these positions will likely be filled by teachers from out of district. Despite the short-term hiring process, there is a long-term need for specialty teachers, particularly for teacher-librarians, learning support, counselling, and ELL. All these areas require a high level of skill and training and for some people, financial barriers prevent access to that training. He said it was important to be proactive and recruit our own teachers into these specialty areas.

As part of a larger recruitment strategy, he is asking the board to approve a budget commitment of \$50,000 to reimburse West Vancouver teachers who are pursuing training in the four areas mentioned. The request is being presented now, rather than during the usual

budget process, in order to allow the timely organization of information sessions with our own teachers about how to pursue further training and apply for funding. The intention is to be able to support up to 25 teachers each year who are pursuing diplomas or master's degrees. By March 1st, it is hoped that teachers will be able to apply for \$2000 per year of study – two years for diplomas and three years for master's degrees. The applications will have to be submitted each year and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The process will be coordinated with Human Resources and Student Support Services, with HR taking the lead re: application process, documentation requirements etc.

The Superintendent said that we have great staff in our district that could potentially fill these roles. The district wants to do something different and proactive and incentivize further study for interested staff. While the district cannot guarantee employment, teachers will still gain important skills and training.

It was stressed that this program will be funded directly from the operating grant budget, and not from the recent funding release related to the Supreme Court decision respecting class size and composition. The plan is for the funding to be annual, but the specialty areas may change from year to year. At this time, the four areas listed meet the current board needs.

Chair Broady said that she welcomes the idea, but wanted to make it very clear that the Board greatly values all employees and all areas of study. She said there is a desperate need for specialists in these particular areas at the moment, and that is why they are the current target.

#1274	<p><u>MOTION</u> THAT West Vancouver School District commit up to \$50,000 for the 2017-2018 budget, with the intention of the funds being ongoing, to support current West Vancouver teachers completing course work in areas that the district determines are difficult to find qualified candidates in. Each year the Board will consider in which areas of focus funds will be directed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Carried.</u></p>
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5. **BCSTA AGM**

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

The Chair reminded trustees that any motions for the BCSTA AGM must be submitted by the end of February. Any proposed West Vancouver motions can be brought forward for discussion at the February regular board meeting. She said that she would be discussing the possibility of joint West Vancouver / North Vancouver motions with her counterpart at the North Vancouver Board of Education.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – January 10, 2017

- Payroll Management over Christmas Break
- Update on December reporting requirements
- Facilities management of winter conditions
- Facilities staffing update
- WV Schools Annual Playground Grant Award
- West Vancouver Place for Sport Update
- Amended Budget - Funding

Committee Chair Stevenson began by thanking Trustee Donahue for her time on the committee and wished her well with her work on the Human Resources Committee. He then welcomed Trustee Dorsman, who has swapped duties with Trustee Donahue. The Committee Chair then briefly reviewed the minutes and noted that the Amended Budget for 2016/17 would be presented at next month's meeting. He concluded by mentioning that last weekend he attended the re-opening of Hollyburn Lodge on Hollyburn Mountain and said that it was a great example of what can be achieved when the community gets behind a project. He hoped the WV Place for Sport committee might be encouraged by such a project, despite the disappointing news they received regarding the community infrastructure grant.

#1275	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting of January 17, 2017 be received.
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Carried.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

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

J. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

The Chair thanked trustees for their time during a busy start to the new year.

ACCESS Christmas Pancake Breakfast Board briefing Coho Society meeting Finance & Facilities Committee meeting Metro ELL meeting	School Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting Streamkeepers' water quality testing Various school holiday concerts West Van DPAC meeting WVTA Liaison meeting
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K. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- congratulated Diane Nelson on another academy and asked what the ratio of adults to students would be

Director Nelson replied that for most day trips, it would be 1:15 (two adults and 30 students), but that for overnight trips it would be 1:10.

- said that he is always impressed by the school presentations, but that this evening's from Irwin Park was particularly amazing and very professional

- asked if there is a way for schools to share such presentations with other schools and let others know about the work they are doing

The Superintendent replied that one of the structures for professional development we have in our district is the innovation grant program, and that many of the highlights at board meetings grow out of those grants. Directors Tomlinson and Nosek network with the innovation teams and hold a celebration at the end of each school year during which teams share the work they have done. As well, on pro-d days, staff present to other staff, and during regular principals' and superintendent's meetings, administrators share the work being done in their schools with their peers. He noted that we are a small enough district to allow us to become very good at networking ideas.

Rob Millard – President, WVTA

- thanked the Board and senior staff for the liaison meeting and for dinner, saying it was much appreciated

- called the conversations important and said some members met to debrief afterwards

- felt the meeting was important as 90% of the executive is new and said it was nice that the tone was cordial

- asked when the decision regarding the \$50,000 for specialty area teachers was made, as it has not been part of any recent discussions

- requested that any communication to WVTA members regarding the funding be run past the executive first, so that they are well-informed and prepared to answer questions that will arise.

Chair Broady replied that the funding decision arose from the need for specialty teachers and the desire to support our own staff if they wish to pursue further training. She said that of course any communication would be sent to Rob and his team before distribution.

- asked whether, with many of our schools at or near capacity, the issue of portables has come up in discussion

The Chair replied that she is not sure about the local level, but it certainly has among trustees at the provincial level. There are many concerns about what is going to be needed and how it will be paid for. She said the overriding issue for trustees is that any additional portables must be funded.

L. ADJOURNMENT

8:24 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER