



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:00pm
West Vancouver School Board Office

Present: C. Broady, Chair; N. Brown, Vice Chair; S. Donahue, P. Dorsman, Trustees; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer

Absent: D. Stevenson, Trustee; K. Martin, Acting Associate Superintendent of Schools; L. Tomlinson, Director of Instruction; S. Nosek, Director of Instruction; D. Nelson, Director of Instruction; A. Campbell, Acting Director of Instruction; 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. She said we very much appreciate our relationship with the Nation and look forward to continuing to work together to move education forward in our district.

Due to today's weather conditions, senior staff members were excused from the meeting. Trustee Stevenson was still in transit at the time the meeting was called to order and hoped to be able to attend.

For the first time in his eight year tenure, the Superintendent closed schools. Elementary students were sent home as soon as they could be picked up, and secondary schools dismissed at lunch. Last block was cancelled, but schools remained open for students who needed to wait for transportation. The Superintendent reported that the decision was made based on concerns about traffic due to snowy conditions. By allowing staged release, traffic congestion issues were mitigated and students did not have to wait until 4 or 5pm for parental pick up.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board highlights for Hollyburn and Ecole Cedardale were postponed until the new year, due to the weather conditions today.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was agreed that Board Business item H.3 Digital Updates be postponed until January. The Funding Formula Review then becomes item H.3 instead.

#1326	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting December 19, 2017 be adopted as amended.
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Carried.

D. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Outgoing Chair Carolyn Broady passed the floor to Secretary Treasurer Julia Leiterman for the election of Board 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, Carolyn 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 Board Vice Chair and Nicole Brown was nominated.

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

E. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Rob Millard – President, WVTA

- said WVTA members have concerns regarding the new school policy disclosure they received via email last night
- last year, messaging indicated that if a school or schools were closed by the Superintendent, staff would not be expected to attend those sites, but could work from home
- Mr. Millard said that was a safe, clear instruction, and staff could work where they had resources
- this year's instructions indicated that while staff are not expected to attend their closed site, they are expected to attend the closest site still open if possible
- Mr. Millard said that if a school is closed, it means streets are dangerous; there are parking issues; and there are not necessarily resources or space for staff to perform their work at alternate sites
- going forward, WVTA wants full discussion prior to such decisions being made
- said union is very upset that there was no consultation

The Superintendent noted that West Vancouver Schools has never had a scenario where only some schools are closed, and said that he would raise the issue with Associate Superintendent Martin and would have further discussions with the union in January.

- Mr Millard continued and said that this is very upsetting and questioned why the issue was raised now, if it is a situation that has never happened

The Superintendent replied that as the WVTA had only raised the issue this morning, he was not prepared to discuss the matter in public this evening. The Chair concurred.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting November 21, 2017

#1327	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 21, 2017 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record December 19, 2017

#1328	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record December 19, 2017 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair asked for an update on the number of classes over 30, as last month there was still one class at WVSS with 31 students.

The Superintendent replied that there are no longer any classes over 30 in the district.

H. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Board Chair Report

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Re-elected Board Chair Carolyn Broady reported that the focus in West Vancouver Schools in 2017 was on students and continuing to support student success. The district continued to champion unique programming opportunities and to create new methods of reporting and assessment as the new curriculum from Kindergarten to grade 9 is implemented.

Highlights from the last year included: the introduction of the Audit Committee, chaired by Trustee Dorsman; Rockridge teacher Tom Harding winning the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching; the opening of the Ecole Pauline Johnson Nature Park, thanks to the hard work and perseverance of their parent committee; the introduction of MILO into our schools to help support students with special needs; an increased focus on physical literacy in primary grades; the great success of our robotics program; and the expansion of the re-formatted hockey academy program. These were on top of all the annual events that highlight our schools, staff, and students, such as the Lighthouse Festival; the elementary

district track meet; various graduation and transition ceremonies; and TEDxWestVancouverED.

The Chair noted that provincially, the board focus has been on implementation of the SCC ruling on class size and composition. The decision has resulted in smaller class sizes from Kindergarten - grade 3, and increased supports in non-enrolling areas like counselling and teacher-librarian allocations. In addition to Ministry-provided special funding, the board has further allocated operating grant money to ensure that there are extra teachers and education assistants in place to help with classrooms identified as complex or requiring extra support. The board is looking forward to working with the new government in Victoria who has declared they are committed to prioritizing public education, and Minister of Education Rob Fleming has been invited to visit West Vancouver Schools in 2018. The new graduation program curriculum for grades 10-12 is highly anticipated, and the board appreciates the Ministry taking time to ensure that post-secondary institutions in BC are ready to receive our students. As well, the West Vancouver Board of Education has worked with other Metro districts to bring forward a motion asking the federal government to maintain or increase funding for settlement workers in schools (SWIS).

Community connections continued to be built and strengthened during the past year and the board has had liaison meetings with Mayor and Council, the Police Board, and the West Vancouver Teachers' Association, and are looking forward to meeting with the WVTA again in January. A meeting with the North Vancouver Board of Education is planned for January for a session to cover bargaining, the history of the process in BC, and the direction that the employers' association, BCPSEA, wants to take in 2019. As well, the board was pleased to see the opening of The Foundry in lower Lonsdale, which has meant increased supports for youth on the North Shore.

As we look ahead to 2018, the focus will continue to be on our students, but also with an emphasis on the funding formula review. The board is excited about the new opportunities for our students to be outlined later in this evening's meeting, and the Chair extended thanks to MP Pamela Goldsmith-Jones for her support of the new environmental science program. Local elections will be held in October as the new four-year term for local positions concludes.

The Chair extended her personal thanks to the other members of the Board - Dave Stevenson, Pieter Dorsman, Nicole Brown, and Sheelah Donahue - for their continued leadership and dedication to the district. On behalf of the board, she thanked parents, staff, students, and partner groups for everything that each of them does to support the board and the school district, ensuring, as always, that West Vancouver Schools continues to be the premier place of learning.

2. Choice Consultative Committee

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

On behalf of absent Director of Instruction Nelson, the Superintendent reviewed materials and information provided by Ms Nelson for a new BAA course, Engineering 11, and four new Premier Academy programs: Animation, Environmental Science, Table Tennis and Volleyball. Format, instruction, and logistics were explained and the offerings will be part of upcoming course planning information evenings at our three secondary schools. Of particular note was the environmental science program developed in conjunction with scientists at the

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Department of Fisheries labs in the 4100 block of Marine Drive. It was noted that the Premier Academies continue to move away from simply sports programs and allow students to pursue a wide variety of areas of passion in the afternoons, while still attending their home schools for the majority of their time.

#1329

MOTION THAT the BAA course Engineering 11 and Premier Academy Programs for Animation, Environmental Science, Table Tennis, and Volleyball be approved for the 2018-2019 school year.

Carried.

3. Funding Formula Review

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

The Chair reported that the Ministry of Education is rebuilding the funding formula and that a survey has been distributed to school districts across the province as a first step, to be followed by a technical review. The Chair and the Secretary Treasurer discussed the survey last week, and it was decided that one response would be filed with the ministry on behalf of the board, rather than each trustee submitting one individually. Though there are concerns, it is hoped that this will be a positive process, one that will clean up and organize monies that are currently split into many different funds.

At the request of the Chair, the Secretary Treasurer outlined her thoughts and concerns about the process from her position. The Secretary Treasurer said the review of the funding formula should focus on the actual funding, not the allocation formula. The issue is the amount of funding, not where it is going. There is great concern that the existing funding level will remain the same and simply be redistributed. With regard to the survey question on special education, we were asked whether funding should be allocated on the existing per student basis, or allocated based on demographics. Our response was to continue to base it on a per student basis for two reasons: we have many out-of-district special needs students that would not be captured in demographic information; and special needs crosses all income levels and it would be unfair to reduce funding to a wealthier demographic based on the assumption that those parents will or are always able to self-fund assistance for their children. That is not uniformly the case, and additionally there are some parents who will not acknowledge that their children need assistance. It was also noted that it would be helpful to reduce special-purpose funds and instead receive those monies as targeted funds within the block funding, much like the way Aboriginal education funds are handled, for example. That change would allow boards greater flexibility and autonomy in deciding how best to spend funds to benefit classrooms, according the unique needs of their district.

The Chair noted that the big push for trustees provincially is a reassurance that funding won't get reduced. Metro districts are very concerned about losing monies to northern and rural districts and that the ministry will expect us to continue to supplement our funding with self-generated revenue, justifying that by saying that

we can afford to fund ourselves in a manner that northern or rural districts cannot. Already, 15% of West Vancouver's funding is locally generated through our international program and our programs of choice.

The Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer for her input and for the hard work she and her staff have done to prepare the surveys. The timeline was initially very short and while the original deadline of last week has been extended to early January, it is still a quick turnaround, given the time of year.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Human Resources Committee Meeting - December 5, 2017

- Memoranda of Agreement compliance
- Provincial Support Staff LOU update
- Minister's Expert Panel on Immediate Recruitment and Retention challenges
- Employment Insurance legislation – Maternity and Paternity Leave changes
- Economic Stability Dividend 2018
- Wellness
- Custodial recruitment
- TTOC recruitment
- Professional Development (WVMEA)
- Pension sessions

Committee Chair Brown briefly reviewed the minutes and said she is very impressed with the Human Resources team and the great work they are doing.

#1330	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on December 5, 2017 be received.
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Carried.

2. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting - December 12, 2017

- Ricoh update
- VOIP update
- Support staff payroll changes
- Estimated 2017/18 funding update
- SE gymnasium update
- Site temperature monitoring
- Energy Manager Associate

In Committee Chair Stevenson's absence, Trustee Dorsman briefly summarized the committee meeting minutes and noted that the RFP process for the Sentinel project will start within a couple of weeks.

#1331

MOTION THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held December 12, 2017 be received.

Carried.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

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

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Chair Broady made special mention of the Honour Choir performance at the Kay Meek Centre and said it was amazing. The students will be performing in Europe this spring. Trustee Brown agreed and said the choir was outstanding. She also noted that volunteer accompanist Hey Jung Oh had been nominated for a West Vancouver Community Award.

BCSTA Winter Academy	Various School Holiday Concerts and Events
Finance and Facilities Committee meeting	WV Chamber of Commerce Christmas Dinner
Human Resources Committee meeting	WV District Honour Choir Performance
Meeting of Board Chair & MP Goldsmith-Jones	WV Streamkeepers' Wrap-Up
Presidents' Committee meeting	WVDPAC Holiday Luncheon
School District Christmas Party & Charity Basket Draw	WVDPAC Meeting

L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- asked whether or not the new Sentinel bubble, if opened on September 1, would be available for rentals on evenings and weekends by groups like the West Vancouver Soccer Club (WVSC).

The Chair replied that while we do rent elementary gym space to outside groups, part of the reasoning behind the new facility is that Sentinel is already pressed for space. The Superintendent agreed and noted that typically, secondary gym space is not available for rental because of the high demand for use by the schools themselves.

- Mr Inman said that rental fees could help pay operating costs and asked that if two or three evenings a week are available, please let WVSC know in March when they are choosing their practice sites.

Rob Millard – President, WVTA

- said it was not his intention to start by being negative, but wanted to make clear the visceral reaction from his members and said it was important that it was noted
- said he hopes discussion about the issue will follow

- was very impressed by the presentations at the Choice Consultative Committee meeting that he attended
- congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair on their appointments and looks forward to the liaison meeting in January

M. ADJOURNMENT

9:30 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER