

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.
WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**

Present: C. Dekker, Chair; C. Broady, Vice-Chair; Trustees: R. Faris, J. Kellett, D. Stevenson; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; D. Eberwein, Assistant 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 Dekker called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation and that our learning together is progressing well.

She noted that We Day Vancouver is tomorrow, October 22, and the provincial professional development day is on Friday, October 24. One of the opportunities for teachers is the Computer Using Educators of British Columbia (CUE BC) conference being held this year at WVSS. Ridgeview teacher Cari Wilson is the conference chair.

Chair Dekker said she was pleased to announce that Rockridge Secondary teachers Dan Conner and Paula Waatainen have been named recipients of the Government of Canada History Awards for Teachers and praised their creative and innovative teaching.

She then offered congratulations to Rockridge for their authorization in June as an IB World School offering the Middle Years Program (MYP) and recognized the staff and administration for their hard work.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From Library to Learning Commons – Cypress Park Primary

Principal Judy Duncan, Vice Principal Kim Grimwood, teachers A. Anderson, D. Elves, K. Koke and parent R. Priatel

Vice Principal Kim Grimwood and her staff spoke about the physical and functional changes they have gone through with the transition from school library to learning commons.

The library was the centre of Cypress Park and there was a real desire to change it from a space where students went to gather information and check out books, to a participatory space, where students, staff and the community could effectively engage with each other.

The transformation was a truly collaborative project between the staff, facilities department, parents and district. Even students were asked for input and the result is a real sense of ownership among the student body. The results are better than hoped for, with resources more accessible, technology integrated into the space, different types of learning taking place, both formal and informal, and real connections being made.

Innovative Report Cards – West Bay Elementary

Principal Judy Duncan, Vice Principal Brooke Moore and teachers J. Bant and J. Hicks

Principal Judy Duncan and her team outlined the thought process behind their new report card pilot project and explained the content and purpose of each section.

With the introduction of the new curriculum and the core competencies, West Bay staff felt that the time was right for the launch of a new report card that better reflected personalized, student-centred learning, as well as much of what they and their students were doing as an IB World School. The new design includes performance indicators, an overview of key learning experiences, core competencies, academic achievement and student-articulated reflection.

Students, parents and staff have reported that they enjoy this shift in thinking, with reduced anxiety about letter grades, better self-esteem and more in-depth conversations about learning happening between parents and students.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1110	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting October 21, 2014 be adopted.	<u>Carried.</u>
-------	--	------------------------

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTa

- With election season underway, wanted to take the opportunity to thank those who have put their names forward to run for school board trustee
- Said that the WVTa appreciates the guts, time and commitment it takes to fulfill the role
- Thanked the current trustees for making this a better place to work

Chair Dekker thanked Mr. Millard for his kind words.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting September 16, 2014

#1111	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting September 16, 2014 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
-------	--	------------------------

Regular Minutes October 21, 2014

#1112	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record of the Special Meeting October 21, 2014 be approved.
-------	---

Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Trustee Broady asked for an update on the new Properties Family Hub based at Chartwell Elementary.

Assistant Superintendent Dave Eberwein replied that there was a delayed start to programming due to job action, but that the preschool is now running three afternoons a week and is at capacity, and that registration is picking up for other programs as well. He reported that there will be a more in-depth report later in the school year.

Chair Dekker said she was encouraged by his reply, as school readiness in the properties area was a concern, based on the EDI reports, and thanked District Principal Sandra-Lynn Shortall for her hard work with community partners to get the hub up and running.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Grade 7/8 Transitions

Lynne Tomlinson and Sean Nosek, Directors of Instruction

Director of Instruction Tomlinson reviewed the background and logic around improving the transition from elementary to secondary for 12-14 year olds.

This initiative has been supported by a teaching and learning grant from the Ministry of Education, and feedback from teachers regarding the new curriculum. It addresses the need for teachers working in different buildings to come together to most effectively plan and collaborate.

At the Coast Metro Curriculum meeting in March 2014, recommendations were made by assistant superintendents, directors of instruction and Ministry representatives to explore big ideas, assessment and core competencies.

In West Vancouver, Grade 7 and 8 science and social studies teachers are now working together in family of schools groupings, sharing resources and using the new draft curriculum to guide discussions. In November, all Grade 7 and 8 science and social studies teachers will come together for a full-day collaborative pro-d session with the Discovery team to discuss the Quest model/stations and the SAMR model of transformation and enhancement.

In February, they will meet again for another session of discussion, sharing and feedback, with at least one unit of inquiry having been taught. The plan for the 2015-2016 school year is to aim for at least one unit of inquiry per term in both science and social studies.

2. Enrollment Report

Dave Eberwein, Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Eberwein presented his student enrollment report, characterizing it as a good news story for West Vancouver School District. Despite some losses to independent schools as a result of job action, we have an overall increase in enrollment this school year.

The usual September 30 deadline was extended to October 17 for this year only, and our figures reflected a number of interesting points:

- Total enrollment, including international students, is 7350 FTE, up from 7237 in September 2013
- Funded student numbers increased by 65
- International student numbers increased by 67
- Academy and specialty program numbers continue to be strong, with an increased enrollment in the basketball academy of particular note
- French Immersion numbers are up at Ecole Cedardale, down slightly at Ecole Pauline Johnson, and the increased numbers at Ecole Sentinel show a trend toward stronger transition from elementary to secondary
- Aboriginal Education numbers have increased as anticipated, a tribute to the work done by Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson and her partners.
- Substantial increase in English Language Learner (ELL) numbers – 924 in 2014, up from 812 in 2013 and 793 in 2012

The reporting deadline for class size was not extended and at September 30, the district had three classes over 30 – all Pre-Calculus 12 at WVSS, and all at 31 students. As of October 17, only one of those classes remains over 30.

3. Learning Improvement Fund (LIF)

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

The Superintendent began his presentation by providing background on the Learning Improvement Fund, noting that it was introduced in 2012 under Bill 22. Provincial allocations were set at \$60 million for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, and \$75 million for 2014-2015.

Funding has been further increased in conjunction with changes introduced as a result of the new collective agreement. The LIF is now comprised of two distinct funds, each with different processes: 80% of funds now go to the Teacher Education Fund and 20% to support staff.

For 2014-2015, LIF allocations for West Vancouver School District are \$855,641 for the TEF and \$213,910 for support staff, totalling \$1,069,551.

Funds are to be spent on FTE enhancements only, with more in-depth consultations at both the school and district levels. Themes in WVSD for class and school-based support include ELL, learning support and counselling and Educational Assistants, and district-based support includes student assessments, behaviour support and self-regulation.

4. Financial Update – Strike Savings & Report to Ministry

Julia Leitterman, Secretary Treasurer

The Secretary Treasurer reported that each school district is required to submit a report to the Ministry regarding strike savings. In June, districts reported on reduced salary costs related to job action.

The Ministry reduced District operating grants by 80% of the savings reported, while Districts were allowed to retain 20% of those monies. For September, reported savings had to include not only reduced salary costs but also estimated savings in all other areas, including TTOC costs, transportation, facility and utility costs. Increased costs related to job action were also reported. The Ministry will reduce District operating grants by 100% of these net savings.

It is anticipated that approximately \$1,679,104 will be clawed back from the 2014/15 operating grant.

5. BCSTA Provincial Council Motions

Cindy Dekker, Board Chair

Chair Dekker reported that there are six motions put forward for this weekend's provincial council. Trustees had a general discussion around the motions, noting that they can be amended at any time up until the meeting.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee meeting reports this month.

I. FOR INFORMATION

Superintendent Kennedy reported that new anti-spam legislation led to minor adjustments to Administrative Procedure 183 – Parent E-mail Databases. The updated version is posted online on the district website.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of the correspondence from the past month was included in the Agenda package.

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Trustee Broady offered her thanks and congratulations to the organizers of the TEDx West Vancouver Ed event and Trustee Faris reported that today was the first meeting of the new WV district student council and that it looks like a strong group of students involved this year.

BCSTA Metro Meetings Breakfast meeting to meet WVPD Chief Len Goerke Presidents' Committee Meeting TEDx West Vancouver Ed WV DPAC Meeting	WV Joint Traffic and Safety Meeting WV Memorial Library Young Readers' Program awards ceremony WV Pumpkin Fest WV Student Council Meeting
---	--

L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Inman – Trustee candidate

- Asked whether it would be worth it to go back and contact the families of the estimated 126 students lost to private schools or other programs as a direct result of job action
- With such a large number, were they already disenchanted with public education?

Chair Dekker replied that the possibility of exit interviews has been discussed in the past, but that we simply don't have the staff to conduct them properly. She noted that we lose and gain students every year and while this was a larger number than usual, we did gain additional students that mitigated the loss. With five years of stability ahead of us, she feels we will probably see a further influx of students, who continue to be attracted to West Vancouver School District because of the quality of our programming.

- Mr. Inman fully supports BYOD, but as a result of his coaching work at Sentinel, he is aware of real problems with internet speed and wi-fi access.

Chair Dekker passed the floor to Superintendent Kennedy, who reported that the issue with internet speed and access originates with PLNet, the provincial public sector data pipeline, and is not a result of BYOD initiatives within the district. While we have efficient in-district connections, all Districts are funnelled through the same shared connections within PLNet. The district is due to be upgraded in the spring as the province transitions from PLNet to NGN (new generation network) but pressure needs to be put on the government to better fund infrastructure.

Elaine McHarg – WVSS parent

- Congratulated the district on the increase in enrollment
- Asked if there is any tracking of what share of the local enrollment market we capture?

Superintendent Kennedy replied that percentages are tracked, but not yet this year. Historically, the lowest percentage has been 73-74%, the last few years have been about 78-79%.

Ms. McHarg then asked that with almost 22% of the school populations now being ELL, how are we preparing schools for multicultural diversity, to ensure there is not an exodus from a particular school as a result of a perceived trend?

The Superintendent replied that this change is not unique to West Vancouver schools and is a reflection of the changing demographics of the community at large. More work is being done with staff around teaching strategies to deal with ELL diversity in classrooms, and the new SWIS workers agreement with the North Shore Multicultural Society and the hiring of a multicultural support worker will improve awareness of, and access to, community resources.

Chair Dekker noted that schools have embraced the multicultural differences within their populations and have built school communities accordingly.

Rob Millard – President, WVTA

- Thanked the board again for providing flu shots to employees
- Asked that the board consider including TTOCs in the program in the future, saying that if the program was all-inclusive, it would generate good will

Chair Dekker thanked him for his comments.

Chair Dekker concluded the meeting by, on behalf of the board, publically commending all West Vancouver School District staff for getting our schools up and running so quickly, and getting a lot of hard work done in a short time. She asked Mr. Millard to pass on her comments to WVTA as well, noting that the feedback she is getting indicates that the parent community is happy, and that teachers and staff are looking forward to concentrating on discussions about teaching and learning.

M. ADJOURNMENT

9:31

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER