

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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, 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

Regrets: 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 went on to thank all the candidates who put their names forward for trustee in the recent election and congratulated newly-elected trustees Nicole Brown, Pieter Dorsman, and Sheelah Donahue, as well as re-elected incumbents Carolyn Broady and Dave Stevenson.

Chair Dekker announced that Superintendent Chris Kennedy has had his contract renewed until December 31, 2019, saying that this provides certainty and stability for the district moving forward. Mr. Kennedy has been with the district since 2007 and has been Superintendent since January 2011. She then announced that Dave Eberwein has been now been named Deputy Superintendent. Mr. Eberwein has been Assistant Superintendent with the district since January 2011.

Congratulations on behalf of the board were extended to Bev Pausche, Communications Manager, winner of a Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) award for the 2014 Lighthouse Festival; Barb Sunday, AP Art teacher at Sentinel, winner of the Secondary Art Teacher of the Year award from the Canadian Society for Education Through Art (CSEA); Leonie Plunkett, teacher at Rockridge, runner-up in the Unity and Diversity Awards, and fellow nominees Sahplek, Sandra-Lynn Shortall and Cathie Ratz.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

“Visual Arts meets Inquiry meets the Outdoor Environment” – Ridgeview Elementary
Principal Val Brady and teacher Amy Meldrum

Principal Brady introduced teacher Amy Meldrum, who spoke about the Ridgeview Mosaic Mural. This whole-school project, including the Grade 7 class of 2014, was inspired by the

Kunamokst mural at the West Vancouver Community Centre during the 2010 Olympics and is made possible thanks to an innovation grant and Ridgeview PAC funding. The Ridgeview installation will be made up of 480 panels, each one created by a different student, to create an 8' x 16' mural on the side of Ridgeview School. Mrs. Meldrum spoke of the learning curve for herself and colleague Amy Rice, as well as the students, from planning and preparation to implementation. They have realized it is an inquiry project, relating big ideas, making connections and leaving a legacy. It is hoped that the mural will be complete in the late spring.

French Immersion Vision Update – Ecole Pauline Johnson

Directrice Chantal Trudeau

Directrice Trudeau extended apologies for his absence from Michel Yin, who was attending a Canadian Parents for French (CFP) meeting at Ecole Sentinel Secondary. She went on to say that the future of French Immersion in West Vancouver School District is exciting and that the FI growth plan is in the forefront of everyone's minds as they continue to strengthen the one-program experience for all French Immersion students in the district.

With the changing demographics of the FI student population, an emphasis on cultural events and experiences is important, as well as providing support to those students and families where French is not regularly spoken at home. A Sentinel/Pauline Johnson homework club has been established, where Grade 10-12 students help elementary students with homework, such as math in French. Relationships between students at the two schools are strengthened as a result and will help to ease the transition from Grade 7 to Grade 8. As well, Q+A sessions with Ecole Sentinel teachers are being held for PJ parents in an effort to ease any anxiety, and teacher collaboration and professional development across the three FI schools continues to expand. Michel Yin is helping to raise the profile of French Immersion in the district and across the Lower Mainland thanks to his participation in the French Lower Mainland Consortium. Mme Trudeau said French Immersion is a powerful movement in our schools and everyone is working together to keep the momentum going.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1117	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting November 18, 2014 be adopted.
	<u>Carried.</u>

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- Congratulated Dave Stevenson and Carolyn Broady on their re-election, saying they would provide continuity
- Congratulated new trustees Nicole Brown, Pieter Dorsman and Sheelah Donahue, thanking them for taking on a crucial role
- Said the WVTA is looking forward to working with the new board
- Offered three dates from the WVTA executive for liaison meetings: February 9, February 19 and February 26

Chair Dekker thanked Mr. Millard for his comment and the dates for possible meetings.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting October 21, 2014

#1118	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 21, 2014 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- Special Meeting November 18, 2014

#1119	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record of the Special Meeting November 18, 2014 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising was reported.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Endowment Fund Update

Cindy Dekker, Board Chair

Chair Dekker announced that the West Vancouver Board of Education endowment fund is now up and running. Approved by the board in April 2014, the purpose of the fund is to enhance learning opportunities for students in West Vancouver public schools. Hosted by the West Vancouver Community Foundation, disbursement of funds will be determined by the Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer and Board Chair.

An initial donation of \$10,000 from Cindy Dekker and Dan Russell was announced.

Geoff Jopson, Board Chair for the West Vancouver Community Foundation, was given permission to speak from the gallery and expressed his pleasure at what he called a wonderful new partnership and a legacy of the board, one unique in the province.

2. Superintendent's Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

Superintendent Kennedy gave an update on a number of topics:

Ignite Your Passions

- Initially challenging to launch with job action
- Two programs currently running, with positive feedback – Fencing and Entrepreneurship
- Director of Instruction Diane Nelson is leading the process to identify areas for 2015-2016, with last year's applications being considered initially
- Feels there is huge potential for growth

MyEducationBC

- This new student information system will replace BCeSIS
- Director of Instruction Sean Nosek is leading the implementation team
- In February, Sentinel Secondary and its elementary feeder schools will be the first group in West Van to make the transition
- All schools will be using it by September 2015 and BCeSIS will no longer be available

Learning Improvement Fund (LIF)

- Further to the report last month, the final allocations were agreed upon on October 23, 2014 and all positions posted within a week
- All postings have now been filled, the last one for a Speech Language Pathologist filled today
- Challenging to find specialists in the required LIF areas, but we have managed to fill earlier than other districts

Internet Connectivity Issues

- Connectivity and speed have been huge concerns this term, though there have been some improvements during the last month
- Senior staff and IT have been in regular contact with PLNet and the Ministry
- West Vancouver School District has been prioritized for the “Next Gen” upgrade happening province-wide and our conversion should be complete by the end of December 2014
- Our infrastructure is one of the best in the province, but we must be cautious about assuming that the “Next Gen” is a guaranteed long-term solution, as the number of devices connecting to the network is always growing

International Baccalaureate Updates

- Ecole Cedardale will apply for IB authorization in the fall of 2015
- West Bay Elementary and Cypress Park Primary will have their five-year evaluations in the fall of 2015
- Rockridge Secondary, authorized as an IB World School in June 2014, will have their five-year evaluation in the spring of 2019

Board Office Staffing Update

- Human Resources department solidified
- Business side still seeing transition
- Deb Podurgiel leaving in January 2015 – posting out now for a replacement
- 17 of 24 staff are new to their roles in the last four years

Budget 2015/16

- Very early planning stages for 2015/16 budget
- International student numbers have allowed us a modest surplus, which will be used as a buffer to mitigate any downloaded costs or pressures
- Anticipate a status quo budget

- Partner group engagement process begins in January 2015, with final recommendations to the board in May 2015

Innovation Teams

- One of the finest examples of change in the system, headed by Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson, with support from Director of Instruction Sean Nosek
- 52 teams applied for grants this year, representing more than half the teachers in the district
- Speaks to the professionalism and curiosity of our staff, who are collaborating to improve teaching and learning
- Grants were awarded to 36 teams with diverse project areas, such as innovative reporting, garden-based learning, maker spaces, and integrating build projects in physics class
- Teachers will attend launch sessions this month; have two formal meetings with an assigned facilitator, two self-organized meetings, and a final showcase celebration in June

Emerging Learning Areas

- Supporting new curriculum: district presentations to board meetings, staff meetings, Pro-D days, DPAC and provincial teams
- Elementary reporting: K pilot, West Bay pilot and Ridgeview pilot; district design committee for January 2015 and a coherent vision developed by next fall
- Grade 7/8 Transitions: structure for collaboration developed; family of schools meetings held with science and social studies teachers; same teachers involved in Discover Education training and collaboration unit; sharing session planned for the spring
- Aboriginal Education: Aboriginal Success Teacher hired; numbers of self-identifying students up; student survey created and implemented; professional development for Grade 5 and Grade 10 teachers; implementation of the strategies outlined in the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement signed last June

3. Board Chair Report

Cindy Dekker, Board Chair

Chair Dekker presented a year-end and term-end report, noting that the last year was a challenging one for everyone involved in public education, but that the process highlighted how deeply all parties care about public education. She stated that the board was pleased that a long-term negotiated settlement was reached with the BCTF and thanked partner groups for their patience and understanding throughout the difficult times. The focus can now turn back to education, relationship building and providing certainty and stability for our students, staff and community.

She stated that she is immensely proud of the board's accomplishments during the last three years and highlighted many of the achievements in administration and programming, including: the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement; Innovation Grants; The Lighthouse Festival of the Fine and Performing Arts; the creation of the Endowment Fund; IB authorization; ever-expanding programs of choice including IYP, YELL, ACE-IT, Outdoor45, sports academies and District Honour Choir; and the embracing of inquiry and self-regulation at all levels across the district. She continued to highlight the diversity of programming and the hard work and innovative practices of staff and teachers working towards personalized learning.

It was noted that the outgoing board had an instrumental role in galvanizing the conversation around youth mental health and the lack of services available, and worked with partners across the North Shore to push for improvements. She went on to list the many community groups with which the board has forged strong connections, thanked senior staff, the WVTa and Rob Millard, the WVAA, and parents.

Chair Dekker concluded her report by saying that the outgoing board is leaving West Vancouver School District in good shape. She emphasized the work the outgoing board has done to advocate for stable, predictable and adequate funding with the Treasury Board and the Ministry. She encouraged the incoming board to continue advocacy to prevent further erosion of funding and further downloading of costs to boards. She said the budget is in good shape, but needs careful ongoing management, oversight and continued advocacy to make sure we are well funded for future generations.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – November 18, 2014

- Ministry Update
- Administrative Procedure 512 5.2 Update
- Facilities Summer Project Review

#1120	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting of November 18, 2014 be received.	<u>Carried.</u>
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2. Human Resources Committee Meeting – November 18, 2014

- Enrollment
- Flu clinic
- Recruitment
- LIF funding and staffing
- Living with Balance
- Training / Information sessions

#1121	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting of November 18, 2014 be received.	<u>Carried.</u>
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I. FOR INFORMATION

Administrative Procedure 512 5.2 – Travel Expenses has been adjusted to reflect a minor change in policy regarding business class auto insurance for employees. The updated version is posted on the district website at www.sd45.bc.ca/docs/AP512TravelExpenses52updatedOct2014.pdf

J. CORRESPONDENCE

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

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Trustee Faris reported that she attended today's meeting of the West Vancouver District Student Council, along with Deputy Superintendent Dave Eberwein, and feels that the group is continuing to show a real sense of cohesion under the direction of teacher sponsors Rebecca Rowley and Chris Sandor.

BCPSEA Symposium BCSTA Provincial Council ELL Consortium Kay Meek Centre 10 th Anniversary Gala Luncheon meeting with Mayor Mike Smith Presidents' Committee meeting Tour of Cypress Park Primary Learning Commons	Unity in Diversity Awards Ceremony Various school Remembrance Day ceremonies West Vancouver District Student Council meeting Wreath Laying at Bowen Island Remembrance Day service Wreath Laying at the West Vancouver Cenotaph West Vancouver District PAC Meeting
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L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Judy Duncan, President – WVAA

- On behalf of WVAA, thanked Chair Dekker, Trustee Faris and Trustee Kellett for being wonderful advocates of public education
- Thanked all three outgoing trustees for their work with the schools as liaisons, attending various events, being collaborative and supportive
- Wished them luck and presented each one with a token of appreciation

Chair Dekker thanked Ms. Duncan for her kind words on behalf of all three.

Abbie Milavsky, Chair – WV DPAC

- Thanked the outgoing trustees for their outstanding service to WVSD and for their work to maintain the district's uniqueness as a priority
- Said that their continuing legacy will be the great relationship they fostered between the board and parents
- Thanked Chair Dekker for her passion and her personal touch
- Thanked Trustee Kellett for her thoughtful manner and for looking at the big picture
- Thanked Trustee Faris for her hard work and thoughtfulness, and for asking the tough questions that parents wanted asked
- Presented each one with a token of appreciation

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- Said that every year, he enjoyed working with the outgoing trustees
- Appreciated their service to students and the community

Trustee Kellett – spoke to Trustee Faris

- Said that Trustee Faris' term as trustee demonstrated a strong commitment to public education

- Said even when they didn't agree, she enjoyed Trustee Faris' take on things and her thoughtful, thorough approach
- Commended her use of Twitter and social media and said that the board benefitted from her eloquent and succinct writing skills
- Wished Trustee Faris all the best and said she was looking forward to seeing her work bettering public education in BC

Trustee Stevenson – spoke to Trustee Kellett

- Said that in 12 years on the board and in the BCSTA, Trustee Kellett's service was never about making a name for herself
- Always about students, building bridges and community
- Said he felt that she served as trustee for all the right reasons and that her talent and dedication to the role are an inspiration across BC

Vice Chair Broady – spoke to Chair Dekker

- Said that she has seen Chair Dekker grow into her role and embrace all aspects of being Chair
- Stated that she was instrumental in building relationships with all stakeholder groups and the community at large, both locally and provincially
- Said her work ethic was second to none and that her passion will be missed across the province
- Thanked Chair Dekker for her service, mentorship and friendship

Superintendent Kennedy and senior staff presented each outgoing trustee with a school bell and flowers, a tradition in the district.

Trustee Kellett said that it was a privilege to serve for 12 years and a real honour to have been able to work with four different boards. She said that eight quality people had put their names forward to run as trustee and that she feels senior team will have a solid board to work with for the next four years. She encouraged the new board to set the bar high and to continue to support a top performing district and its innovative staff, one that continues to attract the best and brightest. She concluded by wishing the new board best of luck and thanking senior staff, parents and district staff, saying that public education and the future of society are in good hands.

Trustee Faris congratulated the trustee candidates and the new board and told them that they have a great senior team to work with. She said that district staff are good, kind people who should be treasured and treated with kindness, because they will need them and their support. She thanked Superintendent Kennedy for his leadership and her fellow trustees for their kind words and support, and said she was thankful for the platform to be able to question and develop ideas. She reminded the new board that they needed to guard against falling into complacency, saying that when things are working best, that's when you need to look the closest. She said things need to stand up to inquiry and encouraged the new board to fight for what public education ought to be, not just accept the status quo. Trustee Faris asked that they be diligent, vocal and advocate for public education in what she called perilous times, due to increased pressures on the system.

Chair Dekker thanked the board for their support and said that she was humbled by the chance to serve her community for the last nine years. She said she had loved every minute and that it was an amazing privilege, calling it the best job of her life. She thanked Trustee Faris for pushing her thinking, Trustee Stevenson for his history and commitment, Trustee Kellett for her calm leadership and mentorship, and Vice Chair Broady for her friendship and her commitment to continuing WVSD's tradition of excellence. She also expressed her undying admiration for senior

staff and the work they do. She concluded by saying she hopes she has left the board in a better position and thanked everyone for their support.

M. ADJOURNMENT

8:15

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER