

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.
WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**

Present: C. Broady, Chair; D. Stevenson, Vice Chair; Trustees: N. Brown, S. Donahue, P. Dorsman; C. Kennedy, 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; B. Pausche, Manager of Communications

Regrets: D. Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

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 that we very much appreciate the support and guidance of our friends in the Nation.

The Chair also acknowledged the recent death of teacher Gordon Trousdell and on behalf of the board extended sympathies to his friends, family and colleagues. A memorial service will be held at WVSS on Saturday, February 21st at 1pm.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

“Advanced Placement and the Capstone Program” – Ecole Sentinel Secondary

Vice Principal Kathy Grant and students

Vice Principal Kathy Grant reviewed the history of the Advanced Placement (AP) program at Sentinel, noting that there has been a steady increase in the number of students taking at least one AP course, and that the percentage of Sentinel students consistently receiving exam results of Grade 3 or more is higher than other schools in BC, Canada and the United States. Sentinel’s AP results are among the top in the world and, as a result, the school has now been approved to offer the AP Capstone Diploma.

Teachers Aaron Fuller and Christian Obeck outlined the Capstone Diploma program, which consists of a two-course sequence of AP Seminar and AP Research and is much like a graduate studies model. With scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and Research exams, as well as four other AP courses and exams completed, a student is awarded the Capstone Diploma, signifying outstanding achievement and demonstration of post-secondary level academic and research skills.

Several students presented summaries of their work in the Capstone program this school year, covering a number of areas of research, and then answered questions from trustees.

“Rethinking our Spaces” – Irwin Park Elementary

Vice Principal Jody Billingsley and teachers Robyn Evans, Laura Lophthien and Jessica Richardson

Vice Principal Jody Billingsley reported that an initiative to rethink learning spaces has taken hold at Irwin Park and staff are actively considering how space is used and how it can be repurposed to address diverse learning needs in the classroom. Taking into account self-regulation strategies being encouraged with students, tables/desks, seating and wall displays are all being re-examined to see how they can complement those strategies. Changes are helping not only with self-regulation, but also foster collaboration and flexibility among both students and staff.

Teacher-Librarian Robyn Evans, Grade Two teacher Jessica Richardson and Grade One teacher Laura Lophthien all spoke of their efforts to create more open, adaptable learning spaces, by removing large bookshelves, awkward furniture and “visual noise” created by extras on walls and shelves. By stripping away “stuff”, bringing in easily-moved tables and seating, and using more natural light and soft artificial lights, they have made the application of self-regulation strategies easier for students, while allowing for increased collaboration and, at the same time, making it easier for different kinds of learning to happen in the same classroom at the same time. They spoke of some the challenges they have encountered, such as the storage of students’ belongings and supplies, but also of the enthusiasm with which students have embraced the change.

Principal Cathie Ratz concluded by saying that this has been an exciting process that really creates a learning community and acknowledged the support of district leadership, Irwin Park’s PAC, who have committed \$22,000 to the initiative, as well as Sonya Margolles and Student Support Services for their work and advice. She noted that the changes can be made for relatively little cost and by decluttering, collaborating and re-examining spaces and engaging students and listening to their feedback, the new learning spaces are truly ones with a sense of shared ownership for the entire school community.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was agreed that an Invitation to Minister Fassbender be added as an additional item (5.) under Section G, Board Business.

#1132	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting February 17, 2015 be adopted as amended.
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Carried.

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- On behalf of the entire executive, thanked the board for a good liaison meeting
- Said how important it is that trustees hear from teachers directly

- Said that between the liaison meeting and the announcement of the creation of a District Wellness Committee, it has been a good two weeks

Chair Broady thanked Mr. Millard for his comments and for the collaborative and positive tone of the liaison meeting.

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- Commended the passion of teachers at Sentinel, particularly those of the AP teachers
- Said that the dedication of staff to go out of their way to help students is reflected in the high exam results of Sentinel students

Chair Broady thanked Mr. Inman for his comments and said that we are lucky to have dedicated and passionate teachers throughout our district.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting January 20, 2015

#1133	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 20, 2015 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising at this time.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. English Language Learner (ELL) Update

Donna Neilson, ELL Curriculum Resource Teacher

District ELL Curriculum Resource Teacher, Donna Neilson, reviewed the recent growth of ELL in West Vancouver School District, noting that the ministry changed the terminology from English as a Second Language several years ago, recognizing that many students are now learning English as a third or fourth language in many cases. Since 2009, there has been a 110% growth in ELL numbers in WVSD, with a rise of 15.5% in the last year alone. The largest growth has been in elementary schools: four schools now have more than 100 ELL students; five have 25% of the population identified as ELL; and two of those schools have 50% ELL students. These numbers reflect permanent residents and new Canadian citizens, not international students. When international numbers are added, 22% of our students are ELL, with the biggest change at secondary.

To ensure that all students receive the same level of support, assessment protocols, student placement and support programs are now consistent across the district. Program delivery is informed by current pedagogy and WVSD is part of three groups that share initiatives, develop protocols and advocate for ELL students: ELL Metro Group, ELL Assessment Consortium at UBC and ELL Trustees Consortium.

The model for ELL support for both secondary and elementary students was reviewed, with a particular note made regarding the change at elementary. Numbers are such that the “pull-out” model is no longer feasible and there is now a supportive, inclusive program delivery, where collaborative teaching between the classroom teacher and ELL specialist is the norm. This is particularly important in Kindergarten classrooms, as 26% of incoming K students across the district are ELL.

To adapt to the increasing numbers and the new teaching model, professional development is ongoing for ELL teachers, classroom teachers and parents. Collaborative meetings sharing best practice, school-based workshop series for teachers and parent presentations all take place throughout the school year. One of the biggest reported obstacles is aligning academic expectations of parents with an understanding of the length of time it really takes to truly master a new language.

Moving forward it is hoped that, while the district has been very supportive with staffing levels, two ELL specialists will be assigned to each school. An increase in available print resources is also needed, but the challenge is sourcing those that give the best value for money. Provincially, a set curriculum for ELL would help with alignment across districts, and prioritized ELL instruction as part of teacher training at university would be of value.

2. Choice Consultative Committee

Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction

- a. BAA Personal and Social Awareness 11
- b. BAA Theory and Principles of Competitive Fencing 10/11/12

Director of Instruction Nelson briefly reviewed the proposed courses, noting that they are a formal acknowledgement of work students are already doing.

#1134	<u>MOTION</u> THAT Board Authority Authorized courses “Personal and Social Awareness 11” and “Theory and Principles of Competitive Fencing 10/11/12” be approved for the 2015/16 school year.
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Carried.

3. West Vancouver Track and Field Project

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the history of the existing 20-year-old track and reported that, after two years of meetings, unanimous agreement among multiple stakeholder groups has now been reached regarding the scope of the replacement/upgrade project. The project will include a replacement rubberized track, artificial turf infield, public washrooms, lighting and rebuilt bleachers. The estimated cost for the project is \$5 million dollars and its progression is contingent upon fundraising, to be spearheaded by the associated sports groups. In the interest of making the process as transparent as possible, an additional public consultation meeting will

be held this year, following one held last spring, and traffic and lighting studies will also be conducted.

#1135	<u>MOTION</u> THAT Board approve the WVSS track and field project, based on the scope that has been agreed upon by all participating stakeholders, subject to sufficient funds being raised by the stakeholders to support the project in its entirety.	<u>Carried.</u>
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4. BCSTA Provincial Council

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Chair Broady reported that there is only one motion put forward at this time. A general discussion regarding disappointment around the lack of increase for education funding followed, noting that it is likely to be a major topic of conversation provincially.

5. Invitation to Minister of Education

Trustee Dorsman stated that he feels little result has been realized from the flurry of letters regarding advocacy for educational funding. He said the board feels it would more effective to have a face-to-face meeting, and that the board should be proactive and invite Minister Fassbender to visit West Vancouver School District as part of his spring tour.

#1136	<u>MOTION</u> THAT Board write a letter to Minister of Education Fassbender, to invite him to visit West Vancouver School District and meet with the Board of Education.	<u>Carried.</u>
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H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – February 10, 2015

- Amended Annual Budget 2014/15

Vice Chair Stevenson passed the floor to the Secretary Treasurer, who briefly reviewed changes in revenue and costs for the Amended Annual Budget 2014/15. The Secretary Treasurer reported that the good news is that this is a status quo budget, that allowed the district to run all specialty programs as planned and have \$1.4 million available to deal with the structural deficit for 2015/16. Caution must still be exercised moving forward and there is concern around today's budget announcement. More will be known about the situation moving forward after the funding announcement from the government in March.

Vice Chair Stevenson then read the by-laws related to the Amended Annual Budget.

#1137	<p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board approved A Bylaw of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 45 (WEST VANCOUVER) (called the “Board”) to adopt the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2014/2015 pursuant to section 113 of the <i>School Act</i>, R.S.B.C., 1996, C. 412 as amended from time to time (called the “Act”).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Board has complied with the provisions of the Act respecting the Amended Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 45 (West Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2014/2015. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2014/2015 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$73,196,830 for the 2014/2015 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the Act. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2014/2015. <p>READ A FIRST TIME THE 17th DAY OF February, 2015: READ A SECOND TIME THE 17th DAY OF February, 2015; READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 17th DAY OF February, 2015.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried.</p>
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#1138	<p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting of February 10, 2015 be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried.</p>
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I. CORRESPONDENCE

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

J. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Chair Broady mentioned how wonderful the new West Bay Learning Commons looked at its recent opening and said that it showed where we are going with library spaces.

BCPSEA AGM BCPSEA Trustee Orientation BCSTA Metro meeting Chartwell Elementary Liaison meeting Finance and Facilities Committee meeting Liaison meeting with WVAA Liaison meeting with WVTa Luncheon meeting with Mayor Michael Smith North Shore Traffic Workshop	Presidents’ Committee meeting Retirement event for Trustee Jane Kellett Trustee Orientation Series West Bay Learning Commons opening WV Chamber of Commerce / Mayor’s Dinner WV District Student Council meeting West Vancouver Streamkeepers WV District PAC meeting
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K. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- Said that joint advocacy regarding the budget and funding is great for stakeholders

Chair Broady replied that a face-to-face meeting will be more effective than letter writing at this time, but that an alternative would be agreed upon if the Minister's visit doesn't happen.

L. ADJOURNMENT

8:30

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER