

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 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; 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; B. Pausche, Manager of Communications

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Broady called the meeting to order and directed people to visit the website for more information on the Lighthouse Festival, Summer Learning 2015 and the Ready, Set, Learn event.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

“What are the Four Levels of Government?” and “Pythagoras’ Contribution to the World” – Eagle Harbour Montessori

Principal Craig Cantlie, Vice Principal Val Stevenson and Eagle Harbour teachers

Principal Cantlie and Vice Principal Stevenson introduced the Eagle Harbour staff, who spoke briefly about the strength of the three-year cycle in Montessori and the flexibility it allows when working through ideas. Students Jaden, Sam and Evelyn then demonstrated their learning around Pythagoras and his theorem using visual aids.

Next, the first group of Montessori Grade 5 “grads”, Alexa, Sophia and Jacob reported on their study of the four levels of government in Canada – federal, provincial, municipal and Aboriginal. They described their collaborative process using Google docs, the internet and book/library research. Their inquiry and self-directed learning raised more questions about the lack of information about aboriginal laws and government, and the treatment of aboriginal peoples. The students reported that while they are learning about aboriginal culture from Sahplek, they want to learn more about aboriginal history and that led to discussions about residential schools and novel study on the book “Fatty Legs” by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton.

“The Fine Art of Digital Art” and “Grade 3 Robots Go to Mars” – Caulfeild Elementary

Principal Craig Cantlie, Vice Principal Tricia Yurkowski, teacher Melissa Borelli and students

Principal Cantlie noted that while the ‘i’ in iDEC normally stands for inquiry, it also means innovation. He introduced Caulfeild Digital Art teacher Melissa Borelli, who has been working with students for the last couple of years. Ms. Borelli spoke about using the SAMR model,

assimilating technology into the artistic process and promoting collaboration and cross-curricular integration. A recording made by three Grade 7 students was shown, during which they explained the skills they have learned in digital art and how they have applied them in other classes and plan to use them in the future. The skills they identified included problem-solving, inventiveness, and understanding technology and its application in design.

Vice Principal Yurkowski then spoke about her innovation grant-funded project building robots using Lego WeDo with her Grade 3 class. Students Chanelle and Theo spoke to trustees about their learning around gears, sensors, motors and programming, saying it was hard at first, but they found it really interesting. The students said they liked working together to build devices that could be used on Mars. Even though each person had their own job on the final project, they still had to be flexible, collaborative, and learn from their mistakes.

Ms. Yurkowski concluded by saying she was impressed by the students' work ethic, their creative thinking, their interest in learning more about programming, their determination and their enthusiasm.

C. DELEGATION

West Vancouver District Student Council – “Making Our Community More Youth Friendly”

Representatives of the WV District Student Council gave a presentation regarding their desire to help make the community of West Vancouver more youth friendly. They said there is concern among their peers about the lack of opportunities for youth and the lack of gathering places for healthy social interaction beyond the shopping mall.

The students described how they created a survey for secondary students, in order to quantify concern and give them statistics to back up their reasoning. The survey revealed that while youth participate in a wide range of activities and have a desire for more gathering places in West Van, there is also low awareness regarding existing youth centres and lounges. Ideas about creating new events and increased publicity about current facilities was discussed, as well as new projects, such as a movie theatre, indoor trampoline park, public squash and indoor tennis courts, and indoor open gym time. The students also spoke of their ideas around approaching developers and businesses to offer incentives to improve infrastructure.

The delegation will present their ideas to West Vancouver Mayor and Council in the near future and hope to serve as a vehicle to bond youth together and to ensure better future development of community facilities.

The delegation then asked trustees for feedback about how to approach council. Suggestions from trustees included to clearly identify “wants”; identify why some existing programs are not popular and think about how to increase usage; contact the Kay Meek Centre, which is eager to increase youth engagement; ask to have youth representatives join existing municipal committees.

D. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1144	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting April 14, 2015 be adopted.
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Carried.

E. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- Praised the Board for their letter to the Minister regarding the administrative savings mandate, which he will share with WVTA members
- Sees this mandate as just the first step to further cuts and teachers are concerned about its effects

Chair Broady thanked Mr. Millard for his comments and reported that at the April 28 Finance & Facilities meeting a status quo budget will be reviewed, that contains no reductions in staffing. She asked that he share that information with his members, in order to avoid unnecessary anxiety.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting February 17, 2015

#1145	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 17, 2015 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record April 14, 2015

#1146	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record, April 14, 2015 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Following up on the February meeting, Chair Broady reported that there has been no response from the Minister to the letter from the Board that invited him to visit West Vancouver School District.

H. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

Superintendent Kennedy provided the Board with updates on eight different items:

Bill 11

The Superintendent spoke in a broad context about the uncertainty surrounding this bill, from increased power to the Minister regarding directives, decision-making and shared services, to changes in the professional development framework and achievement reporting. If passed, the bill will affect both the School Act and the Teachers Act.

Ecole Cedardale

Calling it a good news item, the Superintendent announced that the District has committed to continuing the renovation at Ecole Cedardale. The project has been on hold, but is now able to proceed through the AFG and other funding, spread over two years. The resulting increase in capacity, to 278 students, will help to address the waitlist issue with Early French Immersion and will help attract and retain students.

French Immersion

Strong enrollment in French Immersion continues in WVSD, with 15% of total student enrollment now in early, late and secondary French Immersion. The work done post-FI Review continues to be strong and the “one program experience” has been greatly enhanced by the efforts of French Immersion Coordinator Michel Yin. Connections between the three FI schools are being strengthened by the introduction of programs like the Ecole Sentinel student tutoring at Ecole Pauline Johnson and Ecole Cedardale, and the expectation is that secondary FI piece will continue to grow.

MyEducationBC

This new student information system replaces BCeSIS and offers improved performance and speed. Already launched at the Sentinel family of schools, all elementary schools will be using it by August 2015 and the remaining two secondary schools by October 2015. Initially, only the core business components will be used (eg. Student demographics, attendance, grade book, reporting, scheduling etc.), but the potential exists for expanded functionality.

Technology Updates

Google Apps for Education is being increasingly used in WVSD schools and teachers are very interested in exploring its possibilities. BYOD initiatives are formally in place at Sentinel and WVSS and will be launched at Rockridge next year. Implementation of the Next Generation Network (NGN) is now complete in the district and reports indicate an improvement over PLNet, though there are still hotspots. We are lucky to have come on board so early, as some districts in the province may have to wait a couple of years to be moved over. As well, many other technology related initiatives are being explored by teachers around the district, including e-portfolios, an hour of code, and robotics.

Summer Learning

The course offerings have been expanded for 2015. Elementary has added primary literacy and Grade 3-4 transition, while secondary has added peer tutoring and ‘double up’ courses, for those students in Grades 8 and 9 who need to upgrade in more than one course. The inquiry-based approach in the double up courses will allow students to demonstrate understanding in a different way and allow continuity with their peer group.

The traditional upgrade/preview, full credit and ELL courses are anticipated to be highly subscribed again this year, as well as the elementary math and literacy programs.

Online registration begins May 1.

International Education

Fall enrollment is above projection at 570 students FTE, but by design is lower than the current school year figure of 585 students FTE. There is a strong focus on the new in-house homestay program, with increased recruitment, family training and home visits. Office staff transitions are now complete and all key positions have been filled.

Student Reporting

Student reporting encompasses many pieces, including assessment methods, new curriculum and available technology.

A new district-wide Kindergarten report template will be in place for 2015-2106, based on pilots at several schools this year. District Principal Sandra-Lynn Shortall will work with teachers and oversee the extension of that pilot to Grade 1 and 2 reports next year. As well, as district-wide Grade 4 report pilot is being developed by Grade 4 teachers and Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson.

While there are many initiatives and opportunities around communicating what learning looks like, including digital capturing of student learning, it is important to have a district-directed approach to reporting at the various levels, to ensure continuity.

Examples of new templates, e-portfolios etc. will be available to trustees at their planning day in June.

2. Board Advocacy

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Trustees had a general discussion regarding board advocacy, approaches and next steps. It was suggested that face to face meetings with MLAs would be more productive than continued letter-writing. As well, the BCSTA AGM may be a place to share ideas and find out what others have found effective.

Chair Broady said that as there has been no response from Minister Fassbender's office thus far, they are not hopeful of his acceptance of WVSD's invitation to visit and meet. The Board will continue to advocate for full funding of public education.

3. BCSTA AGM Motions

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

Trustees had a general discussion about motions, noting that they are fluid and can change. Motions regarding Bill 11 are anticipated. It was confirmed that motions can be presented on the spot and new trustees were encouraged to express their opinions at the microphone.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – April 7, 2015

- 2015/16 Preliminary Budget Revenues
- 2015/16 Annual Facilities Grant Funding
- Administrative Savings Mandate

Trustee Donahue passed the floor to the Secretary Treasurer, who briefly reviewed the minutes from the meeting of April 7. It was reported that despite challenges, jobs are unlikely to be affected by the new administrative savings mandate and that a status quo budget is anticipated for 2015/16.

#1147	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting of April 7, 2015 be received.
	<u>Carried.</u>

J. CORRESPONDENCE

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

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Chair Broady thanked her fellow trustees for taking the time and effort to attend the various events. Trustee Brown commended Hollyburn Elementary, the Squamish Nation and the WVPD for the pink shirt rally that she said conveyed a totally positive message and was a delight to attend.

BCSTA Metro meeting Coho Society meeting ELL Metro Consortium meeting MP John Weston/WVSD/Orchard Recovery Centre event – Women and Alcohol Abuse Liaison meeting with Kay Meek Centre Board Liaison meeting with West Van District PAC Liaison meeting with West Van Memorial Library Lions Bay Community Centre Re-opening Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Rally with Hollyburn Elementary and WVPD Presidents' Committee meeting Provincial Council Rockridge Theatre production "We Are Here" School Visit – Ecole Pauline Johnson	School Visit – Caulfeild Elementary School Visit – Eagle Harbour Montessori School Visit – Ecole Sentinel Secondary Vancouver Coastal Health Youth Mental Health meeting West Bay musical "Go Fish" West Bay PAC meeting Westcot PAC meeting West Van Chamber of Commerce Breakfast West Van Chamber of Commerce meeting with MLAs Sultan and Sturdy and MP Weston West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce meeting with the Honourable Maxine Bernier West Vancouver District PAC meeting
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L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- Encouraged all trustees to go to the microphone at the BCSTA AGM
- Said teachers are not worried about Bill 11 at this time, but the BCTF is concerned for welfare of trustees and the erosion of local autonomy
- Asked if trustees are concerned

Chair Broady replied that they are very much concerned, particularly about the fact that advisors can be appointed, essentially stripping powers away from democratically-elected local voices and making boards irrelevant.

Mr. Millard concluded by saying there seems to be an astounding level of support for public education in the media at the moment and wished trustees luck at the AGM.

Chair Broady ended the meeting by acknowledging the beautiful new tables in the board room, made by Glenn Horn from Facilities. She said they not only looked great, but allowed for improved discussion flow in meetings as well.

M. ADJOURNMENT

9:07

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER