



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 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 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. She said she hoped all staff would be able to attend the Opening Day activities on September 3 and that she was looking forward to the presentation by Yong Zhao.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

"People, Places and Print" – Bowen Island Community School

Principal Scott Slater, teacher Allison de Boer and students Kole B. and Beatrice M.

Principal Scott Slater said that while there is lots of talk in our district about the three pillars (inquiry, digital literacy and self-regulation), he wanted to speak about them in terms that reflect BICS students' connections to each other, their immediate community and the wider world: People, Places and Print.

The culture at BICS is one that encourages visits from people with wisdom to offer students, which enhances learning and connections. Visits from First Nation Elders to speak to students about their particular area of wisdom, and regular work with Squamish Cultural Advisor Sahplek reinforce the idea that learning involves generational roles and responsibilities. There is also a growing understanding of the historic and contemporary links to elders and ancestry, and what conditions have fostered or challenged those connections. Similar themes run through the Grandfriends program, where students visit with senior citizens on the island, are able to demonstrate gratitude and wisdom, and learn about history from those with first-hand experience. One recent example was the 50th anniversary of the Canadian flag, where they were able to hear stories and memories about reaction to the new flag when it was first revealed.

Connections to place - the land and ocean - are fostered by participation in Salmon Enhancement programs and in studying units of inquiry on topics such as organization and energy. Outside45 students integrated those topics into their cycling trip to Gabriola. The trip allowed them learn about safety and organization when travelling by bicycle, compare the terrain, climate and local governments of Gabriola and Bowen, and learn about First Nations history of the two islands. Other curricular outcomes were met by studying renewable energy sources on Gabriola, such as solar power, and whether such initiatives would work on Bowen. It was reported by both staff and students that experiential learning is easier and more meaningful.

In the classroom, teacher Alison DeBoer wanted to find a way to help struggling readers while fostering connections within the school. She identified two features of students who needed support: more time with print to allow practice and repetition; and more intervention and 1:1 time to read with assistance, noting that 1:1 time does not necessarily have to be with a teacher. She met with teachers to identify both students who needed support and those who would be positive mentors for those students. Students meet twice a week for 15-20 minutes and feedback from both sets of students has been positive, with confidence growing and connections built.

Principal Slater concluded by saying that these are not new ideas, but important ones. Students then answered questions from trustees.

"Cedardale Takes Action" – Ecole Cedardale

Principal Michelle LaBounty, teachers Jessica Hall, Stina Morrisette, Chelsea Read and Kristina Hayes and students

Principal Michelle LaBounty spoke about the scope of projects undertaken this year by students in Kindergarten through to Grade 6, saying each one demonstrates a different way of taking action. Students learned the importance of learning through practical, real-world experiences and learning through doing, as well as making responsible choices while educating themselves and others. Projects included incorporating math/measurement and dance after a visit to the Vancouver Biennale 'Love Your Beans' art installation in False Creek, where students used their bodies as measuring tools to map the beans and then created an original dance to show what they saw with their bodies; a Salmonids in the Classrooms project, working with both the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Squamish Cultural Advisor Sahplek to learn about respecting and protecting our marine ecosystems by raising young salmon from eggs until they were ready for release with a blessing into Brother's Creek; and a young entrepreneur project 'On the Go Coffee', a drive-through coffee and baked goods sale run by students with the help of a \$100 micro loan, all proceeds from which went to Free the Children and Big Brothers.

Students and staff then answered questions from trustees about their experiences.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1161	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting June 16, 2015 be adopted.
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<u>Carried.</u>

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions or comments.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting May 19, 2015

#1162	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 19, 2015 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record June 16, 2015

#1163	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record June 16, 2015 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Trustee Dorsman asked for a follow up to the meeting the board had with local MLAs on Friday, May 22.

Chair Broady replied that MLA Ralph Sultan said he would speak in support of trustees' concerns in the legislature. Superintendent Kennedy reported that both he and Secretary Treasurer Julia Leiterman had received voicemails from Mr. Sultan, conveying that during a caucus retreat, he had spoken to Minister Fassbender about the administrative salary freeze. Mr. Sultan advocated for the freeze to be lifted and the minister agreed that it needed to be addressed. It was noted that a Ministry of Education recommendation is now sitting with the Ministry of Finance. The Superintendent said he felt this was good news and he feels we have two very supportive MLAs. He noted that this was the fifth time in the last month that Mr. Sultan has been in touch and is always attentive and very thorough when it comes to details and following up on discussions.

Chair Broady reported that she had enjoyed the Innovation Teams' celebration held at Sentinel on June 10 and was impressed by the presentations and the intense discussions. After the work done by a team over the course of a school year, she wondered what happens next?

Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson replied that the exposure to each other's work and ideas at the celebration, and the informal discussions that take place, invariably lead to uptake of those ideas across the district. She gave examples of innovation projects that have taken hold on a wider basis, including the school garden project that started at Rockridge, and the report card initiatives at West Bay and Ridgeview that are now extended across elementary schools at certain grade levels. Director Tomlinson noted that the power of the innovation team model is that it's teacher-based, not a top-down directive. Teachers know what kids need and their passions ripple out across the district. She reported that the application process for 2015/2016 would be launched in September with new criteria and teachers would have one month to build a team and submit their application. Of the 65 proposals/applications received in 2014/2015, 37 were approved.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. District Calendars 2016/17 and 2017/18

Dave Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent

The Deputy Superintendent reviewed the composition and mandate of the Calendar Committee and presented consensus recommendations for school calendars for 2016/2017 and 2017/18.

One date was highlighted – the move of the November 2016 Pro-D Day to December, to better allow teachers to participate in the 2016 Learning Forward Annual Conference, being held in Vancouver. This change was recommended by Jim Iker and advocated for by the WVAA, who saw a valuable educational opportunity for staff.

#1164	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board approve the consensus calendar recommendations for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 school years as presented.
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Carried.

2. School and Academy Fees

Dave Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent

The Deputy Superintendent reviewed the process for determining school, academy and program fees, including the Ignite Your Passions program. Fees are determined in accordance with the school act and WVSD Administrative Procedure 505. Academy fees are approved by PACs/SPCs. It was noted that school fees include a waiver for financial hardship.

In an attempt to continue to build consistency, fees have been further aligned across the district and once again, 90% of the fees remain unchanged from the previous school year. There have been some minimal increases of \$2 - \$5 for some course fees, but some reductions as well.

#1165	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board approve the school fees for 2015/2016 as proposed.
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Carried.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – June 9, 2015

- Carbon update
- WVSS track project update
- ERAC annual report and savings

Vice Chair Stevenson reviewed the minutes and the Secretary Treasurer reported that the district's carbon footprint has been reduced by 20%.

General discussion took place around the federal grant application for the WVSS track project and the Secretary Treasurer responded to suggestions, saying she will ask the municipality for further advice about application possibilities, based on their experience with grants.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

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

J. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

ACCESS Lunch and Grad BCSTA Metro Meeting Coho Society of the North Shore Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Gleneagles Learning Commons Opening Grad Art Show at the Ferry Building Innovation Grant Celebration Kay Meek Gala Liaison Meeting with MLAs Sultan and Sturdy Liaison Meeting with WV Mayor and Council Mulgrave Visitation North Shore Congress Presidents' Committee Meeting Rockridge Grad Banquet Roots of Empathy Wrap-Up West Vancouver Community Day Parade West Vancouver Community Open House re Track / Field	West Vancouver Mayor's Lawn Bowling Event West Vancouver Memorial Library Garden Courtyard Opening WVSS Grad Banquet WV Community Foundation "100 Women Who Care" WV District Honour Choir Spring Concert WV School District Athletic Coaches Appreciation Event WV School District Elementary Track Meet WV School District Retirement Reception WV School District Student Council Meeting WV DPAC Luncheon WV DPAC Meeting WV DPAC Parent Education Evening – Money Smart Kids WVSS Neighbourhood Meeting regarding the Track / Field
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Trustee Brown made special mention of the Second Annual Mayor's Lawn Bowling Event, noting that there were 47 teams entered and the WVSD team, *The Incredibowls*, won first place. She said that it was a fun, team-building event and yet another example of the amazing work being done by the West Vancouver Community Foundation.

Trustee Donahue said that of all the great events trustees attended this month, she feels that the ACCESS graduation and lunch was the most important from an education perspective. She stated that the event was a reality check, with the stories of some of the graduating students both heartbreaking and uplifting at the same time, and she congratulated them on their accomplishment.

K. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Millard, President – WVTA

- On behalf of the WVTA, wanted to thank Chair Broady and all trustees for being approachable and engaged in issues

- Said he was appreciative of the positive liaison meeting and was looking forward to a normal year end and September start-up

Judy Duncan, President – WVAA

- Said that when she reflects back to last June, she feels we have come a long way
- Thanked the board and district staff for continuing to support the innovation grants and said she can't impress enough their importance and impact on learning and teaching
- Sees many positive things happening as a result of the cross-connections fostered by the innovation grants
- Thanked the board for their advocacy and said it was a relief to know that they are on their team

Chair Broady thanked Mr. Millard and Ms. Duncan for their kind words and said it was exciting to be moving education forward again. She said that the district is lucky to have such hard-working, dedicated teachers and staff and that there is a great year ahead.

The Chair then wished everyone a wonderful summer and said she looks forward to seeing everyone at the staff opening day activities on September 3rd.

L. ADJOURNMENT

8:08

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER