



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:00pm**  
**West Vancouver School Board Office**

Present: C. Broady, Chair; N. Brown, Vice Chair; L. Block, S. Donahue, D. Stevenson, Trustees; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; K. Martin, Associate Superintendent; S. Nosek, Associate Superintendent; D. Nelson, Director of Instruction

Absent: S-L. Shortall, Director of Instruction; L. Hill, Director of Instruction; I. Kennedy, Director of Instruction; A. Campbell, Director of Instruction

**A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair called the meeting to order and passed the floor to Rockridge student Ophir B, who acknowledged that we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She said it is important to note that we are visitors here and we are thankful to work, play, and live alongside the First Peoples of this land.

The Chair thanked Ophir for the acknowledgement and then highlighted the secondary information evenings in early January, and the opening on January 15<sup>th</sup> of out-of-catchment and out-of-district admissions for the 2020-2021 school year.

**B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

**"Spartan Singers" – Sentinel Secondary**

*Principal Mike Finch, Choir Director Katy Cadman, and students*

Principal Finch introduced Choir Director Katy Cadman and the approximately 48 students of the Spartan Singers and choral club The Chamber of Secrets. The Board, senior staff, and attendees were then treated to a performance of seasonal songs.

## **“English First Peoples 12” – Rockridge Secondary**

*Principal Judy Duncan, teachers Lisa Hetman and Tracy Smith, and students Ophir and Nicholas*

Principal Duncan introduced English First Peoples (EFP) 12 teachers Lisa Hetman and Tracy Smith, and students Ophir and Nicholas. She said she is proud of the new course being taught at Rockridge this year and although it is a ministry course, it is the teachers’ passion that brings it alive. Consistent with BC’s redesigned curriculum, grade 12 students have a choice of language arts courses and this year, 41% are taking EFP 12, which equates to three full blocks.

Ms Smith explained that the First Peoples’ Principles of Learning (FPPL) are embedded in the curriculum, but are enhanced by talking circles and experiential, student-led learning. The course is important because it provides a unique and distinctive lens for learning language arts and enables students to appreciate various authentic voices and texts from Indigenous communities. This works towards continued efforts around reconciliation, as it challenges historical and current stereotypes that exist about First Peoples.

She said too, that they have designed their teaching and learning to be recursive, allowing students multiple opportunities to revisit their learning and deepen their understanding. Various instructional strategies are used, ranging from identifying big ideas to using Virtual Reality to create a curated tour of the past and present. Reading novels such as *Monkey Beach* by Eden Robinson and *Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese provide insight into key aspects of Canada’s past, present, and future, and inquiry based on thinking such as “I am... because” prompts students to dig deeply into their own identities, which can be challenging.

Ms Hetman noted that both she and Ms Smith have found teaching this course profoundly enriching, both personally and professionally. She noted that when they are communicating with other members of the department, they are trying to “de-colonize” the former English 12 curriculum and change perspectives of both colleagues and students. Ms Smith said this is a real shift in approach to teaching and learning, one that honours the FPPL and Indigenous ways of knowing and learning, not just colonizing English 12 with Indigenous books.

Nick told trustees that he chose to take EFP 12 because he wanted variety and a sense of relevance in his language arts education. Even though it is only the end of first term, he said he has gained an understanding of place, where we live and learn, and feels connections to local Indigenous traditions and stories, which in turn has increased his sense of empathy. Ophir said that she finds the course much more relevant than older European history and literature, and loves the connection to recent local history that EFP 12 offers. She loves learning about different perspectives and the opportunity that gives to question her own ideas and delve deeper into her understanding. Students are engaged and feel a need to express themselves, and having a real sense of purpose makes discussions and writing essays much more enjoyable. By expanding their own world views and gaining an awareness of different perspectives and current struggles, students believe they are actively participating in reconciliation, and said awareness brings hope for improvement.

Ms Smith concluded by reporting how impressed she has been with students’ receptiveness and how respectful they are of Indigenous culture and learning. She gave credit to the work being done in elementary school around Indigenous education, saying there is a positive ripple effect, as students arrive at Rockridge familiar with the FPPL and expect them to be embedded in their learning.

## C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1461	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting December 17, 2019 be adopted.	<u>Carried.</u>
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## D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions or comments from the gallery.

## E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting November 19, 2019

#1462	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 19, 2019 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record December 17, 2019

#1463	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record December 17, 2019 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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## F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising.

## G. BOARD BUSINESS

### 1. Year-End Report

*Carolyn Broady, Board Chair*

Board Chair Carolyn Broady gave her year-end report for the first calendar year of the Board's term:

It's hard to believe that 2019 is quickly coming to a close. We've had a very busy year, starting with an in-depth Board orientation during January and February. We met with each department across the school district to learn about the work they do and the vision they have to help students be successful. This orientation also helped to inform the Board's strategic plan for this term.

In early April, working alongside the District Leadership team, we spent a day with facilitator Malcolm Weinstein to formulate a vision and set our goals and strategic direction for the coming four years. Our vision "to aspire to provide the finest educational experience in the

country for the benefit of our children, our employees, our community, and the world” drives the values we believe in: excellence, inclusiveness, accountability, authenticity, innovation, community engagement, and happiness. Our students remain at the centre of our work and we will continue, as always, to focus on educational excellence through visionary leadership, ensuring successful transitions for our students, our staff, and our community. When reflecting on changes in the Strategic Plan, one sees an increased emphasis on the environment, on sustainability, an increased focus on Indigenous education, and our on-going efforts around innovation.

During 2019, we undertook a district-wide arts review, looking to modernize our practice and to ensure that we have a robust visual and performing arts program at each of our school sites. This work will continue into 2020 and we look forward to seeing the new opportunities for students and refreshed ways to publically engage in the arts in our schools. I am particularly impressed by the student leadership we have seen within this portfolio. We have continued to focus on physical literacy over the past year and have been impressed with the work being done in all of our schools. It has been wonderful to see the improvements in student health and physical well-being, and to know that the efforts being made in our schools to integrate movement into our everyday curriculum are paying off. West Vancouver continues to be a leader in this work, in both BC and across the country, and we were pleased to profile this outstanding work to Education Minister Rob Fleming and Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon when they visited in June specifically to learn more about our work in this area. We continue to see efforts to give students greater choice and ownership of their own learning. The implementation of Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) at each of our high schools was a response to what we were hearing from our students. While it is a work in progress, we are already hearing anecdotal reports about the positive change this timetable adjustment has made for our students. I am proud of the excellent collaborative relationships we maintain in our school district. While it was nice to be one of the first school districts to conclude local bargaining with both teachers and support staff, the real power I see around relationships is in the day to day way we work together. These strong relationships with staff then extend to those with parents and our other community partners.

Going into 2020, while maintaining our focus on student achievement, the Board will also look to our strategic plan to guide our work as we focus on inclusive learning environments in our schools and in finding ways to weave climate strategies into our work; creating opportunities for staff and students to assist us as we tackle the challenges we are facing. While we all must take on a leadership role in battling climate change, we will look to our staff and, more importantly, our students to help guide our work. 2020 will also see a continued emphasis on embedding Indigenous ways of being into our curriculum. We look forward to completing a new protocol agreement with the Squamish Nation which will guide our work, and enhance our connections with our partners in the Nation. This year, we also hope to cross the finish line with fundraising for the West Vancouver Place for Sport. This has been a tremendous community effort. Each of our school PACs has donated, as have many staff and parents across the community. When I report to you at this time next year, with luck and fingers crossed, we will be preparing to build the new facility at West Vancouver Secondary and it will hopefully be completed in 2021.

I would like to thank our parents, our staff, and our educators, from district leadership to school administration and teachers, from facilities staff to our support staff, for all that they do to support the Board and more importantly, support the students in our district. We know that it does take a village to raise a child, and here in West Van we are privileged to

have so many individuals who put our students first. Thank you all. I hope you all have a restful break and have the opportunity to spend time with family and friends.  
Happy Holidays.

## **2. Strategic Plan Update**

*Carolyn Broady, Board Chair*

The Chair said that as the Board begins to introduce and operationalize the new Strategic Plan, she hopes that each trustee will take time to find something within the plan about which to dig deeper. She asked that they choose something about which they would like to learn more, as they find ways to engage with students, staff, and community. In January, each trustee will return with an idea about what they would like to emphasize as their own project over the course of this school year. She said this is the first time the Board has taken this approach and she hopes it will be successful, and noted that it aligns with the Ministry's plans around FESL and Board accountability.

## **3. Choice Committee – Academy Structure**

*Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction*

Director of Instruction Nelson reported that for the 2020-2021 school year, there will be a new vision and direction for academies and programs of choice. The current academies were reviewed and it was noted that during the last 17 years, many satellite programs of choice have been created and are running at specific school sites, including things such as YELL, FAST, and Honour Choir.

This fall, all programs will be structured under one umbrella: WVS Premier Academies and Premier Programs. This will create a common understanding and better alignment for promotion, marketing, and staffing. All programs will be open to students registered full time in any one of the district's secondary schools. Moving forward, sports, dance, and robotics (all competition-based) academies will be classified as WVS Premier Academies, and non-sports academies such as animation and engineering and specialized courses will be re-classified as WVS Premier Programs. Information evenings will be held in early February.

Director Nelson then reviewed materials and information for a new BAA Course, Mentorship 10, two new Ignite Your Passion programs, Code with Confidence and Digital Art & Media, a new district program of choice WVS District Fitness Instructor & Training Program, and a new Premier Badminton Academy. These were recommended to the Board by the Choice Consultative Committee after they were presented at the November committee meeting. Rationale, format, instruction, and logistics were explained and the offerings will be part of upcoming course planning information evenings.

<b>#1464</b>	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT BAA course Mentorship 10, Ignite Your Passion programs Code with Confidence, and Digital Arts and Media, WV Premier Program Fitness Instructor &amp; Training, and WVS Premier Badminton Academy be approved for the 2020-2021 school year.</b>
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**Carried.**

The Chair extended thanks to Director Nelson, the Choice Committee, and the teachers involved in the new and continuing academies and programs. She said the Board is fully supportive of the new structure and she hopes that we can engage all students, noting that UBC and other universities are increasingly looking for well-rounded students. Director Nelson said she believes the new structure will result in more open and intentional messaging and awareness, and purposeful communication around access. All students, regardless of ability level or financial circumstances, are accommodated.

## **H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Human Resources Committee Meeting – December 3, 2019**

Committee Chair Brown briefly reviewed the minutes and highlighted the work being done by the HR department around recruitment, including increased numbers of teacher candidates completing practicums in the district, to attendance at job fairs locally and across the country. She concluded by welcoming Shayle Duffield who joined the district in late November in the role of Accounting Manager, and by congratulating Jennifer Towers and Susan Leggatt on their moves into new roles as vice principal at Rockridge and IT operations assistant, respectively.

<b>#1465</b>	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held December 3, 2019 be received.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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### **2. Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting – December 10, 2019**

Acting Committee Chair Block reviewed the minutes and noted that the application for funding for 18 childcare spaces for WVSD and DWV staff has been submitted. If the funding is awarded by Childcare BC, a new purpose-built facility will be located near South Campus of WVSS. She then briefly summarized the estimated amended funding for 2019/2020, saying that though revenue is up, so will costs, but that we continue to maintain a status quo budget. The Amended Budget for 2019/20 will be presented early in the New Year.

The Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer and her staff for their work on the funding application, and said that having childcare spaces dedicated for staff would be great news and would help with recruitment and retention in the school district.

<b>#1466</b>	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held December 10, 2019 be received.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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## **I. CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of the correspondence from the past month is posted online at <http://westvancouver.schools.ca/board-correspondence>

## J. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

The Chair said that it had been another busy month, but one full of wonderful entertainment, and extended thanks from the Board to students and staff for the hard work put into the many holiday concerts and events taking place across the district.

BCSTA Metro Branch Meeting	WV Art Museum Reception
BCSTA Metro Motion Building Meeting	WV Chamber of Commerce Business after Business
BCSTA Trustee Academy	WV Chamber of Commerce Christmas Dinner
Coho Society of the North Shore	WV District Honour Choir Concert
Dundarave Festival of Lights	WV DPAC Holiday Luncheon
Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting	WV DPAC Meeting
Human Resources Committee Meeting	WV Memorial Library "Shared Journeys"
Meeting with MP Patrick Weiler	WV Legion Poppy Contest
North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership Mtg	WV Place for Sport Reception/Fundraiser
Presidents' Committee Meeting	WV Robotics' Tournament
Various School Holiday Concerts/Events	WV School District Christmas Party
WV Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee	WV Streamkeepers Year End Wrap-Up
West Bay Craft Fair	

## K. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

*Renee Willock – President, WVTA*

- said the academy program is a touchy subject for teachers and that she often fields questions from her members about them, including the history behind them and logic for having them
- noted that she can answer most of the questions relating to history etc., and said that she knows that they started as a way to combat declining enrolment by putting "bums in seats", by attracting students from outside the district, but that today it sounds like they are more about student choice
- said she does get difficult questions around the privatization of public education, about "the tail wagging the dog", and about a few students driving changes to district-wide timetables and scheduling
- said she could use some help with answers to such questions, because they are a hot spot within the district, and any information that she can take back to teachers would be helpful

The Chair thanked Mrs Willock for her comments and asked Associate Superintendent Martin to find time to follow up with her directly. Trustee Stevenson said that the goal of the academy program was never about putting "bums in seats", rather it's about supporting students to find a way to create an educational outcome that works for them as individuals.

- through the Chair, asked Director Nelson if the badminton academy was going to be run in the morning and would be open to students from all three secondary schools

Director Nelson said yes to both, per her presentation earlier in the meeting.

- Mr Inman continued by saying he recalled that when the soccer academy first started, there was push-back from other schools about academy students playing on school teams and wondered if this was anticipated again and whether or not there are any other badminton academies

Director Nelson said she did not anticipate any pushback nor was she aware of any other badminton academies, though she added that some independent schools hold training sessions on weekends. The Chair added that pushback from other schools has disappeared during recent years. The Vice Chair noted that our academies are not based on an elite-level model and include players of varying skill levels. Trustee Block said her daughter joined the soccer academy many years ago and that the experience helped her daughter to thrive.

The Chair concluded the meeting by wishing everyone happy holidays and all the best for 2020.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

**8:10 pm**

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BOARD CHAIR

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SECRETARY TREASURER