



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:00pm**  
**West Vancouver School Board Office**

Present: C. Broady, 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

Regrets: D. Stevenson, Vice Chair

**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. We very much appreciate the support and guidance that we receive from our friends in the Nation and together we are moving education forward. She then offered regrets on behalf of Vice Chair Stevenson, who was unexpectedly unable to attend this evening.

The Chair announced that Minister of Education Bernier would be visiting West Vancouver Schools on the morning of December 3, 2015. He will meet with the Board and the Superintendent, who will share the West Vancouver story, and then will visit a secondary and an elementary school.

**B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

**"Student Spaceflight Experiment Project" – Westcot Elementary**

*Principal Cathie Ratz, Vice Principal Matt Trask, teacher Meghan Stewart and students Brianna, Jaclyn, Kris, and Chris*

Vice Principal Matt Trask reported that for Mission 9 of the Students Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP), one experiment designed by West Vancouver students will be chosen to be performed on the International Space Station in microgravity. Grades 5-7 students in nine elementary schools across the district are currently designing proposed experiments around the big question "What physical, chemical or biological system would my team like to explore when gravity is turned off for a period of time?" They are learning about microgravity and experimental design in a collaborative setting, working with high school students, experts and each other to research and create proposals.

Students Brianna, Chris, Jaclyn and Kris reported that their biggest challenge was deciding what experiment to propose, considering the size and weight limitations on something going into space. As well, they said they realized the importance of strong Language Arts skills when writing persuasively, as well as the ability to collaborate effectively.

On November 26, students will present their proposals at a science fair-type event at the West Vancouver Community Centre. At that time, three entries will be named as finalists and then sent to the Smithsonian to be reviewed by their team of engineers. One district finalist will be named just before the Christmas break, with the experiment travelling to the ISS in Spring 2016. The winning team will be invited to watch the launch from Cape Canaveral and then, once the experiment is returned to earth, present their findings at a conference at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Students answered questions from trustees and Chair Broady thanked Mr. Trask for arranging this incredible opportunity for West Vancouver Schools.

### **"Robotics Team 1010" – West Vancouver Secondary**

*Principal Steve Rauh, teacher Todd Ablett and students Ariel, Jess, and Setareh*

Principal Steve Rauh introduced Todd Ablett, teacher-sponsor of the WVSS Robotics club, and students Ariel, Jess and Setareh who demonstrated two robots that they have designed and built this autumn. Initially intended to run Tuesday – Thursday, the club now runs five days a week and students are usually there until 6pm each night. Numbers are building and though there are four or five main members, there are now 12 – 15 students that attend regularly.

Mr. Ablett said that the students' enthusiasm and dedication has resulted in unexpected levels of achievement. Initially hoping to be ready to enter their first competition in December, they instead competed for the first time on November 7, finishing in the top 10 in the province and winning an engineering award. He noted that the tournament guidelines and specifications are extensive, with about 50 pages of rules, and that he was very proud of his team for doing so well. Also, because he was one of the announcers for the event, Mr. Ablett's students had to compete without his coaching and direction, which added to his pride.

The team will compete in another competition in December and then will be hosting a tournament on February 18, with at least 50 teams competing, including some from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. In the meantime, they will be working on their third and fourth robots, hoping that they qualify for provincials, with worlds the ultimate goal.

Mr. Ablett hopes to continue to grow membership in the club with students from other West Vancouver schools, and ideally have club members act as mentors to students at elementary schools. He spoke of the benefits of working collaboratively in cross-age groups, in an environment that requires deep-thinking and consideration of technical requirements, but also encourages fun and creativity.

Students then fielded questions from trustees. Trustee Brown said she finds it exciting to think of the possibilities the robotics club presents and called Mr. Ablett an educational star. Mr. Ablett thanked her for her kind words, but said that he is simply sharing his passion and hoping to make a difference in the lives of his students, as he said some of his teachers did for him. Ariel, Jess and Set stated that Mr. Ablett is already that teacher for them, after just a few months.

### C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1180	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting November 17, 2015 be adopted. <b>Carried.</b>
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### D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions or comments from the gallery.

### E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting October 20, 2015

#1181	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 20, 2015 be approved. <b>Carried.</b>
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- General Record November 17, 2015

#1182	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record of November 17, 2015 be approved. <b>Carried.</b>
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### F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Trustee Brown asked about an update on BCSTA Provincial Council Motion 9.2 regarding reversing public funding of private schools.

Chair Broady reported that the motion had prompted much discussion and numerous amendments, but that ultimately it was tabled. It will likely be revisited at the BCSTA AGM in April 2016.

Chair Broady asked for an update on the number of classes over 30 in the district.

Deputy Superintendent Eberwein replied that there is still just one class with more than 30 students – AP Chemistry 12 at Rockridge, with 32 students. He said that he checks at the beginning of every month and will advise if there is any change.

Chair Broady then asked for an update on the MyEdBC conversion for our remaining two secondary schools and what will happen to BCeSIS once conversion is complete.

Director of Instruction Nosek replied that conversion had taken place last week. Though both schools are now “on”, teachers at Rockridge and WVSS are not yet using MyEd, as other staff are completing back-end work right now. He confirmed that MyEd will be used for Term 1 report cards.

BCeSIS will be maintained for a few months, to ensure clean data, but the system will be decommissioned by the end of the school year. Director Nosek reported that there have been a few glitches with the latest data transfer, but there are tickets in with the Ministry and Fujitsu for those to be fixed. Chair Broady noted that the letter written by Fujitsu acknowledging shortcomings was a pleasant surprise and she is pleased that they are working to improve things.

The Chair reported that letters had been written to new MP Pamela Goldsmith-Jones and to former MP John Weston. MP Goldsmith-Jones replied quickly, saying she hoped to meet with the Board in late November/early December. The Chair replied with a follow-up letter regarding the pending announcement regarding the federal community grant for the WVSS Track Project, stressing the time-sensitive nature of the matter and asking for our MP’s support.

## **G. BOARD BUSINESS**

### **1. Curriculum Implementation / Calendar Update**

*Chris Kennedy, Superintendent*

Superintendent Chris Kennedy reported on the recently announced addition of two non-instructional days to the 2015-2016 school calendar to support the ongoing implementation of the new curriculum. The Superintendent and Rob Millard, President of the West Vancouver Teachers Association, met several times to determine how best to add the required 10 hours of non-instructional time, and also considered input from staff reps and administrators. It was decided that two full five-hour days would be most effective, a strategy that appeared to be the consensus province-wide. In West Vancouver, the days will be added to existing long weekends and will be held on a Day One and a Day Two for secondary schools, so that all teachers and timetables are in sync.

Deputy Superintendent Dave Eberwein presented the two chosen dates – Monday, January 18 and Thursday, April 21 – to the district calendar committee as a matter of courtesy and there was a consensus decision that the timing was right. Five hours of further non-instructional time will also have to be added to the calendar for the next two school years and the calendar committee will continue to be used as a sounding board. Our amended calendar for this year was provided to schools, parents, posted online and filed with the Ministry in early November.

The Superintendent reported that West Van Schools are well ahead in terms of pedagogical approach and have already done a lot of work around the new curriculum. He highlighted the work done by Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson and the Curriculum Implementation Committee and noted that almost all of the innovation grants awarded this year are tied to the new curriculum in some way.

It was stressed, however, that though we're in excellent shape, implementing the new curriculum is a huge undertaking. While content is one piece, there are larger shifts around

the five big ideas and the core competencies. The plan is to not only help teachers lead colleagues in conversation around implementation, but to give parent leaders the extra knowledge to help understand and educate parents, and re-educate new parents entering the system every year. As well, other structure pieces will be identified to help engage parents and staff.

The Superintendent reported that overall, there has been a positive response thus far.

## **2. Wellness Committee Update**

*Sean Nosek, Director of Instruction*

Director of Instruction Nosek reviewed the creation of the Wellness Committee, noting that it has members from all employee stakeholder groups. The committee met three times last school year and has met twice so far this year. They conducted a survey called Wellness Fits in October, and received almost 300 responses. The committee will meet again soon to review the results and use them to guide a decision around choosing a wellness program that best meets the needs of our district. Possible choices include programs from Wellness Fits, Life Speak and Pacific Blue Cross. All have a cost consideration.

Director Nosek briefly shared some of the more interesting results, including stress levels among teachers and administrators, and a consistent theme of wanting to have more daily physical activity.

Director of Human Resources Kim Martin stated that she thought the committee was made up of engaged, enthusiastic representatives and the survey results would allow them to target those areas and services that are of the most interest to our employees. She reported that there is a shared services pilot in the province for wellness program service providers, but that West Vancouver Schools is not part of it at this time.

Chair Broady thanked Director Nosek and said that while stress levels are not necessarily surprising, they are concerning, and she is looking forward to an update later in the school year.

## **3. Technology Update**

*Sean Nosek, Director of Instruction*

Director Nosek then gave an update on three major educational technology topics in the district: MyEducationBC; Google Apps for Education (GAFE); and FreshGrade.

He reported that as of this week, all West Vancouver schools are now using MyEdBC, with Rockridge and West Vancouver Secondary the last to make the conversion. He briefly reviewed the phase-in approach to training and implementation, beginning with the Sentinel family of schools in February, the remaining elementary schools in August and the two remaining secondary schools this week. He noted that implementation is a major undertaking, in which many staff need to be trained, and with each user group having

different needs, uses and access. He said that despite significant implementation challenges, there are real benefits to the new program, including expanded functionality and greater ease of report generation. As well, parent and student portals are on the horizon. BCeSIS will no longer exist after the end of the school year.

Next, he reported that the thought around the introduction of GAFE to the district was to give teachers and students the tools and then let implementation happen organically. The intent was to build capacity and to leverage the in-house expertise of those teachers who have been passionate about the program. Though some training sessions have been offered, there has been no hard-sell, and yet user numbers throughout the district are growing. As of November 8, 2015, there were about 3000 Google Driver users in West Vancouver Schools. Director Nosek stated he believes that GAFE is getting traction simply because it works.

FreshGrade is another tool made available to staff. This e-portfolio program makes photos and videos accessible to parents, demonstrating learning in action. Teachers were given guidelines and permissions, and numbers provided by FreshGrade indicate that there are now 95 staff accounts, at least one at every school, representing 1388 students. Director Nosek said that while the numbers don't necessarily indicate the extent of usage, they do tell another compelling story of a tool gaining traction.

#### **4. Provincial Council Meeting / BCSTA AGM Motions**

*Carolyn Broady, Board Chair*

Chair Broady reported that both West Vancouver Board of Education motions regarding excluded compensation were passed unanimously, without debate, and said it was good to see such support. The deadline for AGM motions is at the end of January, so the Chair would like trustees to sit as a Board and decide how to proceed.

The Chair noted that the BCSTA Winter Academy is next week; Trustee Dorsman will be attending the BCPSEA AGM on behalf of the Board in January; and Provincial Council meets again in February.

## **H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting**

- WVSS Track Project update
- 2015/16 Routine Capital Plan Grant awarded
- Capital Plan 2015/16
- Facilities Summer Project Review

In Vice Chair Stevenson's absence, Trustee Donahue reviewed the minutes of the meeting and then gave the floor to Secretary Treasurer Julia Leiterman.

The Secretary Treasurer provided an update on the previously unannounced projects awarded funding under the Routine Capital Plan Grant: in addition to the \$400,000 awarded for a new boiler, HVAC system and DDC controls at Cypress Park Primary, we have received \$200,000 for new elevator at Ecole Cedardale and

\$130,000 to cover the cost of completed new gymnasium air handling unit at Caulfeild Elementary.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that this new ongoing funding stream will allow districts to complete smaller projects in a more timely manner and free up valuable AFG monies.

<b>#1183</b>	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the Five Year Capital Plan 2015/16 be approved and forwarded to the Ministry.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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<b>#1184</b>	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting of November 10, 2015 be received.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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Chair Broady said she wanted to take the opportunity to once again thank General Manager of Facilities Gary Cords and his crew for their dedication and endless hard work, saying it is very much appreciated.

#### **I. CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of the correspondence from the past month is posted at [www.sd45.bc.ca/board](http://www.sd45.bc.ca/board)

#### **J. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Chair Broady noted that she had been to four different schools for Remembrance Day assemblies and that she is always struck by what a special time it is in West Vancouver Schools. The touching interactions between students and veterans were mentioned, as was the fact that each assembly is unique. Chair Broady asked Judy Duncan, WVAA President, to extend thanks on behalf of the board to all administrators for their efforts around Remembrance Day.

BCPSEA Symposium BCSTA Board Chairs Meeting BCSTA Provincial Council Board / Chairs Ministry Meeting Chamber of Commerce – Business after 5 District of WV: Upper Lands Working Group Report Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting North Shore Coho Society Presidents' Committee Meeting	Remembrance Day Ceremonies in our Schools School Traffic and Safety Committee Beyond Measure Film Screening WV School District Student Council Meeting Remembrance Day Wreath-Laying at the Cenotaph WV Community Foundation: Community Dialogue WVDPAC Meeting
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## **K. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)**

*Rob Inman – West Vancouver Resident and Coach*

- Said he wanted to follow up on Remembrance Day comments
- Was happy to be in BC this year, as he had spent the last few Remembrance Days in Ontario, where it is not a statutory holiday
- Said he was happy to see every West Vancouver school laying a wreath at the cenotaph

Chair Broady thanked Mr. Inman for his comments and agreed that our schools do a very good job of honouring Remembrance Day.

*Rob Millard – President, WVTA*

- Said he wanted to speak to the stress question on the wellness survey
- Noted that teachers are working hard on report cards at the moment
- Said the new reports are a reality and that some teachers are feeling anxious about working with the new format
- Reported that he has spoken to Lynne Tomlinson and Sandra Lynn Shortall regarding support for the new reporting formats
- He has instructed his staff and pro-d reps to communicate with their principals and has asked that some degree of flexibility is shown
- Recalled approaching the District of West Van about five years ago, to inquire about discounts for teachers at community facilities – ultimately refused
- Wondered if now, with a more user-friendly group in charge at the district level, whether this is the time to approach them again
- Said he wasn't surprised by the low level of 30 minutes of daily physical activity shown among WVTA members in the wellness survey results and that members would find increasing their levels of activity easier if they had access to facilities closer to work

Chair Broady said she knows teachers are busy with report cards and asked Mr. Millard to extend the board's thanks to his members for their hard work. She also asked that, after the reporting period is over, she could hear feedback about how things went with MyEdBC and the new reporting formats.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

**8:29pm**

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BOARD CHAIR

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SECRETARY TREASURER