



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, January 15, 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; L. Hill, Director of Instruction; A. Campbell, Acting Director of Instruction

Absent: D. Nelson, Director of Instruction

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair called the meeting to order and recognized that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation and thanked our friends and colleagues in the Nation who are working with us to guide our understanding of the history of this land and its people. She said we respect and honour the Elders past, present, and future, as we bring this knowledge to the students in our community. She noted that out-of-catchment and out-of-district admissions for grades 1 – 12 opened today and encouraged people to remind friends and family to apply if they are interested in attending West Vancouver Schools.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

“Play It forward – The Importance of Play” – Hollyburn Elementary

Principal Jody Billingsley and the Hollyburn Early Learning Team: Sylvia King, Claire Stephenson Lorraine Hartley, Jennifer Wong, and Emily Miller

Principal Billingsley introduced himself and the Hollyburn Early Learning Team and thanked trustees for the opportunity to share their insights regarding play-based learning. Noting that it takes 10 – 20 repetitions of a task in a play-based context to commit something to long-term memory, as opposed to approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse otherwise, he said the value of play to learning was evident. His staff is currently using the draft Play Today curriculum to guide their learning and they will be presenting to colleagues on the district professional development day later this month.

Vice Principal Blackburn explained that the draft Play Today curriculum for BC Early Learning is grounded in the First Peoples Principles of Learning and the Core Competencies, and promotes communication, creative and critical thinking, and personal and social development for our youngest learners. The various types of play were reviewed, as well as their importance in enhancing academics and social emotional development. Students Jasmine and Ehsan told trustees about Story Workshop, during which they use a variety of materials to imagine and create a story while working collaboratively with their peers. They said it helps them use their imagination and focus their ideas before they start writing. Trustees and senior staff were then given materials and worked in pairs to create their own stories.

Principal Billingsley said his staff have reported increased engagement for students when participating in play-based learning strategies, and that the spirit of collaboration and imagination has translated to the playground, where more children are playing together with improved social skills. Self-regulation and a sense of belonging are also on the increase. Teachers are able to use a variety of materials and strategies to enhance creative and critical thinking and the flexibility of play allows them to intervene and provide guidance where needed. As well, increased language development among ELL students has been observed. The presentation ended with a video and a statement that play in all forms is crucial to every aspect of a young child's development.

"Design Thinking: Future City" – Ridgeview Elementary

Principal Val Brady, Vice Principal Chris Parslow, teacher Amy Rice, and grade 6 students

Principal Brady introduced her team and then Vice Principal Parslow explained that the Core Competencies of Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social are applied across all grades as part of the new curriculum and make evident its depth and flexibility. He explained that Ridgeview completed the third year of its Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL) last year and reviewed the inquiry cycle and learner profiles. He said that as the world changes, students need these core foundational skills in order to be successful at school and in life beyond school.

Building on what they learned and achieved during the last three-year FESL, the school goal moving forward is to improve student thinking competencies. There are numerous initiatives and strategies being used at Ridgeview to support creative and critical thinking, and one of the bigger ones at the moment is the Future City competition. Vice Principal Parslow gave some background about the initiative, reminding trustees that the challenge this year was for students in grades 5 – 7 to work in groups to design a city with an electrical grid that would be resilient in the event of a major natural disaster. He reviewed the design cycle and its multidisciplinary nature and said teachers love this project because there are so many layers to it. He said there is huge student engagement, as each one brings their own strengths to the project. Students learn teamwork, collaboration, conflict resolution, an awareness of real-world problems, and have a greater connection to the community at large as they recognize and think about infrastructure.

Four students in grade 6 then told trustees about their experience working on Future City. Julia said she loved brainstorming about what her city could look like and enjoyed researching her ideas. She liked the challenge and the opportunity to be creative and enjoyed the realization that there is no one right way to do things. Sidney enjoyed the many challenges the project presented and learned a lot about time management while working on a tight schedule. Caleigh said the experience was wonderful and unique and she learned a lot about engineering. She said there was some conflict with team members about the importance of individual roles, but that

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they improved their problem solving skills and learned to work with different perspectives. Miles told trustees he had many proud moments while he worked on his diamond mine and wind turbine design and said he could talk for a long time about everything he learned and accomplished.

Vice Principal Parslow concluded by saying this was a messy process, but an engaging and worthwhile one that the kids have enjoyed. He said teachers have also enjoyed working as a team across the district and the support of an innovation grant and time to collaborate has been hugely beneficial to the success of the program. The Future City Showcase and Competition will be held on February 1st from 3:30-5:15 at the Memorial Library.

“Full STEM Ahead” – Rockridge Secondary

Principal Judy Duncan, teacher Matt Trask, and students

Principal Duncan began by saying that the previous two highlights were the perfect lead-in to the Rockridge STEM presentation, as they made evident the natural progression of play-based learning. She told trustees that this is the first year that Rockridge has had a dedicated STEM cohort, led by “extraordinary” teacher Matt Trask. Encompassing Math 11, Chemistry 11, Physics 11, Design and Technology 11, and Rockridge-based course Engineering 11, this cohort of 28 students and two teachers (Matt Trask and Dave Henning) is together for five classes and four blocks. Mr Trask then gave some background on the development of the STEM cohort concept, saying that six or seven years ago, senior science and math teachers at Rockridge noticed that students were demonstrating achievement at a remarkable level, but lacked the ability to apply those skills. Teachers wanted to honour students’ learning by approaching things differently and moving to project-based learning in a cross-curricular setting. By applying concepts across disciplines and combining them with hands-on skills, learning has become more personalized.

Students told trustees about their experiences as part of the cohort. Nick said he previously did not know how to apply his theoretical knowledge and gave parabolas as an example. He also spoke about applying Newton’s Laws when designing a gingerbread bridge and said he enjoyed being able to see conceptual ideas applied in real life. Sabrina said she likes cross-curricular learning because she can see how course material overlaps and says it is easier to understand when she sees the big picture. As well, she finds the cohort structure beneficial as it gives her the luxury of time if she needs it to really grasp a particular concept. She said she particularly enjoyed the rocket car project using baking soda and vinegar, which combined chemistry, physics, and technology and design. Noah enjoys the ability to be able to apply his learning from the morning to his hands-on work in the afternoon. He said there are plenty of tools, materials and resources available and he likes the ability to be able to work individually as well as in groups. Ophir said she finds the personalized learning valuable and that the cohort model fosters better connections with the teacher and peers. She likes to be able to ask her peers questions and catch-up immediately after a discussion or task.

Mr Trask concluded by saying this model provides a unique opportunity to tailor learning to students and provides teachers and students with so much flexibility. He now better knows his students and their needs and said it is an unintended benefit of this initiative.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

At the request of the Chair, it was agreed that Salary Harmonization be added under Board Business as item G 4.

#1395	<u>MOTION THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting January 15, 2019 be adopted as amended.</u>
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Carried.

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Renee Willock – President, WVTA

- said she was delighted to see the B-Line proposal on the agenda
- had been asked to speak at the District of West Vancouver council meeting last night and declined, as she felt she didn't have enough information from her members to allow her to accurately represent their voice
- to that end, put together a very quick survey yesterday afternoon and sent it to teachers and was surprised by the number of responses (more than 60) received in a short time
- responses indicate that: many already do ride transit to work, while many others would like to; the majority of respondents who ride transit are going to our three high schools, but also to École Cedardale, École Pauline Johnson, Irwin Park, and West Bay; more than a half of those who commute by transit are coming from North Van, while another third come from Vancouver
- said it struck her how many people are so interested in getting on public transit and would appreciate anything the board can do to support this initiative
- wanted it known that improved transit proposals are supported by many WVTA members, at least a dozen of whom are willing to speak publically in favour of the B-Line

The Chair thanked Mrs Willock for her comments and feedback.

Kristen Pejman – Chair, Irwin Park PAC

- said that although she has been a teacher and parent in the district for almost 20 years, has never attended a board meeting before and really enjoyed the school presentations
- made it clear she didn't want to stand in opposition to WVTA members who support the B-Line or debate the merits of the B-Line itself, but said she must express the concerns of Irwin Park parents about the proposed staging area on Haywood Ave in front of Irwin Park Elementary
- the pattern and speed of the existing bus route is already a concern for parents during pick up and drop off
- said the school community has received very little information regarding the project and would appreciate it if someone could come and speak to parents at a PAC meeting
- primary concern is school safety and would like more information so that informed discussions can take place

The Chair thanked her for her comments and noted that a broader discussion would happen as an agenda item shortly. She said the school district has very little information themselves and would communicate further details as soon as they are received.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting December 18, 2018

#1396 MOTION THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting December 18, 2018 be approved.
Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. B Line Transportation Proposal

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer

The Chair began by saying that the Board does not have much information about the B-Line, other than what was released to the public last month. While they were aware of a proposed B-Line concept, they did not have any specifics. She said she is aware of community feelings of both excitement and concern about the plan and asked that any trustee discussion this evening is kept tightly focussed on the impact of the B-Line route on our school sites, specifically Hollyburn and Irwin Park. She noted that there is a tentatively scheduled meeting with mayor and council next Tuesday, January 22, around this issue. She said if there is any information that can be gathered before that meeting, they would do so, and that trustees can decide after this evening's discussion whether or not they want to take any formal action. She then passed the floor to the Secretary Treasurer to provide some background on the project.

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the first information the school district received about the proposed B-Line being put into place was during the last week of school before the winter break in December. Upon receipt of the information, the Secretary Treasurer arranged a meeting with Ray Fung, the director of engineering and transportation for the municipality. Mr Fung said that this plan is Translink's response to West Vancouver's concerns about traffic congestion throughout the district, but specifically on Marine Drive. He explained that the purpose of the B-Line plan is to reduce traffic congestion along Marine Drive in both West and North Vancouver, and to improve public transportation, by having a distinct bus route that runs uninterrupted across the North Shore. This would allow easier travel for people who live in one municipality and work in another. The proposal includes the exclusive use of articulated buses on the route, which would run all day, and every eight minutes during peak times in the morning and afternoon. The buses will only stop every three blocks, improving travel time. Translink estimates that once the line is up and running, transit time from Dundarave to Park Royal will take six minutes. Translink asked Mr Fung to provide a design for the traffic lanes on Marine Drive from Dundarave to Park Royal, to accommodate the proposed schedule. He explained that he was constrained

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by space, as there is no room for road expansion along Marine Drive in West Vancouver. Mr Fung said the current congestion is being caused by through traffic being held up by vehicles making left turns, parallel parking, and by pedestrian crosswalks. These issues would be addressed with the creation of an engineering plan that includes dedicated left-turn lanes every few blocks, the curb lanes remaining as parking for the most part, the middle lanes being dedicated to buses and cars parallel parking, and through traffic assigned to the centre lanes only. The Secretary Treasurer said that her immediate concerns upon receiving this information were the potential effects upon Hollyburn and, more particularly, Irwin Park. With Hollyburn, the concern is the possibility of increased traffic flow around the school as people avoid Marine Drive and the adherence to school zone speeds, despite recent traffic-calming measures. With Irwin Park, the impact is likely to be more significant, as the plan currently calls for the articulated buses to be directed up 24th Street to Haywood in order to access Marine Drive from 25th Street for the return trip. While there is an existing turnout for the Blue Bus, the plan is to enlarge it enough to accommodate two articulated buses and one regular bus, as well as install a locked washroom facility for drivers. This would be located on the sidewalk beside the retaining wall for the Kindergarten playground. The traffic island by the existing crosswalk will be removed, but every effort will be made to preserve the large conifer at the front of the school. Angled parking on the south side of Haywood may also be removed.

During that meeting, the Secretary Treasurer made clear to Mr Fung the school district's concerns regarding the conflict between peak transit times and student pick-up and drop-off at the main school entrance, as well as general student safety. Mr Fung told her that both Translink and the municipality would be working with the school district to identify and mitigate problems, and suggested that the municipality would have funding available to change any configuration to allow drop-off and pick-up at the rear of the school.

The current status of the project is that Translink is going to an RFP process for contractors to do the changes to the road configurations along the route, as they would like construction to start in the spring. Mr Fung has told the Secretary Treasurer that regardless of what happens in West Vancouver, the route will be going ahead as planned in North Vancouver from Phibbs Exchange to the Capilano River.

The Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer for the information and then opened the floor to trustee discussion. She asked Associate Superintendent Nosek to take brief notes that could be projected publically during the discussion to capture key concerns. A lengthy conversation followed, with the overriding themes being the quality of communication/consultation and student safety. The merits of the B-Line concept itself were not the focus, but the impact of the plan when examined under the mandate of student safety.

There was support and commitment to improved public transit, but consensus that the B-Line proposal as it stands is not the right solution from a student safety perspective. It was decided that that specific topics to be addressed in the meeting with mayor and council were as follows: at Irwin Park, student safety, environmental impact, parking and egress, and the washroom facility; at Hollyburn, increased traffic in the area, particularly on 13th Street, and speed in the school zone, which is already an issue. The same concerns will be communicated to Translink.

#1397

MOTION THAT the Board contact both District of West Vancouver Mayor and Council and Translink to request that the proposed B-Line route be changed to eliminate buses travelling past or staging at Irwin Park Elementary; and to express concerns about the traffic and safety impact on our other schools in the Ambleside and Dundarave areas.

Carried.

The Chair thanked trustees for their input and then directly addressed Mrs Willock, WVTA president, to make it clear that they do not want to downplay the need or desire for improved public transit. She asked that Mrs Willock please convey to her members that trustees' concerns are about the impact upon student safety at Irwin Park and Hollyburn.

2. ELL Update

Maria Yioldassis, ELL Coordinator

District ELL Coordinator Maria Yioldassis reported that, based on 1701 report figures from September 30, 2018, our ELL population continues to grow. This year saw an approximately 3% increase over 2017, with 1202 students receiving funded ELL support. That figure is a district total, not just new students.

She reported that there is a lot happening with ELL this year as things move in a new direction. In collaboration with ELL colleagues from across Metro, Ms Yioldassis is helping the ELL program move from four to five levels, with new ELL standards, descriptors, and report cards. As well, West Vancouver Schools is part of an ELL Standards Field Testing Group, comprised of 70 teachers from four districts (Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, and West Vancouver) and professors from SFU and UBC. This should ensure consistency across Metro districts.

The new levels of proficiency were reviewed, which occur in steps across a continuum, recognizing that language learning is a complex and gradual process. The amount of time taken to progress from one level to the next will vary from student to student, and can, at times, include apparent regression as well as improvement. Students are no longer assigned a numbered level that corresponds to a year of schooling. Pace is now varied and parents have a better understanding of their children's progress. New report card descriptors were also reviewed and better align with those used by schools on CSL documents. Though no negative feedback was received, the group will continue to look for improvements.

Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) has been used by ELL teachers in secondary schools in our district for a number of years as best practice to target language and content objectives in an inclusive manner. Recently, Ms Yioldassis attended a SIOP teacher training session in Washington DC, hosted by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL). This has equipped her with the expertise to provide training to ELL teachers locally. In the fall, West Vancouver, Vancouver, Richmond, and Burnaby school districts will be taking part in a four-day workshop series that will allow teachers to become certified in SIOP training.

Trustees were briefly reminded of what ELL support model looks like in both elementary and secondary schools and Ms Yioldassis concluded by saying that all teachers are language teachers, and that ELL support is a collaborative effort that allows all students to be successful learners.

3. BCSTA AGM

Carolyn Broady, Chair

The Chair reminded trustees that although the BCSTA AGM is not until April, the deadline for motions is much earlier. If anyone has a motion they wish to craft and put forward, it would need to be presented at the February regular board meeting for approval.

4. Salary Harmonization

Carolyn Broady, Chair

The Chair apologized for the late addition to the agenda, but with teacher bargaining beginning in late February, said she thought it was important to get this letter to BCPSEA as soon as possible. She said salary harmonization is something this board and previous boards has spoken about over many years. The West Vancouver Board of Education has written letters on this issue before, but the Chair said it is important to continue to support our teachers, especially in a time when recruitment and retention are paramount.

#1398

MOTION THAT the Board write a letter to BCPSEA to express support for further harmonization of teacher salaries and benefits in the upcoming round of collective bargaining.

Carried.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – January 15, 2019

- January meeting cancelled – no report

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 thanked Danielle Katerberg for a productive liaison meeting between trustees, senior district staff, and DPAC last month. She said she particularly enjoyed the joint presentations by each school administrator and their PAC chair and thought it was a great idea and hopes it continues.

Education Minister's Call re Funding Model Review North Shore Childcare Planning Group School Traffic and Safety Committee Meeting	Trustee Orientation Meetings Various School Christmas / Winter Concerts WV DPAC Trustee / Administrators /DLT Liaison Meeting – 2019
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K. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Kristen Pejman – Chair, Irwin Park PAC

- said she appreciates that the board is not in a position to make a decision about the B-Line, but wondered what she could tell Irwin Park parents about how to effectively voice their concerns about the project's impact on the school

The Chair replied that any letters they write to mayor and council go on the public record, but that speaking at a meeting can also be effective. She did say that the mayor and some councillors are willing to meet to hear concerns and suggested that might be of interest to some parents. She also hoped that the District of West Vancouver could send staff to a DPAC or IPPG meeting.

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- asked if the meeting between trustees and the municipality next week was public or private

The Chair replied that it is a private meeting.

- suggested that Irwin Park and Hollyburn have a meeting with police about safety concerns, acknowledging that he already uses 13th Street as a detour

The Chair replied that Trustee Donahue, DPAC, and a police representative already sit on the Traffic and Safety Committee, but said that they are not sure that is the most effective route for taking information forward. Trustee Donahue will report back and the Board will find avenues for parents to communicate concerns and help PACs find the right people to connect with.

Renee Willock – President, WVTA

- reiterated that the survey she created and put out to members was very simple and done quickly in response to the mayor's request to speak at last night's district council meeting
- of those responses from people who indicated that they take the bus to work, 20% said often/always and 35% said occasionally

- said that 40% of respondents replied that they would increase their transit use with the implementation of the B-Line
- said that the link to the Translink slides about the project was included with the survey, but she has no way of knowing how many people clicked the link
- acknowledged that the survey was a “super small” sample but that it is an indicator of the level of interest in the issue from the people who work here
- said that responses to a similar survey for education assistants and other support staff would also be interesting, as would one for students, many of whom travel from out of district

The Chair thanked her for the information and said that her small survey is already a step further than what has happened so far and said the concrete numbers are the interesting piece. The surveying that was done by Translink was apparently done at Park Royal and elsewhere did not include any breakdown about where those questioned were resident, whether they took the bus etc. She said the more information that is available, the better for everyone.

- said the survey was still open and that she was happy to share the results

The Chair thanked Mrs Willock again and Associate Superintendent Nosek for taking notes during the earlier discussion.

L. ADJOURNMENT

9:19 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER