



**WEST
VANCOUVER
SCHOOLS**

A world of opportunity

2015–2018 STRATEGIC PLAN



**2015-2018
STRATEGIC PLAN**



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Excellence in education has been and always will be our priority in the district's public schools. It is a shared community value that transcends political boundaries and has the power to shape the future health of our communities, families, economy and institutions.

In West Vancouver, we have an established reputation as the highest-achieving school district in the province and as an educational leader in Canada. We are proudly leading in areas of innovation, and are widely recognized for creating conditions that foster creativity, confidence, compassion, collaboration, resilience, health and engaged citizenship – all hallmarks of excellence in education.

“ ***We have a reputation as the highest-achieving school district in the province.*** ”

It is in this context that we have developed our strategic plan for 2015–2018, which begins with the vision statement that ***we aspire to provide the finest educational experience in the country.*** To continue moving steadily in that direction, we have embraced the values that make it possible: excellence, respect, inclusiveness, accountability, authenticity, innovation, community connections and happiness.

We have four simple goals, yet the actions they prescribe encompass a wide range of initiatives designed to enrich the learning experience and prepare students to thrive in the world in which they will live, work and

play. The evolution of education has already begun, and this plan will leverage our strengths to continue building on our tradition of excellence for the future.



The Board continues to focus on the goal of **Educational Excellence** to provide a richly woven learning experience in academics, arts, athletics and business that builds on natural curiosity. We have also identified the need for **Visionary Governance** to build community connections and pave the way for strong advocacy in education. We will embrace **Thoughtful Transitions** in areas such as technology, learning spaces, methods and reporting systems to ensure that every child has the means to succeed. Finally, we will weave new traditions into the fabric of our community to support **Community Evolution** in our neighbourhoods, classrooms and beyond.

In West Vancouver, the emblem of the lighthouse is more than a symbol: it represents a beacon for all children to follow on their path to a bright future.

Carolyn Broady
BOARD CHAIR



WEST
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VISION

We aspire to provide the finest educational experience in the country for the benefit of our children, our employees, our community and the world.

VALUES

EXCELLENCE

We pursue excellence in everything we do.

INCLUSIVENESS

We treat everyone fairly. We respect, reflect and appreciate the diversity in our community.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We strive to be approachable and to make our processes and decisions as open and transparent as possible.

AUTHENTICITY

We provide meaningful and relevant learning experiences.

INNOVATION

We pursue innovation by encouraging curiosity and a spirit of inquiry.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We forge connections with our community and welcome their input.

HAPPINESS

We seek happiness in the way we learn and work.



STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGIC GOAL #1

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Education is our core business. And once again our plan makes excellence in education our top priority. We have a well-deserved reputation for academic strength, and we are determined to do what it takes to maintain and continually improve it.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Maintain core academic excellence

- Continue to focus on core foundation skills in elementary schools
- Maintain top standings in local, provincial and international assessments, graduation rates and post-secondary transitions
- Guide the implementation of the new K-9 curriculum and related key tenets of BC's Education Plan
- Develop and implement new models to communicate student learning to parents

1.2 Engage students in relevant and modern learning

- Expand curricular and extracurricular programs to meet the needs and interests of diverse learners
- Augment student and staff access to current technology to enhance student learning
- Continue to develop innovative learning spaces, including learning commons, makerspaces and classrooms that align with self-regulation research
- Develop the use of e-portfolios to support and articulate student learning



I value the fact that teachers genuinely care about the welfare of their students.

PARENT, SURVEY RESPONSE

STRATEGIC GOAL #1

1.3 Implement innovative education practices to enhance the learning experience

- Support school-wide inquiry models for learning in all schools
- Promote teacher networking and collaboration throughout the district
- Continue to use a teacher-mentor model to build capacity in physical literacy
- Continue to develop effective transitions from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary education
- Continue to use the Response to Intervention (RTI) framework to meet the needs of all students, including those with exceptional needs
- Continue to support a collaborative model of engaging professional development

“ We chose West Vancouver Schools for the great overall academic performance and the quality of the programs.

VICKY NARANJO, ÉCOLE CEDARDALE PARENT





STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGIC GOAL #2

VISIONARY GOVERNANCE

School boards are responsible to both their local communities and to the provincial government. The West Vancouver Board of Education takes its responsibility to grow and maintain a vibrant public education system seriously. We are committed to continually strengthening our connections with the communities we serve.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Advocate for public education by effectively telling our district's story of academic success and highlighting our contributions to society

- Establish regular meetings with our municipal, provincial and federal political counterparts
- Continue to provide opportunities for the media to visit our schools to see education in action (exhibitions, open houses, presentations)
- Advertise regularly in local media

2.2 Collaborate with key organizations in our local and professional communities

- Continue to work closely with the District of West Vancouver, Bowen Island and the Village of Lions Bay on areas of mutual interest
- Foster our ongoing supportive relationships with key groups, including:

Squamish Nation

Kay Meek Centre

West Vancouver Memorial Library

West Vancouver Police Department

Vancouver Coastal Health

- Reach out to the business and non-profit communities concerning our mutual efforts to engage young people in our community

STRATEGIC GOAL #2

2.3 Connect and collaborate with our educational partners

- Continue with regular opportunities for formal and informal meetings with the West Vancouver Administrators' Association, West Vancouver Teachers' Association, West Vancouver Municipal Employees' Association, West Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council and the West Vancouver District Student Council
- Partner, where appropriate, with other school districts on the delivery of services
- Explore additional relationships with post-secondary institutions to support students and staff
- Continue to be an active voice in the BC School Trustees Association

2.4 Continue to promote and celebrate students' success

- Maintain Board highlights, giving each school an opportunity to focus on areas of interest and pride
- Continue to showcase student achievements in the community through a variety of district-sponsored events
- Continue to publicize student and school success stories through the district website, online publications and other internal and external communications channels







STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGIC GOAL #3

THOUGHTFUL TRANSITIONS

The next four years will see many transitions, including new technologies, curricula, learning spaces, learning methods and reporting systems. We will support students and parents, teachers, staff and administrators through these challenges.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Embrace curricular and instructional innovation

- Promote transformational learning models (e.g., e-portfolios, Google Classroom)
- Promote interdisciplinary opportunities that link a variety of curricula
- Continue to support opportunities for learning beyond the traditional classroom (e.g. Outside45, Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership Launchpad [YELL])
- Pursue emerging fields of study, including coding, robotics and engineering

3.2 Engage with and support partner groups involved in transitions

- Provide Innovation Grant funding for projects that link directly to the transition to the new curriculum
- Continue to work with other ministry groups (e.g., Community Living BC Supported Child Development) to help students with exceptional needs transition effectively when entering the school system, and when they transition to the post-secondary level
- Provide opportunities for secondary teachers to work with students and teachers at the elementary level through opportunities such as the Ignite Your Passion program

STRATEGIC GOAL #3

- Provide ongoing support to the Living with Balance program for teachers
- Hold resume building and interview preparation seminars for staff
- Develop an inclusive model of professional development for support staff

3.3 Nurture the physical and mental health of our students and staff

- Consider the District Health & Wellness Committee recommendations
- Incorporate practices that promote self-regulation, including mindfulness, yoga, tai chi and meditation
- Continue to ensure safe and welcoming spaces that celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQ community and build awareness around the health and safety needs of LGBTQ students in our schools
- Implement the Teen Mental Health Curriculum from Dr. Stan Kutcher at the secondary school level
- Continue to partner with community agencies to develop and promote comprehensive school health initiatives





STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGIC GOAL #4

COMMUNITY EVOLUTION

While the basic values and traditions of West Vancouver remain strong, our community profile is changing and becoming more diverse. We welcome all newcomers and embrace the rich culture they bring. Our goal is to weave these new traditions into the fabric of our local heritage.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Embrace our district's increasing diversity and draw upon it to enhance learning

- Support professional development opportunities to build the capacity of all teachers to support students in the classroom who are English language learners (ELLs)
- Support school-based cultural activities and events
- Work closely with the North Shore Multicultural Society to meet the needs of our changing community
- Develop Aboriginal education programs with our First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

4.2 Develop and expand innovative community learning opportunities from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary education

- Create partnerships with the West Vancouver Community Centre, Gleneagles Community Centre, community sports groups and Canadian Sport for Life
- Work closely to expand opportunities for families and students through the West Vancouver Child & Family Hub and Properties Family Hub Society
- Continue to work with business partners in the community to provide both learning spaces and learning opportunities for students

STRATEGIC GOAL #4

4.3 Reinforce our role in citizen development

- Foster the growth of the West Vancouver District Student Council
- Develop learning opportunities to enhance student achievement in core competencies, such as critical thinking, communication, and personal and social responsibility
- Maintain our commitment to Me to We and other service-oriented leadership opportunities
- Support students who want to make a difference in their learning and their community





Our grads are going places

On average, between 87% and 97% of graduates proceed into post-secondary institutions within a year of graduation, attending more than 125 institutions around the world annually.



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