



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, June 11, 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; I. Kennedy, Director of Instruction; D. Nelson, Director of Instruction

Absent: S-L. Shortall, Director of Instruction; A. Campbell, 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 of our community.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

"Fencing Academy Highlights" – West Van Premier Fencing Academy

Director of Instruction, Diane Nelson and Fencing Coach Igor Gantsevich

Director Nelson introduced Coach Gantsevich and fencing students, who each wore medals. She said they have had an incredible year, as represented by the hardware around their necks, and that she is proud and thrilled to share their accomplishments with the Board. Coach Gantsevich thanked the Board for their continued support of the fencing academy and for giving the program an opportunity to grow. He said that each of the 15 students present was at the elite level and streamlined for the national team and that this is only half the students enrolled in the program. Over the next five years, he expects the academy to move to be the best program in the world for students of this age. Students have moved from Burnaby, Richmond, Calgary, Mexico, and Spain to join the academy, which speaks to its appeal and results.

Senior students Howard and Christina, who have been approached by Columbia and Yale University respectively, spoke about how much they have enjoyed and benefitted from the

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program. It has taught them how to balance academics and fencing, and while it demands diligence and hard work, there is also a supportive family-like atmosphere. They spoke of the work ethic and learning how to succeed, not just in fencing, but in life. All ages and levels train together and that powerful support allows them to grow as a group.

The summer will continue to be busy for these students, with competitions throughout, as well as a three and a half week trip to Poland. Before they leave, students will participate in a two week training camp with European athletes as well.

"Hawks Taking Action" – École Cedardale

Principal Michelle LaBounty, Vice Principal Kristina Hayes and students Farbod, Jake, Brianna, Sophia, Cody, and Ege

Principal LaBounty introduced Vice Principal Hayes and then passed the floor to École Cedardale grade 7 students. They spoke about their recent Grade Seven Exhibition and said it was a chance to demonstrate the student-initiated action they have undertaken. It was explained that taking action is a pillar of the IB program and is a chance for students to understand and demonstrate what they can do next with their learning.

The students' actions were varied, and based on questions such as where we are in place and time, and provocations like the declining health of our oceans as a result of pollution and climate change, and the cleanliness and accessibility of clean drinking water in parts of Canada. Student action was demonstrated through the writing and publishing of a book, the creation of videos to raise awareness about ocean pollution, the sewing and sale of fabric bags, and a petition to ban plastic bags in West Vancouver. One group of students studied innovations to combat climate change, such as using cold plasma paralysis to turn plastic into electricity. Another group studied the water crisis in Canada, where many First Nations reserves have no access to safe drinking water. They researched both short and long term solutions, realized that a 0.5% tax increase would go a long way to providing the resources to resolving the issue, and created a petition to end boil-water advisories on reserves by 2020. They also plan to contact the Prime Minister's Office.

Parents at École Cedardale were inspired by the students' actions and impressed by the opportunities students have to become more globally-minded. Exhibition and school-based celebrations around events such as Lunar New Year, Nowruz, and Pride, and events like a citizenship ceremony and acknowledging the traditional Skwxwú7mesh place name, help to create well-rounded, globally-minded students. They ended the presentation by inviting everyone to attend the school's Festival Latina this Friday at 1pm.

"International Year in Review" – International Student Programs

District Administrator Michael Frankowski, District Vice Principal Rebecca Rowley, and grade 12 student Ayana M.

District Administrator began by introducing District Vice Principal Rebecca Rowley and graduating student Ayana. He then explained that international fee-paying students choose BC for their education because of our excellent public school quality and rankings in OECD tests. The perception of the Canadian brand is very high internationally, and families appreciate that teachers are government-certified, curriculum is taught by teams of experts, and class sizes are generally 30 or less students. West Vancouver Schools is a top district destination, with our

innovative programs, the ability for students to choose their courses, and the excellent standard of living.

Ayana, who came to West Vancouver Schools from Kazakhstan two years ago, explained that her family learned about us from friends and as they learned more, decided she would like to graduate here instead of at home. They choose WVS over somewhere like Bodwell High School so that she could have a Canadian experience and make Canadian and international friends, whereas Bodwell is exclusively international. Ayana said she likes our system because she has much more choice, including course options like photography, art, and drama, and an extra year to study, because in Kazakhstan school ends in grade 11. Had she stayed in Kazakhstan, she probably would be going into business, but as a result of her experiences here, she is staying in Vancouver and pursuing film production at SFU. She said she believes the international program opens doors for students and gives them the opportunity to get to their goals more easily, and the courses we provide choice, knowledge, and experience that they would not get elsewhere.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1429	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting May 21, 2019 be adopted.
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Carried.

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Renee Willock – President, WVTA

- Said she wanted to speak to provincial bargaining and though she would like to be positive, things are really 50/50
- Said she is imploring everyone to reach out to the NDP government to say that we need more funding in this province for public education and that our students receive \$1800 less than the Canadian average
- The BCTF is willing to bargain over the summer, but BCPSEA says that they have to remain within the funding mandate
- Implored everyone to take the time to complete an NDP survey going on at the moment regarding priorities – noted that education isn't even listed, but there is a place to write it in

The Chair thanked Mrs Willock for her comments and said that her hope is, as June comes to a close, that a deal can be made.

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- Said that he has heard from some of the students he coaches on the Sentinel senior girls' soccer team that cell phone use during class is an issue and that there is disrespect by both students and teachers dealing with the matter
- Asked if there is no district policy, is there a way to work with administrators to find one, or if there is one, can it be reinforced?

The Chair noted that there is district policy around cell phone and mobile device usage and that Rockridge Secondary, in particular, did a lot of work around awareness and appropriateness of use last spring. She said that there is a recognition that mobile devices are a tool in day to day life and that schools and teachers are trying to find a

balance in device use. She wishes there was an easy solution and will talk to Superintendent Kennedy, get feedback, and perhaps put parameters in place, but that this won't happen until September at the earliest.

Trustee Stevenson followed up by saying that mobile devices can add to student learning, but should not be disruptive, and that we need to set the standards.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting May 21, 2019

#1430	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 21 2019 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record June 11, 2019

#1431	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the General Record June 11, 2019 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Innovation Teachers Update

Liz Hill and Ian Kennedy, Directors of Instruction; Janet Hicks, Peter Beetlestone, Jackie Wong, and Tracy Smith, Innovation Teachers; Cari Wilson, Dale Addis, Dave Dickinson, Parnaz Kashani, Karina Zanolosso, and Keith Rispin, Digital Innovation Teachers

Director of Instruction Hill began by introducing nine of the 10 innovation teachers, and sent regrets on behalf of Jackie Wong, who was unable to attend. These district-based innovation teachers provide support at both the district and school level, as well as to teachers and teacher teams. She then passed the floor to them to give a brief snapshot of the work they have been doing during the last school year.

Janet Hicks gave a brief summary of her work with Directors Hill and Kennedy to create an assessment working group, based on the premise that "In West Vancouver Schools, assessment tells the story of the learning journey: where we are, where we want to go, and how we get there." The group, made up of elementary and secondary teachers and administrators, landed on five principles of assessment to demonstrate their primary understanding of what was important during the assessment process. They created a graphic, definitions, and practical strategies. Moving forward, they will be working with

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administrators and attending pro-d sessions and staff meetings to provide direction and support. Ms Hicks also continued to work in elementary schools, providing support for inquiry and providing teach the teacher training.

Cari Wilson spoke about the work she has done around digital citizenship and safety, an area of focus this year, in addition to her usual work with coding and digital tools. Teachers and students need to be mindful of their behaviour online in all forms. She has developed a website for Kindergarten – grade 7, explaining digital scope and sequence, and based on three pillars: respect, educate, and protect. It is a living site that had a soft launch in January at Caulfeild as a pilot project. Feedback is being gathered and a larger launch will happen likely in September. In the meantime, it is still available to everyone. Ms Wilson noted that the work around privacy impact assessments is a steep learning curve.

Tracy Smith reminded those present of the concept and intent of innovation teams, and noted that there were 30+ teams during the 2018-2019 school year, covering topics ranging from experiential learning using virtual reality, to integrating Indigenous curriculum and content, to Future Cities and artistic literacy. A video compilation of their highlights was shown.

Pete Beetlestone and Dale Addis spoke about the continued work Sentinel is doing around their school culture, this year with a focus on creativity and self-reflection. Student competitions included ones for creative writing, art for the agenda cover, posters for the school code of conduct GUARDS, and the creation of a student blog. They also continued to support teachers with curriculum and assessment and improving the authenticity of learning.

Karina Zanrosso and Keith Rispin said that while they continue to support teachers at WVSS, the work has shifted from helping with the nuts and bolts of technology, to helping them realize the potential of the tools available. They said often conversations now begin with “is it possible to...” rather than a call for help. They said the maker lab is a conduit for realizing student and teacher ideas, as they take the digital world from the screen to reality. They are now facilitating these initiatives and while they don’t always work, they are always a learning experience for everyone involved. The range of departments using the tools has expanded as well, including biology, geography, fashion, and ICT, among others. Projects have included the creation of a chain mail vest, a heart monitor, a bee-cam, and the school weather station.

Parnaz Kashani and Dave Dickinson said their role at Rockridge is to connect and bridge the gap between teacher and student needs, and they are now pushing the boundaries in a virtual space. With the support of an innovation grant to provide collaboration time, they engaged with stakeholders from various departments in the school, which allowed them to have informed discussions with the district senior staff and IT department about ensuring the infrastructure and support required for virtual reality (VR) moving forward. Using VR headsets, Rockridge students were able to practice speeches in front of a virtual audience, visit Canadian National Parks, watch the Lion King on Broadway from various vantage points, and tour Anne Frank House. Teachers were on-boarded and they bought in, because they realized that the realism of the learning was enhanced and the technology worked when and how it was supposed to. It was noted that some of these projects were very resource-heavy for innovation teachers and that moving forward, they need to start to remove themselves more. Events like a staff petting zoo on a pro-d day will help with that process.

Director of Instruction Kennedy concluded by saying he has enjoyed getting to know the innovation teachers since he joined the district after spring break and said how impressed he was and excited about the work being done. He said that the innovation grant program is a great initiative, supporting innovation, student achievement, and teacher collaboration and that teachers working with teachers produces huge results.

2. Reformatted BAA Courses

Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction

Director of Instruction Nelson briefly reviewed the proposed Board Authority Authorized (BAA) courses for 2019-2020, pointing out that these are not new courses, but are existing courses that have been updated in order to align with the Ministry's new curriculum updates and graduation requirements. Staff began to revisit BAA courses in July 2018, discarded those no longer in use, and reformatted those that are. There are 11 reformatted courses from this year. She noted that it was a lot of work for teachers and she is proud of the work they did.

#1432	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the BAA courses presented, updated to reflect the format of the revised curriculum, be approved.
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Carried.

3. School and Academy Fees

Sean Nosek, Associate Superintendent

Associate Superintendent Nosek reminded those present of the process for determining school, academy, and program fees, and said that fees are set on a cost-recovery basis, not for profit and that every effort is made to ensure fee alignment wherever possible. He said he was pleased to present to the board the most aligned fee-structure ever. He noted that elementary band fees are unchanged, but there have been some minor adjustments to district programs.

Vice Chair Brown thanked those involved in fee setting for their hard work, particularly around alignment, and said this thoughtful process would be much appreciated by parents. Chair Broady echoed those sentiments and highlighted the newly updated AP 504 – District Programs Support Fund.

#1433	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board approved the school and academy fees for 2019-2020 as proposed.
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Carried.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Audit Committee Meeting – May 27, 2019

Committee Chair Donahue briefly reviewed the minutes and said that the purpose of the meeting was to review the audit plan for the 2018-2019 financial year and encouraged

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people to read the minutes for details when they are posted tomorrow online. She said that it was a glimpse into how complicated the work of the finance department is and thanked Secretary Julia Leiterman and her staff for the diligence. It was noted that the committee would report to the Board at the September regular board meeting after this summer's audit was concluded.

#1434 MOTION THAT the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held May 27, 2019 be received.

Carried.

2. Human Resources Committee Meeting – June 4, 2019

Committee Chair Brown reviewed the minutes and highlighted recruitment, with two rounds of postings so far, including 70 elementary Education Assistant postings. EAs continue to be in high demand and she thanked Director of Instruction Alex Campbell for his efforts to support hiring in this area. Support staff bargaining is complete and while teacher bargaining is completed locally, ratification is not possible until the work at the provincial table has concluded. She said she is hopeful for an agreement and that everyone is watching the process closely.

#1435 MOTION THAT the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held June 4, 2019 be received.

Carried.

3. Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting – June 11, 2019

Committee Chair Stevenson briefly reviewed the minutes and highlighted that good news around carbon reporting, where we have received approximately \$300,000 in carbon funding, having paid in almost \$400,000 in carbon offsets. He then went through the items on the Capital Plan and said that we are still hopeful that the Sentinel seismic and upgrade work will receive funding, but noted that there are many buildings around the province that are a higher priority. There are also a number of carbon neutral items listed, totalling around \$155,000.

#1436 MOTION THAT in accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 45 (*West Vancouver*) hereby approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan for 2020/21, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2020/21 submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Carried.

#1437 MOTION THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held June 11, 2019 be received.

Carried.

I. FOR INFORMATION

The Chair reported that changes have been made to administrative procedures AP 300 – Student Registration and AP 504 – District Programs Support Fund. AP 300 now includes a new registration priority category for children of West Vancouver School District staff. Though this is a small gesture, it is hoped that it will be helpful to our staff families. Both updated procedures have been posted on the district website.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

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

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Athletic Coaches Appreciation BBQ	MOE Careers' Summit
Audit Committee Meeting	North Shore Coho Society
BCPSEA Bargaining Update	NSIIP Working Group Meeting
District Innovation Celebration	OECD Vancouver Education Conference
District Retirement Reception	Presidents' Committee Meeting
Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting	Rockridge Commencement Ceremony
Human Resources Committee Meeting	Sentinel Fine Arts Showcase
Irwin Park "Feast of Nations"	VSO "Meet the Maestro" at Hollyburn
Irwin Park Grand Re-Opening	WV Schools Elementary District Track Meet
Kwansai Gakuin School Visit Assembly to	West Vancouver Childcare Working Group
Hollyburn Elementary	WV DPAC Meeting and Luncheon
Lions Bay Family Fun Day	WVSS Commencement Ceremony
Metro Branch Meeting	WVSS Graduation Banquet

L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- Asked if innovation teachers are unique to West Vancouver

The Chair replied that we were one of the leaders in this area, but that more districts have such programs. Trustee Block said she was excited to learn that the computer badges program, which grew out of an innovation grant, was the first in Canada.

The Chair noted that she and the Superintendent attended the recent Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conference in Vancouver. During the event, the delegate from Luxembourg approached them and asked to come to West Vancouver Schools and spend a day visiting our schools and learning about our programs. He chose to do that instead of conference-organized tours, as he feels we are a leader and wanted to see first-hand the work being done in our schools.

The Chair concluded by wishing everyone a great last few weeks of June and a restful and happy summer.

M. ADJOURNMENT

8:37 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER