



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10:00am
Online via MS Teams

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

Absent: L. Hill, Director of Instruction; I. Kennedy, Director of Instruction; A. Campbell, Director of Instruction; S-L. Shortall, Director of Instruction; F. De Dios, Director of Facilities; D. Nelson, Director of Instruction

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first virtual public board meeting and began by reading a prepared statement:

As we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are, as they say, living in unprecedented times. Preparing for today's meeting I reflected on the last time I felt a sense of normalcy, and it was just before spring break started. During the week before the break, I visited Irwin Park and talked to Doni Grattan about reading to her students "after the break" and I spent a morning at Ridgeview visiting classrooms, and spending time in the staffroom during recess, talking with teachers about some of their thoughts and suggestions that, for now, need to be set aside as we navigate our "new normal". Then, that weekend I flew to Calgary on 48 hours' notice, to help my daughter pack and move out of university residence. When I was at the airport, I felt very uneasy and anxious, and it was surreal to sit in the boarding area watching everyone unconsciously begin to "social distance", the terminal almost silent. Eighteen hours later I was in a car, driving through the Rockies with my daughter and her roommate. It was a stunningly beautiful day; the sky was blue, the sun out and the mountains covered in snow and reflecting the sunlight. We were all on edge but when we looked out we talked about how the scenery had a calming effect on us and that it gave us hope, and that we would find a way to navigate forward and to be "OK".

Since then we have all been in our homes, each of us doing our best to help flatten the curve and ensure that our most vulnerable and our front-line workers are protected. I would like to acknowledge as we now begin to move forward to reopen BC, that we will again be anxious and on edge. British Columbia, after being one of the first jurisdictions to have a surge in cases of COVID-19, has done a phenomenal job of flattening the curve, in no small part because as a society we have listened to Dr. Henry and have

followed the science. We now need to continue to trust in the process, knowing that without the science supporting a gradual reopening of business and our schools, it would not be happening. I know there will many questions from both staff and families, and we will commit to do our best to best to answer them over the next few weeks. Please know that any steps we take as we move forward, will be taken under the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer. We are in the early stages of reopening and there will be many questions that we won't be able to answer today, but we will do our best to get the answers you need to and ensure that our buildings are safe for both staff and students to return to what is our "new normal".

The Board also needs to ask for your patience today as we navigate our first virtual public board meeting. Things could get a little clunky at times, and there is a good chance that technology will not always be our friend, so please be patient as we fumble along together.

Finally, as outlined in the agenda there are two 'Question and Comment' periods during today's board meeting. We will limit the first session to the allotted 10 minutes so that we can move Board business forward, but will extend the second period, to try to address any further questions people have. As it is a public meeting, anyone who poses a question in the "online Q&A" will need to state their name and affiliation. For example, if you are a teacher, please state your name and school. If you are a parent or student, please also state your name and school. Alternatively, if you are a community member, please state your name and whether you are a West Vancouver resident. Additionally, please note that we will not be taking anonymous questions. And with that we will move into today's public meeting.

The Chair then called the meeting to order and recognized that we are gathered together on the traditional territory 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.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

No highlights this month due to COVID-19.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1485	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting May 19, 2020 be adopted.
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Carried.

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions or comments from attendees.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting February 18, 2020

#1486	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 18, 2020 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record May 19, 2020

#1487	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record May 19, 2020 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

The Superintendent said that it has been a remarkable eight weeks since there was basically a second "opening day" just after spring break as we moved to remote learning. While there have been hiccups along the way, he said he wanted to express his admiration and appreciation for the work everyone has done. He said what he thought was helpful as the transition to remote learning was navigated were the four key priorities laid out by the provincial government and said he would speak briefly to each of these areas as they apply to West Vancouver Schools.

A Healthy and Safe Environment

The top priority identified by government was the provision of a healthy and safe environment for students, families, and employees. The Superintendent said his first thanks go to our custodial staff, who provided thorough deep cleaning of all our buildings over spring break. He said they continue to make a tremendous ongoing effort to thoroughly clean our schools and noted we are extremely fortunate to have daytime custodians in our district. Having this existing infrastructure made addressing this top priority easier to accommodate. Custodians are the front line in this area, but all staff have taken this matter exceptionally seriously. As we move from Stage 4 to Stage 3, the incredible amount of work that has been done to follow WorkSafeBC and Public Health safety directives will become evident, as we welcome more staff and students back into our buildings.

Provide Services to Support the Children of our Essential Service Workers (ESW)

Director of Instruction Sandra-Lynn Shortall led the work in this area and the Superintendent said she did a wonderful job of setting up our ESW School at Hollyburn. He highlighted features on the school done by the CBC and The Vancouver Sun and Province among others, emphasizing the guiding values of "Care, Comfort, and Connect". Over time, the number of

students we are supporting has continued to increase, with more than 40 registered right now, and it is anticipated that those numbers will grow in the coming weeks as the BC economy restarts. We will continue to ensure that we can provide care for those students five days a week.

Support for Vulnerable Students or those that need special assistance

Once we had in place the support for ESW students, we turned our attention to vulnerable students and those who may need extra supports. They have been supported all along by EAs and LSTs, but we were welcoming more of these students into our schools each week, in order to provide structure and support not possible remotely. The Superintendent pointed out that government wisely never declared schools closed, which allowed specialist teachers like LSTs, ELL, and EAs to be in schools and provide the care, comfort, and connection that our most vulnerable students need. Director of Instruction Shortall and Director of Instruction Liz Hill were both instrumental in directing this work and the ongoing ESW support.

Provide Continuity of Learning Opportunities for all students

The Superintendent wrote a blog post about this topic several weeks ago, outlining the challenges districts face in this area. The greatest challenge has proven to be finding the right level, with some parents requesting full time instruction involving five hours a day of streaming instruction, while others have said that they will not be engaging in learning opportunities until we are back in the classroom full time, saying that they can deal with learning at home in the meantime. Then there is a group in the middle, who are looking for a robust weekly program that they can support at home as parents. That is the approach where we have tried to find our niche. Many of our teachers have regular synchronous or asynchronous (recorded) lessons for their students; there are weekly learning plans; and teachers are in regular contact with students during school hours five days a week. We know that remote learning in some form will continue, even as students return to the classroom. He said he wanted to recognize the incredible work that has been done by teachers and remarked on the new skills they have acquired around teaching, assessment, and technology in a short period of time. Our teachers put a focus on connecting with students and on their overall health and well-being first, which was so important during what have been challenging circumstances for so many of our families. New ways of learning then grew naturally from those relationships.

The Superintendent reiterated that he wanted to express nothing but praise and admiration for the work of our teaching and support staff, supported by administrators. From the work done during spring break by administrators, to hundreds of teachers logging in to an online meeting at the end of spring break to learn what teaching and learning would look like moving forward, every step of the way, he said people have stepped up. Even among the anxiety and uncertainty throughout the system around health and change, the response of our staff and the support received from parents has reaffirmed the work we have been doing.

Looking forward, we are poised to have our largest Summer Learning program ever, with over 1000 students having registered so far. The program this July is limited to students currently attending West Vancouver public schools. It will be largely remote, supported by some in-class instruction, but will be truly a blended model. We are waiting for information around funding, and the government has asked that senior students and full credit classes are prioritized. Building capacity, particularly at elementary, will need to be considered.

The Superintendent then reviewed the five stages of the Education Restart Plan, as laid out by the Ministry of Education. We are currently working under Stage 4, with only ESW and vulnerable students in school, and instruction for most students taking place remotely. It was announced last week that on June 1, we will move to Stage 3, with voluntary in-class instruction happening 1 – 3 days a week, depending upon grade, with remote learning opportunities still being provided. He said he knows there have been a lot of questions about what exactly this will look like. Later today, he will send a communication to all staff, outlining what this will look like for us, and a parent survey is also being distributed, so that we can understand the interest level in returning to voluntary part time in-class instruction. Parents will be asked to complete the survey by Friday and their responses will guide what our programming looks like as we move to Stage 3.

He concluded by saying the last eight weeks have seen a real shift in what our lives look like, but again he praised the incredible work by all staff, students, and parents who have kept the learning going and kept our students' health and well-being front and centre. As we move to the next phase, there is some trepidation and anxiety, but also some excitement as students and teachers look forward to seeing each other and bringing closure to a school year like none other.

The Chair asked about graduation and the Superintendent noted that this situation is particularly frustrating and disappointing for our grade 12 students. Beginning in June, the Kay Meek Centre will be used by each secondary school to allow students to walk the stage in their caps and gowns and have photos taken with the principal. This will be done in small groups and then presentations put together with speeches and performances included in an attempt to recreate a traditional commencement ceremony as best we can in these times. Launch parties in some form will be held on June 20 by each school and the presentations released for viewing. It won't be the same, but it is hoped these will be keepsakes of a unique graduation experience.

2. International Update

Michael Frankowski, Director – International Programs

The Director of International Programs Michael Frankowski reviewed what has happened with the International Student Program during the last few months. At the end of February, the department predicted lower enrolment for 2020-2021, based on early awareness of COVID-19 as a result of the strong connections the program has in China. Early in the budget planning process, he provided the District Leadership Team (DLT) with three scenarios for lower enrolment. Those were based on new and returning student numbers and a curtailed recruitment season, as the Director cancelled all overseas travel in early January when it became apparent the virus seemed to be more powerful than originally thought. After February, however, things changed quickly.

He said one of the biggest moments for us in terms of student safety was around the leadership West Vancouver's program showed around report cards. Taking the ministry guidelines, Superintendent Kennedy made the decision to provide term 2 grades for a final report card. This is what was needed to allow our fee-paying students, particularly secondary students on the graduation path, the comfort to return home. Ultimately, 176 (61%) of our secondary students and 18 (15%) of our elementary students returned home. Returning the 176 secondary students home was a huge undertaking, as communication had to happen with students, natural families at home, homestay families, agents, airlines, airport personnel, taxi and Uber drivers etc. He said it was a massive undertaking and also

involved a lot of “emotional labour”, dealing with students who are having to leave unexpectedly and are worried about graduation or are unable to properly say goodbye to friends and teachers. Elementary student families were less concerned about their report cards, and more concerned about the learning and the experience. Elementary fee-paying students are required to live here with a natural parent, which makes isolating easier, and many elementary families are staying to wait for in-person instruction to resume.

When continued learning was established, proactive communication was undertaken with students, families, and homestays so that everyone was aware that students are still able to learn and be engaged. With regard to grade 12 graduation, normal processes around ensuring requirements are met were stepped up. Weekly attendance was taken and is a good indicator of success. Unfortunately, ELL is more challenging in an online environment so the ELL team stepped up to try and create more contact with those students.

A voluntary withdrawal program was set up and will be running for two weeks, between May 18-29, 2020. For practical planning reasons, we need stable enrolment figures now, so it was felt this program was prudent. This program offers a 100% refund to new students, rather than the usual 66%. This is out of a recognition of so many unknowns, many of which are beyond our control, such as the federal government policies around border closures, issuing of study permits etc. For returning students, a 67% refund is available if they choose to withdraw, versus the usual 50%. The refund for returning students is lower, as many of them are still here, or already have study permits and accommodating, so there are fewer unknowns for them. Thus far, no returning students have withdrawn.

Moving forward, of the three scenarios provided to DLT, one has become the most realistic. Those scenarios were based on both qualifiable and quantifiable input, including an understanding of the situation in other countries or how many students already have study permits etc. The government has shut down the permit office during the pandemic and there is no word when it will re-open. Originally, a drop of 24% in enrolment was anticipated to be the most accurate, but the Director has now settled on a reduction of 45% as being the most realistic and fair prediction.

This reduction in enrolment of 45% equates to a drop of \$4.5 million in revenue. There remains little direction from the federal government around border closures and permit offices, as well as some uncertainty from the provincial government about what September will look like for schools. COVID-19 case numbers are now peaking in other countries around the world and the airline industry has been entirely disrupted.

We will re-examine the possibility of late acceptances in September and may have the potential for a mini-recruitment season during the summer. We will need homestays for those students, however, and there may be some attrition as a result of health concerns or retirements. At this point, we are down more students than we are homestays, but we are not pushing homestay families for decisions at this point. Other districts, including Delta and VSB started withdrawal programs before we did, but our situation is slightly different. Our program is one of the most diverse, but that means we are affected more than some other districts, for example by the growing number of COVID-19 cases in Brazil, from where we have a number of students. As well, there are a number of sequential things that have to happen before a student can join the program, including the issuing of study permits and entry visas, and booking flights. At the best of times, study permits typically take 45 days to be issued, so with the backlog that will be in place when offices eventually re-open, it is

unlikely students will receive those permits in time to begin classes in September. That means that after mid-July, any real increase in September enrolment numbers is unlikely. Associate Superintendent Martin said the district is constantly staffing, so if enrolment does increase and we have more blocks at secondary, those blocks will be staffed accordingly. She said it is a good labour market at the moment and we will be able to pick up good teachers if needed to respond to demand.

3. School 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. Considerations for financial hardship are always included. He noted that the fee schedule presented and recommended for Board approval is based on a Stage 1 return to school in September, under the Education Restart Plan. While this is not guaranteed, it provides a starting point for fees and adjustments can be made as necessary, according to what stage we are in. All fees align with AP 505 and Section 82 of the School Act. He highlighted a modest increase in elementary band fees to \$390 from \$375 but pointed out that it is still less than the \$500 cost in the neighbouring district.

The Chair thanked the Associate Superintendent and said she appreciates the alignment of fees at all three secondary schools, and she knows parents will too. In response to a question from Trustee Donahue, the Associate Superintendent said that the financial hardship process for families begins at the school level, first with the program teacher or supervisor, then school administration, then to the district level.

#1488	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board approve the school and academy fees for 2020-2021 as proposed.
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Carried.

4. Provincial Bargaining

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

The Chair said that she was pleased to announce that, as everyone probably is aware, a settlement was reached between BCPSEA and the BCTF. She said this was fabulous news, as it is one of the few negotiated settlements over the last couple of decades, and she extended her congratulations to everyone on both bargaining teams for their hard work and diligence. She also thanked Renee Willock and Spencer Capier of the WVTA, as well as Associate Superintendent Martin and her team for their respectful and effective work on local bargaining.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Human Resources Committee Meeting

The April 7, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

2. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – May 12, 2020

The April 12, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Committee Chair Stevenson briefly reviewed the minutes and reported that although the WVPFS fundraising campaign is on sabbatical and the formal contract with a professional fundraiser has been concluded, work on the project is continuing. With the possibility of a new federal stimulus package being introduced, a tender for technical drawings is being prepared by the District of West Vancouver, with costs to be shared with the school district. This is in anticipation of the requirement for projects under the new stimulus package to be “shovel-ready”.

The items on the Five-Year Capital Plan were reviewed and we have now received funding to allow completion of phase two the Ridgeview HVAC upgrades which began last year. Other items of note include building enclosure upgrades at Westcot, Sentinel, and WVSS, and funding for new universally accessible playground equipment at Chartwell.

The bylaw was read by the Board Chair on behalf of Committee Chair Stevenson:

#1489 MOTION THAT the Board approve A BYLAW of the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.45 (WEST VANCOUVER) (hereinafter called the “Board”) to adopt a Capital Plan of the Board pursuant to sections 143 (2) and 144 (1) of the *School Act*.

WHEREAS in accordance with provisions of the *School Act*, the Minister of Education (hereinafter call the “Minister”) has approved the Capital Plan of the Board.

NOW THEREFORE the Board agrees to do the following:

- (a) Authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to execute Project Agreement(s) related to the expenditures contemplated by the Capital Plan;
- (b) Upon ministerial approval to proceed, commence the Project(s) and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete each Project substantially as directed by the Minister;
- (c) Observe and comply with any order, regulation, or policy of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board of the Project(s); and,
- (d) Maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the Project(s), as may be prescribed by the Minister.

NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

- 1. The Capital Bylaw of the Board for the 2020/21 Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent dated March 5, 2020, is hereby adopted.

2. This Bylaw may be cited as School District No.45 (West Vancouver) Capital Bylaw No.20/21-CPSD45-01.

READ A FIRST TIME THE 19th DAY OF MAY, 2020;
READ A SECOND TIME THE 19th DAY OF MAY, 2020;
READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 19th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

Carried.

The Annual Facilities Grant project slate was then reviewed, with items limited strictly to maintenance issues for 2020/21. Typically, we look for efficiencies when undertaking projects, so that modernization work can be done at this time. In the current financial climate, however, this is not possible.

#1490

MOTION THAT 2020/21 Annual Facilities Grant expenditure plan be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Carried.

The Committee Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer and her staff for keeping trustees well-informed about the budget process in difficult circumstances. He then passed the floor to the Secretary Treasurer who briefly reviewed the funding portion of the 2020/21 preliminary budget. She reported that these are indeed unprecedented times, and we are facing funding challenges in this district that we have never experienced before. There are four major factors that need to be considered: estimates for the final financial results for the 2019/20 school year; changes in the funding formula introduced by the Ministry of Education resulting in a net decrease of \$300,000 in our block funding; a 45% reduction in international student enrolment; and an estimated structural deficit of approximately \$6.1 million, which will have a direct impact on our reserves estimated at \$2.5 million. Details of each, as outlined in the minutes, were summarized. The School Act prohibits districts to file budgets with structural deficits, so district staff and school administration are working hard to find savings wherever they can to address the remaining shortfall of \$3.65 million. Details will be shared with trustees in the near future, as well as all stakeholder groups, and the full budget will be presented in the Finance and Facilities meeting on June 16, before being forwarded to the Board for adoption at the June 23 regular board meeting.

The Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer and said the Board will be looking at details and making decisions that are thoughtful and preserve the quality of education available to our students in West Vancouver.

Vice Chair Brown noted that trustees will be having a Metro meeting online tomorrow and it is anticipated the new funding formula will be discussed. She said it has been difficult to ascertain exactly what effect the new funding formula has had, but it does seem to have been harder on the Metro region and has lessened funding, relative to the rest of the province. She asked the Secretary Treasurer if that was an accurate description of the situation. The Secretary Treasurer said it was, as she and all other Metro Secretary Treasurers share information about the impact on local budgets and a decrease in funding. The changes shifted dollars from the block per student funding to the areas that are more likely to be felt in Northern regions, such as geographic factors, heating, snow-removal and transportation requirements. There was a shift in where funding was directed and while we

did benefit from that to an extent with geographic factors coming into play with Lions Bay and Bowen Island, overall, our block funding was reduced. Both the Vice Chair and the Secretary Treasurer noted that these changes were implemented before the pandemic situation, which is unfortunate given current circumstances, but the full impact was unseen until the funding announcements were made at the beginning of spring break.

Trustee Donahue asked the Secretary Treasurer to remind people what the international program revenue allows us to do as a district. She replied that those funds are significant in allowing us to do what we do despite changes in Ministry funding, and are always treated as part of the operating grant, as they are in many other school districts. That locally generated funding allows West Vancouver to do things districts lacking International programs cannot, including provide daytime custodians, noon hour supervision, the teacher device program, and classroom projectors, among others. She said with COVID-19, stringent WorkSafeBC guidelines, and the planned return to part-time instruction, she is very grateful for our great custodial staff, who are working even harder than usual to keep buildings clean and safe for staff and students. She concluded by saying that she is confident that the cost-savings identified so far will allow us to continue to operate and provide an excellent education to our students and serve all the Board's goals as laid out in the Strategic Plan. Moving forward, as international enrolment increases, she said there is the opportunity to be very thoughtful about how those funds are spent and, ideally, hold them as a separate fund to be drawn upon, rather than being included in the operating grant.

#1491	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting held May 12, 2020 be received.
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Carried.

I. FOR INFORMATION

The Chair noted that as per the new board Strategic Plan, work is being done to modernize language throughout our administrative procedures, as well as to remove duplicate or redundant information.

Most recently, housekeeping changes have been made to the following administrative procedures:

- AP 218 – Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses
- AP 300 – Student Registration, Enrolment, and Placement
- AP 461 – Employee Absence from Work

The updated procedures have been posted on the public 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

The Chair thanked trustees for their hard work prior to spring break and said she is looking forward to being able to get back out into the community again in the future. She noted that she and the Superintendent will be online with DPAC tomorrow morning, fielding questions from parents and listening as schools reconnect and share what has been happening in their communities.

"A Conversation" with DPAC BCSTA Provincial Council Cedardale's IB Exhibition Coho Society for the North Shore (Virtual) Eagle Harbour Visit Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting with Jordan Sturdy re: Covid 19 (Zoom) Metro Branch Virtual Meeting Pink Shirt Day Flash Mob	Presidents' Committee Meeting Ridgeview Staff Visit School District Traffic and Safety Committee Sentinel Multicultural Lunch Squamish Language Lessons Weekly Board Chair / BCSTA Calls – re: Covid 19 Weekly Trustee Briefings re: Covid 19 West Bay School's "Give me Five" Presentation WV Aboriginal Education Committee WVDPAC Meeting
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L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Renee Willock – President, WVTA

- Asked about balancing the restart of in-class instruction with remote learning and noted that the School Restart Plan said that districts must ensure that teacher workloads are not increased as a result
- Said she is hearing from teachers who are putting in 12-hour days to provide emergency remote learning and asked what assurances she could give them about their workload not increasing further on June 1

The Chair replied that there are a lot of discussions around this concern in school districts and at the provincial level, and that BCTF President Terry Mooring is working closely with the Ministry of Education around this issue at the moment. She noted that there is a local Labour Management meeting this afternoon and encouraged Mrs Willock to bring up these concerns there with Associate Superintendent Martin. The Chair said she does not know anything more than what Mrs Willock will have heard, only that Minister Fleming has indicated that they are doing everything they can to help with workload.

Spencer Capier – Vice President, WVTA

- Said teachers are concerned about the rapidly-changing understanding of COVID-19 and what constitutes safety protocols and PPE
- Said that while the current Ministry standards suggest that wearing masks is optional, we continue to hear from reliable media outlets like the CBC and Globe and Mail that children are able to transmit the virus to each other and the adults that care for them, with examples of this happening in Ontario and Quebec
- Although BC has performed better than most of North America in flattening the curve, will the district go above Ministry guidelines and provide masks and PPE to its staff who request them?

- More importantly, is there a reliable and sufficient supply of hand sanitizer for every classroom in the district as we move to Stage 3?

The Chair said they have been asking regularly about the supply of hand sanitizer and have been assured that we are adequately supplied. She said if necessary, she would happily go to a local retailer and buy large tubs of it herself if necessary, in order to help. She has been assured, however, that classrooms will be ready and adequately equipped for the return of staff and students. She noted, too, that there are very strict health and safety protocols that have been rolled out by WorkSafeBC about how things are to be managed. With regard to PPE, the Chair said she is reading and hearing many of the same reports as Mr Capier, and at this time, the district is following the guidance of the Public Health Office and Dr Bonnie Henry. She did say, however, that as with all operational matters, questions about PPE could be brought up at Labour Management meetings, and she encouraged Mr Capier to do so.

The Chair encouraged Mrs Willock, Mr Capier, and anyone else listening to bring their questions to the board and to forums such as Labour Management. She said there will be numerous questions that arise over the coming weeks, from trustees and others, but we will navigate this together, with the safety of our students and staff remaining the top priority.

The Chair concluded by thanking everyone for their patience during this unusual meeting and thanked teachers and support staff for their hard work as we rolled out online learning. She said she knows there have been some glitches, but thanked students and families for the way they have engaged in the opportunities presented. She particularly mentioned senior district staff and school administrators who have been putting in 12-15-hour days, six and seven days a week since spring break. On behalf of the Board, she again thanked everyone in the district and said that no one expected this situation when we took on our jobs, and that she is so proud of the work being done in West Vancouver Schools.

M. ADJOURNMENT

11:16 am

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER