



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 5:00pm

ON-LINE via 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; L. Hill, Director of Instruction; I. Kennedy, Director of Instruction; S-L. Shortall, Director of Instruction; D. Nelson, Director of Instruction

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked everyone for joining the meeting 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

"Circles In Schools Program via North Shore Restorative Justice" - Gleneagles Ch'axáy Elementary

Principal Aron Campbell, Vice Principal Christine Hulme, Student Eva

In a video presentation Principal Aron Campbell and the students of Gleneagles Ch'axáy shared their collaborative partnership with the North Shore Restorative Justice Society and their Circles in Schools Program. The Society's initiative is aimed at providing children and youth with the skills to transform conflict, heal relationships and create stronger communities, both inside and out of the classroom. Since 2013, Circles have been held weekly at Gleneagles Ch'axáy. A trained

facilitator sits in “Circle” with the students teachers and support staff to lead a series of discussions. A talking piece or stone is passed providing the opportunity for unhurried, respectful sharing. The topics that are addressed in the Circles support the core competencies of the B.C. curriculum, particularly the personal and social competencies, communication and critical thinking. Positive personal and cultural identity development is the focus in term one. In term two, the focus will be on personal awareness and social responsibility and term three will focus on conscious listening and how it connects to conflict resolution. Circles cover many of the topics within the health and career curriculum including self-identity, diversity, stereotyping, inclusion, exclusion, empathy, peer pressure, conflict resolution, self-awareness, self-regulation and mindfulness, as well as learning the differences between needs, rights and responsibilities. Lessons learned through participation not only help students grow as individuals but also benefit the entire school community, develop more rounded learners and most importantly, citizens. The long-term goal is to promote a more restorative culture in each school community. The Circle is a space to show who you really are, to learn about yourself, develop an awareness about others and create a more empathetic community.

“A Little Bit of History: A look into the history of Lions Bay” - Lions Bay Primary

Principal Aron Campbell, Vice Principal Natalie Mendes, Students Feroze, Emmitt and Lucas

As Lions Bay Village is currently celebrating 50 years as a village, Lions Bay Primary is currently studying the history of Lions Bay Village with the goal of creating a time capsule. The community has contributed to their study, and they included the contributions in their presentation by sharing photos, videos and information about the history of Lions Bay. Students were asked why it is so important to learn about history. The children replied that it was so people could see how life has changed and to tell their grandchildren about things that happened and how things looked. The students said they would like to learn more about the marina and how and why it was built. They would also like to learn about the indigenous people. Students Lucas, Emmitt and Feroze shared what they have learned about the history of Lions Bay. Lucas enjoyed learning about the train and how big it is and how it transported people to far places. Emmitt shared that he learned the Sea to Sky highway used to be gravel and the beach had a pool. Feroze’s favorite fact was that the volunteer fire department was mainly run by women. When asked what it would be like to bury a time capsule, Emmitt replied that in 20 years people could learn more about what they like to do now. Feroze said people will be able to see how things compare.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1514 MOTION THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting November 17, 2020 be adopted.

Carried.

D. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Outgoing Chair Carolyn Broady passed the floor to Secretary Treasurer Julia Leiterman for the election of Chair of the West Vancouver Board of Education for 2020-2021.

The Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for Board Chair and Carolyn Broady was nominated by Trustee Donahue.

Nominations were called for a second and third time. There being no further nominations, Secretary Treasurer Leiterman asked Trustee Broady if she was prepared to accept the position of Board Chair to which she accepted and thanked everyone for bestowing such a great honor on her. Secretary Treasurer Leiterman declared Carolyn Broady Chair of the Board of Education 2020-2021 by acclamation.

E. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Secretary Treasurer then passed the floor back to the newly re-elected Chair. Chair Broady called for nominations for Board Vice Chair and Nicole Brown was nominated by Trustee Block.

Nominations were called for a second and third time. There being no further nominations, Nicole Brown was declared Vice Chair of the Board of Education 2020-2021 by acclamation.

Chair Broady noted that after the board meeting a new list of school liaisons, as well as a list of internal and external community and provincial committees that the Trustees sit on will be posted to the website.

F. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Sherry Ghorbankhani, Caulfield parent

- Thanked the district for the TTP extension but asked why the district has not extended the program until the end of this school year?

Superintendent Kennedy explained that TTP was designed to be a temporary program for families not ready to return to school. DL is the best solution for families looking for

a more permanent online solution as it is a fully robust online learning program. Families currently in the TT Program were recently sent a letter assuring them that their spot would be held in the fall should they want to transition to a DL program in the current year. Information gathered from a survey sent to TTP families showed that families were looking forward to returning to in-person learning in the spring, possibly because COVID-19 cases may be down at that time, so the decision was made to extend the program until Spring Break. He noted that it is hard to predict what will happen in the coming months, so while the extension was made only to spring break, the plan will be reviewed again in February, and he gave assurances that the district will be working with families again, just as they have with the first extension.

Herb Lo, Irwin Park Elementary Parent

- Thanked the district for the TTP extension but asked why the district has not extended the program until the end of this school year?

The Superintendent referred to his previous comments, noting that the TTP is designed to be a temporary program to transition families back to school and is not intended to be a fully online program. If a child is immune-compromised, or their caregiver is immune compromised, the school principal should be advised of this as there are learning supports available for students who are immune-compromised through the Hospital Homebound Program.

Coralynn Ghel, Caulfield parent

- Noted that she understands that the district cannot mandate masks but asked why elementary schools can't encourage a mask culture by having grade 6 and 7 students wear them in common areas and be role models for younger students.

Chair Broady answered that the decision does lie with the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Henry and the Education Ministry and that the district does not have the ability to mandate masks. When recommendations were put forward in the summer, accommodations for the high school students in common areas were deliberately set for middle school and high school. There will be numerous opportunities coming up as we move out of interregnum in the next few weeks, to speak to the new Minister of Education once appointed, as well as Dr. Gustavson. As this is a great concern to both parents and staff, the board will be taking all concerns forward. When asked if the district is restricted from encouraging mask wearing in schools, she replied yes, Dr. Henry's orders must be followed, and the district does not have the ability to mandate masks in school. When asked if the schools could encourage mask wearing in school, she said that she would encourage parents to encourage their children to wear masks,

but that mandate does not come from the schools and that there is a different set of rules for schools and workplaces which is what Dr. Henry was referring to on Monday. Associate Superintendent Martin added that the BC CDC, the Ministry of Health, the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafe BC guidelines are not optional, the district must follow them and what is being asked for is something different than what is set in those guidelines.

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting October 20, 2020

#1515 MOTION THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 20, 2020 be approved.

Carried.

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Trustee Donahue asked Chair Broady to explain what interregnum means and how it impacts the board's work.

Chair Broady explained that once the writ was dropped with the provincial election in September and until the new cabinet is sworn in by new lieutenant governor, B.C. is in interregnum, which means most business, unless emergency, is put on hold and only day to day operations can happen in each of the ministries. Once cabinet is named, local concerns will be taken to the new Minister of Education when appointed.

Trustee Brown asked how the new relationship with Dr. Harding and Vancouver Coastal Health is.

Superintendent Kennedy answered that he is very pleased with Dr. Harding as he has been exceptionally responsive. The district has been in contact as situations emerge and he has been available at night and over the weekends as needed. He made himself available to do a Q&A with us and the North Vancouver school district. Dr. Harding and the other health officers joined all Metro Superintendents for a follow up session.

Trustee Brown asked if Director of Instruction Diane Nelson could give an update on how the 10 premier academies are doing after the first quarter semester.

Ms. Nelson reported that all academies are running and students are excited. The activities have improved mental health and wellbeing. Some of the outdoor academies have moved indoors, with smaller numbers and strict protocols as required by COVID-19 restrictions. The teachers in charge are well versed with the safety protocols of the facilities.

Trustee Block asked Associate Superintendent Martin for comments on teacher absences.

Ms. Martin shared that there has been a slight increase in absences due to teachers taking safety protocols seriously and staying home when they have any symptoms so as not to bring any illness into the schools. Waiting for COVID-19 test results also contribute as staff are required to stay home until results are received. What was a single sick day absence in the past is now multiple days at home. We have not had any failure to fill issues and the District continues to look for and hire great TTOCs to fill in for teachers.

Chair Broady asked for clarification on where the funding for TTP comes from.

Superintendent Kennedy explained that while the regular school plan for the year was based on Ministry funding, the TTP was funded entirely out of Federal Covid support funding. The federal funding was intended to help school districts across the country return to school through additional technology, transportation, PPE. However, an exceptionally large portion has been used to fund TTP. The Federal funding is only offered for one year.

Chair Broady asked Associate Superintendent Sean Nosek if there are currently any classes with over 30 students, and if so, how teachers are compensated for those classes since the quad timetable works differently than the linear system.

Superintendent Nosek reported that as of today, one class, PE 10, is over 30. Effective tomorrow with the start of the new term, there will be no classes over 30. Regarding the timetable, he explained that schedules were already built out and teachers had the advantage of knowing who their term two students were and could adequately prepare.

I. BOARD BUSINESS

1. English Language Learners Report

Maria Yioldassis, District ELL Coordinator

District ELL Coordinator Maria Yioldassis thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to present. Ms. Yioldassis reported that the ELL population in West Vancouver Schools continued to grow over last year. Although the growth was not as high as previous years due to COVID-19, there was an increase of 2.7%, resulting in 1355 students claimed and funded district-wide. ELL Specialists continue to provide targeted language support to both students and teachers in Elementary and Secondary schools. In Elementary, there may be some pullout with beginner students, and in Secondary there are language- adapted courses. ELL Specialists continue to work with the classroom teachers, and this year more than ever, the setting is more collaborative as they look at the curriculum together, co-teaching.

At SIOP (Inclusive Practices training) in January, four sessions with 120 participants from six school districts learned together, side by side. Teachers could collaborate within their district as

well as create opportunities for shared ventures with other districts. Most importantly, a uniform view was created on how to support not only ELL students, but all students. Feedback was positive from all sessions. Wanting to keep the momentum going, the teachers shared their SIOP learnings of inclusive practices during staff meetings. When other teachers wanted to learn more, Ms. Yioldassis partnered with Ms. Anne Hunter of the Vancouver School Board to create a virtual presentation called “Quick Tips”. Nearly 70 people attended the one-hour online session where teachers were given instructional tips and learned strategies to engage their ELL students. A second session is scheduled on Dec 7/ The goal is to have four Quick Tips sessions.

Ms. Yioldassis noted that she continues to work with and support teachers via various organizations as well as parents and the community. She summarized the various aspects of her role and reviewed various projects and committees she is working on. Especially proud of the creation of the West Vancouver ELL Brochure, she explained that the brochure was created with the Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Richmond and Vancouver school districts. Captured in this brochure are key facts, visuals and quotes for parents to refer to. The brochure will be distributed to the district’s schools and information is available on the district webpage. She continues to work with organizations such as the ELL Trustees Consortium, the ELL Metro Consortium, ELL Mini Metro, the ELL Assessment Consortium and the Ministry of Education.

The Board Chair Broady thanked Ms. Yioldassis for her presentation and said she was looking forward to more stats later in the year.

2. Return to Sport

Ian Kennedy, Director of Instruction, Lara Winstone, Athletic Director, Teacher and Coach at Sentinel, Jo-Anne McKee, Athletic Director, Teacher and Coach at WVSS, Erin E, Grade 12 Student and Volleyball Player, Harris C, Grade 9 Student and Football Player at WVSS

Director of Instruction Ian Kennedy provided an overview of how the district has kept athletics on track during COVID-19. With benefits such as health, fitness, enjoyment, a sense of school spirit, mental health & wellness, social interaction, connection to peers and a sense of normalcy during a pandemic, it was important to ensure students had the opportunity to participate in sports this year. In order to move forward, all mandates and safety guidelines from the ministry of education, the health authorities and BC School Sports had to be met to ensure a safe return to sport. The district created a template to assist coaches and athletic directors. The template outlined social distancing, how to cohort, where, when and how to wear masks, what to do with shared equipment, how to minimize contact in drills, how to understand and space and place, hand hygiene, health screening, player education and informed consents from parents to allow each sport to have their own plan. As sport is considered to be in Stage 2, schools are permitted to practice and play within cohorts while minimizing contact.

Athletic director, coach and teacher at WVSS Joanne McKee reported on behalf of both WVSS and Rockridge. Cross country, field hockey volleyball and rugby were played at Rockridge, and she shared images of the athletes playing. Ms. McKee reported that WVSS ran volleyball, cross

country, football and rugby. She shared that they learned that participation is valuable. Without having traditional cuts for team, more students could participate in skill building opportunities. While competition is important and was missed, this year mentorship opportunities between the older students and younger students could happen.

Athletic Director, coach and teacher at Sentinel Lara Winstone shared photos of students participating in cross country and volleyball. This year fun was the focus and as a result, girls that would probably not play in a normal year, participated, and more experienced students helped less experienced students. As a competitive person, she wondered if increased participation and a focus on fun would work well and didn't realize how much she would get from the experience.

Student Erin E, a grade 12 Sentinel student, explained that she was worried that she wouldn't be able to play volleyball in her grade 12 year and was relieved that the Superintendent and the schools developed a plan to play in a modified way within cohorts. Although it wasn't the same as a regular volleyball season, they could still play the game they love and benefited from one last year of coaching from coach Dave Gibson. Students that don't have the opportunity to play every year were able to play this year, and the more experienced players could help the less experienced players develop their skills. Overall, this was a positive opportunity, and she expressed her appreciation for the coordination involved in making sports a priority during a trying time.

Harris C, a 9th grade student at WVSS, talked about how fortunate it was to have the opportunity to play on the Junior Varsity football team. The practices created a sense of community by meeting new kids from other grades. It allowed them to get outside and off the computers which they have been spending so much time on. Masks were worn and there was no physical contact, which was challenging for football, but the coaches made it work. Practices were fun, safe and a good workout. It was a great experience and he enjoyed learning a new sport. His grandfather went to WVSS and he is proud to wear the Highlander uniform. Sports are a huge part of Harris and his friends' lives, as well as a part of their school experience. He hopes that they will continue to have great sport experiences like they have had this term.

Director Kennedy closed by sharing that plans for winter sports are basketball, other co-curricular activities, training and conditioning. All will be cohorted again.

Board Chair Broady congratulated Director Kennedy, Director Nelson and Superintendent Kennedy for their commitment to ensuring that sports matter, and for finding a way to make their plans work. Chair Broady voiced concerns about the students' mental health and stated that allowing students to participate in activities outside of the school calendar is exceptionally important. A large portion of her current work is around the long-term effects this pandemic is going to have on our youth, and she would like to honor and thank all of the coaches and athletic directors as a lot of their time committed is voluntary.

3. BCSTA Provincial Council

Sheela Donahue, Trustee

The 2020 Provincial Council was held virtually on October 24th. The BCSTA Finance and Audit Committee meets six times per year and is supported in their work by Jodi Olstead, BCSTA's Director of Finance. Budgets are approved at Provincial Council and the statements are audited by Smythe LLP. At present COVID has resulted in some unusual expenditures due to cancelled events but overall, we are in a surplus position of \$159,000 of which \$98,000 is COVID-related. It is expected that this surplus will be drawn down in subsequent budgets. The Finance & Audit Committee requests all member Boards of Education provide feedback to be used to develop BCSTA's 2021/2022 budget draft, which will be presented to the February 2021 Provincial Council. The Finance & Audit Committee, Board of Directors, and staff are all committed to using membership dollars to their best effect and Boards will have an opportunity to provide feedback at that time and again prior to adoption of the budget at the April 2021 Provincial Council. The submission deadline for feedback with regard to budget and service priorities is Monday, December 14, 2020. School district survey feedback or questions can be sent to Finance & Audit Committee via Jodi Olstead at BCSTA. At the council meeting, COVID, learning loss, and cost pressures arising from the forecasted 2021-22 provincial deficit were dominant concerns province-wide. Provincial Learning Council, Indigenous Education Committee, and the Legislative Committee all reported on their work. At the November Public Board Meeting, Trustee Brown shared that Motion 0.3, which asked BCPSEA, PSEC, and the Ministry of Finance to exempt the K-12 sector from the Public Sector Executive Compensation Freeze Policy, was carried, as were the other motions highlighted last month: 10.1 An Enhanced Co-Governance Approach for the Recovery Stage of the COVID 19 Global Pandemic, and 9.1 Climate Change Working Group.

Chair Broady noted that another motion that was passed was around anti-racism and creating anti-racism committees.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance + Facilities Committee Meeting

- November 17 meeting cancelled

K. FOR INFORMATION

[AP148 Privacy Breach](#)

[AP180 Freedom of Information](#)

[AP185 Records Management](#)

[AP185 Appendix – Records retention schedule](#)

[AP380 Student Leadership](#)

[AP403 Remote Work](#)

[AP500 Budget Preparation](#)

[AP510 Fiscal Management](#)

[AP515 Purchasing](#)

[AP516 Investments](#)

[AP518 Disposal of Equipment & Assets](#)

[AP520 School-generated funds](#)

[AP525 Ethical Partnerships](#)

[AP530 Insurance Management](#)

[AP531 Student Accident Insurance](#)

[AP540 Facilities Management](#)

[AP541 Building Grounds Security](#)

[AP543 Environmental Stewardship](#)

[AP544 Elementary School Playgrounds](#)

[AP544A Playground checklist](#)

[AP545 Rental of School Facilities](#)

[AP546 Use of surplus facilities](#)

[AP550 Transportation](#)

L. CORRESPONDENCE

M. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

BCSTA Board Chairs Meeting BCSTA Framework in Action - Tony MacKay BCSTA Gay Robinson BCSTA Metro Meeting BCSTA "Network of Inquiry" Call with MLA Jordan Sturdy START (School Traffic Advisory Round Table)	DPAC Parent Event with Dr. Kang DPAC Regular Meeting Liaison meeting with WV Police Board Meeting with Mayor Booth and CAO Bartlett Presidents' Committee VCH Health Update Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremonies
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At this time Trustee Stevenson took a moment to commend the schools and the incredible assemblies they held in observance of Remembrance Day. He appreciated how thoughtful and inclusive the videos were.

N. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Herb Lo, Irwin Park Elementary Parent

- Thanked the district for the TTP extension but asked why the district has not extended the program until the end of this school year?

The Superintendent referred to his previous comments, noting that the TTP is designed to be a temporary program to transition families back to school and is not intended to be a fully online program. If a child is immune-compromised, or their caregiver is immune compromised, the school principal should be advised of this as there are learning supports available for students who are immune-compromised through the Hospital Homebound Program.

Renee Willock, WVTA President

- Ms. Willock commented that while it is recognized that schools have increased safety measures, teachers are asking for increased protective measures within the school. They know that the district has provided increased air filtration, that everyone is diligent about hand hygiene and children are staying home when sick. But as distancing is not possible within the classroom, masks would provide another layer of protection. At a time where masks are recommended for indoor spaces but not in the classroom, the WVTA is going to shift that through conversations with Vancouver Coastal Health. She asked Superintendent Kennedy and the board to use their influence to help shift the mask guidelines for the schools so they can be as safe as possible.

Chair Broady assured Ms. Willock that she will be taking her concerns forward and will be meeting with Dr Gustavson, second in command to Dr Henry. She noted that as mentioned, the district must follow the guidelines as they are currently set, but everyone hears loud and clear the concerns of the parents and staff.

Bert Behzad, Irwin Park Parent

- Works for a company that sells air purifiers that have sold and donated hundreds of units to schools in Vancouver. Asked if West Vancouver has a different policy regarding purchasing as he has emailed a few times but still didn't hear back.

The Secretary Treasurer thanked Mr. Behzad for his interest in helping children and noted the district is always grateful for contributions by parents and PACs and recognized that it is unfortunate that Mr. Behzad feels that he did not receive an adequate response. Due to the complexity of the numerous and frequent changing guidelines and directives from the ministry, the district has been inundated with sales offers from a multitude of health and safety providers for all kinds of items. She reassured Mr. Behzad that we take health and safety for the students and staff very seriously. A number of parents were interested in offering something for their own child's classroom, but we take a coordinated district-wide approach that will benefit every site and every classroom. When it came to ventilation, we did just that. Senior team reviewed all health protocols and guidance, and adjusted HVAC systems accordingly, adjusting settings to provide 100% fresh air at all times, and starting air circulation 2 hours before staff and children enter the building for a complete air exchange, and run the systems a final time in the evening after everyone has left. The number of air exchanges has also been increased throughout the instructional day. We are also shifting to Merv 13 from Merv 8 filters, which will be received before Christmas break. Finally, the 29 classroom and 11 portables that did not have HVAC systems have been provided with mobile Hepa air scrubbers. Units that purified the maximum volume of air with the lowest decibel level were chosen. She apologized again that Mr. Behzad felt his communications were not heard but asked that he trust that the classroom ventilation is being dealt with at the highest possible level.

Shannon Banal, Pauline Johnson and Eagle Harbour parent

- Asked what innovative ideas are being considered as we see our infection numbers rise to uncomfortable levels? She is hearing a lot of "our hands are tied", but notes this is a district that has often paved their own path and why are they not doing so now?

Chair Broady replied that the district is currently doing a lot of work in preparation for this. In the summer work was done to prepare to move through the various protocol stages. Adjustments are always being made to follow the health and safety protocol updates, while continuing to ensure that we are offering the best education to the students in the classrooms, as well as supporting the families in the Temporary Transition Program. She added that the district works innovatively while slowly marching through every step, ensuring that students and staff are kept safe during these times. Superintendent Kennedy echoed Chair Broady's comments and noted that thoughtful design was put into all five stages should the district need to move between stages. At this time the high school students are participating in focus groups, giving feedback on the first quarter so improvements can be made for the second quarter. He noted that academics and athletics are always in ongoing refinement, as well as the TTP program which has been adjusted for the second quarter after feedback was received through the survey.

David Oliver, Parent at Caufield Elementary

- Asked if the results of the TTP survey could be shared

Superintendent Kennedy explained that two separate surveys were sent out. The first was directed towards families returning to school during this transition time, and the second was a follow up survey for our own internal planning so that the district can look at possible refinements to improve the program moving forward. A high-level overview that reviewed the key findings of the survey and what directional changes will be implemented for the new quarter was shared with parents this week. The Superintendent said that he would take Mr. Oliver's request back to the school administrators to see if there is more information to share that parents might find useful.

Emily Lapkin, West Bay and Gleneagles parent

- She heard Principal Kim Grimwood's estimate that only about 10% of students are wearing masks voluntarily at West Bay and asked if teachers can encourage mask wearing as the way teachers in other districts have done, possibly via a "masks are fun" challenge where kids make their own PSAs to encourage other kids to wear masks.

Associate Superintendent Martin explained that the District has been working closely with the WVTA, meeting weekly and sometimes more to discuss the health and safety issues that come up. There are Health and Safety Committees at each site as well as a District Health and Safety Committee that meets monthly. This week, she and the WVTA worked together on messaging that teachers could use in classrooms around mask wearing. Specific questions about this should be directed to your school principal as they are up to date on this. She stated again that the District is locked into the various guidelines that are set by the health authorities but will adapt when and if rules change. She noted that Board Chair Broady has mentioned that all these concerns are going to be raised at the Provincial level.

O. ADJOURNMENT

7:14 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER

