



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

Present: C. Broady, Chair; S. Donahue, Vice Chair; N. Brown, L. Block; 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; S-L. Shortall, Director of Instruction

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair 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 honor the Elders past, present and future, as we bring this knowledge to the students in the community.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHT

"A Culture of Belonging at GEC" - Gleneagles Ch'axáy Elementary

Principal Aron Campbell, Vice Principal Robyn Evans, Teacher Shawnah Staples, Student Kaia M

Principal Aron Campbell and Vice Principal Robyn Evans shared how the integration of Indigenous culture and language allow the students of Gleneagles Ch'axáy Elementary to feel safe, welcome and connected with the school community. During the morning announcements, each day begins with an indigenous greeting and land acknowledgement followed by the Coast Salish Atheneum. The Squamish Nation totem animal Takaya the wolf is used to connect the core competencies with First Peoples learning. Grade seven teacher Shawnah Staples and her student Kaia M highlighted another Gleneagles cultural practice called "the Beats", where the class will clap a series of different rhythms in unison to work together towards one goal.

“Map Making to Create a Sense of Place” - Lions Bay Community School

Principal Aron Campbell, Vice Principal Natalie Mendes, Student Jake B

Last spring, local resident John Dudley challenged the students of Lions Bay Community School to create a map of Lions Bay Village and name a local creek. Vice Principal Natalie Mendes and grade three student Jake B explained how the students created a map that includes trails, houses, and illustrations of marine wildlife that are local to Lions Bay. The students chose to name the creek “Bellybutton Creek”, a reference to a joke between the students and Elder Sahplek Baker of the Squamish Nation.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1592	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting December 14, 2021 be adopted.	Carried.
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D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting November 16, 2021

#1593	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 16, 2021 be approved.	Carried.
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- General Record December 14, 2021

#1594	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the General Record December 14, 2021 be approved.	Carried.
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Broady reminded Trustees of the deadlines to submit motions for the upcoming BCSTA Provincial Council and AGM.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Superintendent’s Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Kennedy gave a brief update on several topics.

Enrolment Summary

As of the end of November, overall enrolment sat at 7194, a slight increase over September and an increase of almost 100 students over last November, largely driven by growth in international student enrolment.

School Highlights for the Fall

Administrators reported that students and staff were excited about the return of athletics and in-person fine arts performances. The elimination of cohorts has allowed for more connection between the younger and older students. Reduced COVID- related stress has allowed the community to attend school events and feel more connected.

Things to Watch in 2022

As previously reported by Director of Instruction Sandra-Lynn Shortall, Early Learning and Childcare will begin to shift to the K-12 Education sector. Additionally, beginning in the 2022/23 school year, provincial on-line learning will only be provided by a few districts that have been selected by the Ministry. This creates an opportunity for individual districts to offer local online learning without the full infrastructure that is required to be an online school. The ADST curriculum, particularly robotics, is growing quickly. The West Vancouver School District hosted the largest ever robotics competition in Canada in December.

A new reporting order may come into effect next fall, which could mean changes to district communications with the community. . Potential changes are aligned with the work the district is already doing

Vancouver Coastal Health Updates

VCH continues to focus on vaccinations. Vaccination rates in both North and West Vancouver school districts are the highest in the province. While currently they are offered only at mass clinics, targeted clinics at schools may be offered in the new year.

VCH remains committed to providing support for student mental health. Some limited overnight student travel has been permitted under the guidance of VCH. There are no updates on graduation, but VCH has been clear that vaccination requirements do not apply to K to 12 events, and venues are responding positively.

Secondary Timetable Planning

The timetable structure for the 2021/22 school year was informed by student, teacher and parent feedback, and additional feedback will be gathered before deciding on the 2022/23 timetable.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Sense of Belonging

An Active Bystander Training session with Alden Habacon took place during the last Pro-D Day. Unconscious Bias & Intercultural training, Mental Health Framework and Ethical Leadership Standards are upcoming trainings and topics for the future.

Superintendent Kennedy, members of the District Leadership Team, and parent and teacher representatives belong to the BC Equity in Action group. The group's goals are specific to the Indigenous students in the district.

International Education Update

While academics and attendance are stronger than pre-COVID, evolving federal rules are causing confusion and could continue to impact the program in the future. Homestay availability remains a limiting factor but applications for the 2022/23 school year are well underway.

Elementary School Focus

Elementary schools are currently focusing on literacy, sense of belonging and positive mental health. As noted earlier, there are new tools for communicating student learning and assessments.

Framework for Enhanced Student Learning

The FESL's three areas of focus are academic success, preparation for the future and school connectedness. Superintendent Kennedy is currently participating in a Ministry Pod Program with districts from across BC. Feedback is expected in the new year and plans will be updated in the spring to align with school plans.

UBC / Metro School Districts Research from COVID – Elementary Grades

The district participated in a study done by UBC and the Metro Vancouver school districts to highlight strengths and identify challenges to learning during the pandemic.

2. Digital Learning Update

Cari Wilson, District Innovation & Technology Lead Teacher

Sean Nosek, Associate Superintendent

District Innovation & Technology Lead Teacher Cari Wilson shared how the West Vancouver School District is preparing students to be responsible digital citizens. She highlighted examples of online lessons and resources that teachers can access and explained how the district is futureproofing the schools and students by offering computational thinking and coding classes.

3. Mental Health Framework

Maureen Lee, District Principal

District Principal Maureen Lee discussed the Ministry's Framework for Mental Health, reviewing its four pillars and the district programs that promote student mental health. She noted the district is also supporting the mental health of the district staff, so that they can better support the students.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – December 7, 2021

Trustee Stevenson reviewed the minutes of the December 7th meeting, sharing that the Bowen Island Community School's playground project is close to completion. The Ministry awarded \$165K to fund the new playground equipment through their PEP fund.

Initiatives from our Carbon Neutral Report were shared, including the ongoing elimination of rodenticides, mask recycling boxes in schools, new high efficiency boilers at Gleneagles and a new heat pump at ILC.

Secretary Treasurer Leiterman reviewed the 2021/22 Amended Budget revenue, noting that the district will not receive a final funding statement from the Ministry until mid-December. Current estimates indicate higher funded and International FTE, resulting in increased revenues of close to \$1m.

#1595	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Finance & Facilities Committee December 7, 2021 be approved.	Carried.
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I. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of Board correspondence is posted online.

J. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Trustee Brown highlighted the artwork of grade 10 Sentinel student Maya Costea, who won the Senior Colour Poster category of the Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day Contest.

Board Chair call re: state of emergency Board Chair meeting with Minister Whiteside & Dr. Ballam BPP Reception BCSTA Fall Academy BCSTA Metro Meeting DPAC Meeting	DWV Council and WV School Board meeting Finance & Facilities Meeting Holiday Concerts (various schools) NV & WV Boards met with Dr. Choi President's Committee Meeting Trustee School Visits (various schools) VCH Coastal Health Update
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K. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS PERIOD (10 minutes)

L. ADJOURN

Julia Leiterman