

**MINUTES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 3:30 PM
Skwo:wech Elementary School**

PRESENT

Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair
Maya Russell, Vice-Chair
Daniel Connelly, Trustee
Marc Andres, Trustee
Cheryl Sluis, Trustee
Elliott Slinn, Trustee
Dee Beattie, Committee Chair

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Guests:
Members of the Public
Kathleen Chad, Principal Skwo:wech Elementary School
Bruce Cunnings, Director, Instruction, Learning
Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction-Learning
& Innovations
Tanis Anderson, District Vice Principal – Early Learning
Ileana Neilson, Manager, Early Learning & Child Care
Darren Elves, VP Skwo:wech Elementary School
Robyn Ryan, Teacher Skwo:wech Elementary School

REGRETS

Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Weston, Executive Directory Human Resources

Committee Chair Beattie recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on who's traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play, and we do our work.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm

Moved to Seconded

THAT the agenda for the November 8, 2022, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PRESENTATIONS

Supporting Literacy at Skwo:wech

Presented by Principal Kathleen Chad, students, Erica, Georgia, Sadie, Mateo, Natalie, Teacher Robin Ryan, and Vice Principal Darren Elves

- Principal Kathleen Chad welcomed everyone and on behalf of Skwo:wech Elementary and the New Westminster School District recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on who's traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play, and we meet today.
- Principal Kathleen Chad provided a summary of the story of the school learning plan at Skwo:wech.
- Principal Chad spoke about the shift from a focus on Social & Emotional Learning to literacy and the strategies being used in the school. Students, Teacher Robyn Ryan, and VP Darren Elves shared stories as well as a video.
- Students Erica, and Georgia gave acknowledgement to the peoples, and territories of where we live, learn, play, and work.
- Sadie, Mateo, and Natalie presented on one of the social emotional learning tools they use, the Mood Meter. "How are you feeling and What can you do to be your best self" They interacted with the audience, asked people to share how they felt right now and explained how they can help each other, with suggested strategies, deep breathing, and brain breaks.
- Robin spoke about being introduced last year to the Early Literacy Reading Assessment. She shared a video of her conducting a performance-based assessment while a student, Alex read "The Snail."
- Vice Principal, Elves spoke about how a focus on literacy & identity will impact all students and continue to move the school forward. "Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story."
- Trustees thanked everyone for their presentations and for sharing of their stories.
- Principal Chad shared information about a project related to Indigenizing the school space. A PowerPoint presentation displayed art from a local artist – Elinor Atkins. This art will be installed in the school (Learning Commons). The artist has also illustrated which will also be available in the Learning Commons. A committee selected the art piece.
- The Trustees provided brief comments of appreciation.

3. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

No comments were provided.

4. **STUDENT VOICE**

Shantei Leal & Porya Dashtipour introduced themselves to the Board. They provided a preview of the 2022 Fall Survey and shared some key questions. This survey is being promoted within the school by having volunteers walk around with a QR code for students to scan. Currently there have been over three hundred responses. The Survey will stay open for another 3-4 weeks. Results will be shared at the next meeting in February 2023

- Question: Is there a way to track replies between staff and students?
 - Answer: No, this survey is only for students; however, staff were consulted about the questions.

Chair Beattie introduced Stacy Brine – Student Voice Lead Teacher

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Literacy Update (T. Anderson)

- Two frameworks to support teachers. Literacy and Numeracy.
 - Teachers to model and share reading
 - Ensure assessment aligns with instruction
 - Biggest impact on kids is when the teacher is well versed in teaching literacy
 - Report cards should be a confirmation not a surprise
 - Two professional learning series being offered - Faye Brownlie Elementary and Jennifer Katz Middle School
 - Reading identity – asking students how they want to read, what they like to read
 - Tanis shared some books she is currently reading and explained the types of books she reads for different moods ex: cookbooks when she is tired
- Questions to members on what books they are reading
 - Darren shared he was a good reader but never loved reading until he read Watership Down
 - Trustee Slinn: “The person who doesn’t read lives one life – the reader lives many lives.”
 - Trustee Russell mentioned that when she was in school, she found it difficult to stop reading after only one chapter. Her favourite book was Harriet the Spy.
 - Vice-Chair Beattie shared the Libby app that you can connect your library card to and have access to over four thousand magazines. She particularly enjoys viewing sailing magazines.
 - Members took a “brain break” and toured the Strongstart centre in the school
 - Tanis introduced our new Early Learning & Child Care Manager Ileana Neilson

b. Board Authority Authorized Courses (M. McRae-Stanger)

- Some highlights from the presentation:



- What is a BAA Course - a course developed by teachers in a specific school district, meets the needs, interests, and passions of students, provides flexibility and choice, promotes engagement and student success
- BAA Course requirements – guided by Ministry of Education, credits count towards graduation program, courses cannot be used toward Adult Graduation, do not have pre-requisites
- BAA Course creation and approvals – submissions in October, Board presentation/approval November/December, submitted to Ministry in December, new courses selection process in January for September start
- Courses can be used between districts within the Province
- No new BAA courses submitted for 2023/2024
- Questions from members
 - Trustee Andres asked if there were students or teachers interested in Climate Action courses. Answer – Current course available for Grade 11/12 Environmental Studies
 - Trustee Slinn wanted to know if there was a set minimum class size and if BAA courses are listed in the course handbook. Answer – Yes

6. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm