



New
Westminster
Schools

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

**Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, 4:30 PM
School Board Office**

PRESENT

Marc Andres, Committee Chair
Maya Russell, Trustee
Cheryl Sluis, Trustee
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee
Elliott Slinn, Trustee

Mark Davidson, Superintendent
Geraldine Lawlor, Associate Superintendent
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Pam Craven, Director of Instruction – Leadership and Learning
Melanie Smith, District Vice Principal-Safe and Caring Schools
Rick Bloudell, Manager of Community Projects and Partnerships

REGRETS

Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary Treasurer
Kathleen Carlsen, Trustee

Committee Chair Andres recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose 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 4:30 pm

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the November 12th, 2024, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

Nil.

4. **STUDENT VOICE**

Nil.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

- a. Board Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses Update (Pam Craven, Director of Instruction – Leadership and Learning)

What is a Board/Authority Authorized 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

- courses **are**:
 - guided by specific Ministry of Education procedures
 - elective credits (grades 10-12) that count towards graduation in 2018 Graduation Program (28 credits of 80 must be electives)
 - ELL, Indigenous requirements
- courses **cannot** be used toward the Adult Graduation Program

BAA Course Creation and Approval

- Submissions in October
- Board presentation/approval: November/December
- Ministry documents submitted: December
- New BAA courses included in course selection process in January for a September start

Are All BAA Courses Offered Every Year?

Currently we have 37 active BAA courses

BAA course offerings are determined by:

- teacher interest, qualifications & passion
- student need/passion/request/enrolment
- available resources: space, materials, access to specialty equipment and outside supports
- timetable coordination

Current BAA Offerings

Applications for Learning	Student Leadership	Cultural Identities
Desktop Publishing	Laboratory Technology	Peer Tutoring
Yearbook	English Language Learning	Hockey Academy
Volleyball Skills	Self-Efficacy	Psychology
Basketball	Football	Lacrosse
Traditional Trades and Tool Making		

Most of these courses were developed as separate Grade 10,11 and 12 courses.

New BAA Course for Approval for 2025-2026

Introduction to Investment 12

This course will look at topics such as investing, financial products, financial markets, stock ownership, financial statement analysis, evaluation methodologies, ethical investing, and financial crises.

Key concepts and functionality related to money, banking, and personal investment decisions.

Why This Course?

Considerations: High School Students seem to have limited knowledge about the value of money and investments.

It is important for students to learn how to manage their finances and investments earlier in their life and they will have some ideas what to do with their hard-earned money once they start working.

Introductions to Investment: Big Ideas

Financial Literacy promotes the financial well-being of both individuals and businesses.

Tools and technologies can be adapted for specific purposes.

Business creates opportunities to enable change.

Trustee Dhaliwal made a comment that this course is a great idea and that it is nice that it is being offered.

Trustee Connelly questioned if there would be a struggle with the course offerings or a challenge at our schools.

Craven noted there is a minimum request of 18 attendees and that currently the investment club has 80+ students so they don't believe this will be a challenge.

Chair Andres acknowledged this is a great opportunity but wanted to know that students are being made clear that they are learning about this, and this is not advice.

Craven advised that Mr. Lam thoroughly did say they provide examples, and this is for knowledge not insider tips.

Chair Andres advised that there should be correspondence to parents informing them that the course is educational and should not be used as a source of financial advice.

BAA Board Motion:

Moved and Seconded

That the Education Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the following Board Authority/Authorized Course for the 2025/2026 school year: Introduction to Investment 12

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. School Safety: Erase Reporting of Student Concerns, Data Collection (Melanie Smith, District Vice-Principal – Safe and Caring Schools)

The erase strategy

erase=expect respect & a safe education

Objectives:

- Fostering safe, caring and inclusive school communities
- Supporting prevention and intervention strategies

Includes:

- Resources and supports
- Subject matter expertise and trainings
- Online reporting tool - erase.gov.bc.ca

What is the Report It Tool?

Erase 'Report It' tool for students

How has the Website Changed?

Erase Refresh: Work we've Completed

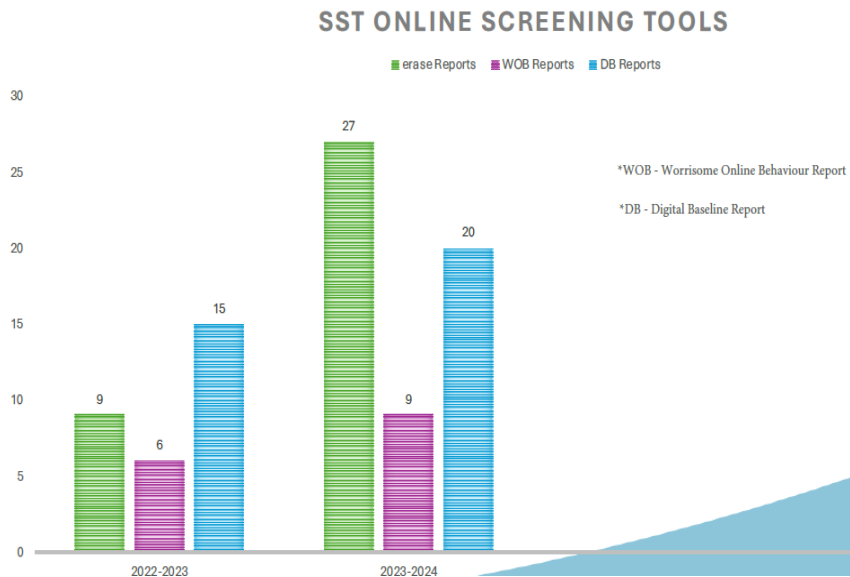
- Updated guidance and policy documents to reflect shift to Behavioural and Digital Threat Assessment (BDTM) model
- Updated documents included:
 - Community Threat Assessment Protocol Guide
 - Maintaining School Safety: A Guide for School and Police Personnel in BC
 - Safe and Caring School Communities Policy
 - Safe and Caring School Communities – Independent Schools Policy

Mobile First Design – online reporting tool with students in mind. User friendly design.

Critical Incidents and Reports – 2023/2024

- Critical Incidents
 - 1,265 critical incidents reported to Safer Schools Together
 - Threat-related behaviour (371, bullying/cyberbullying (143), school community concerns (139)
- Report It Tool
 - 1,951 reports
 - Nearly 60% increase as compared to 2022/23

erase Reports – New Westminster Schools



Police Contact Tracking

- Initiated 2023-24 School Year
 - Tracking
 - Origin of contact
 - School site
 - Nature of concern
 - File number
 - Conditions
- Reasons for Police Contact
 - Information Sharing
 - Identification requests
 - Safety concerns
 - Safety Concerns
 - Altercations
 - Weapons
 - Community concerns
 - Unsafe driving
 - Suspicious activity
 - Other Concerns
 - Child protection
 - Missing/elopement
- Police Contacts – Origin of Contact

- 2023-2024 School Year:
 - Approximately 41 Police Contacts recorded
 - Approximately 16 Conditions monitored

Data tracked & provided by Melanie Smith

- Focus 2024-2025 School Year
 - Improved communication
 - Youth Probation Officer
 - Situation table
 - Clarity in process and procedure – Memorandum of Understanding
 - Continued data tracking
 - Violence Threat Risk Assessment – participation in training

Trustee Dhaliwal question regarding worrisome online report and the digital base line report curious about are approach leading up as well as after the fact, students must feel like they are being violated and surveilled, are we working with students and parents, do we make assumptions and report to the police. How are we protecting student's privacy instead and working with them to correct the behaviour and not punish?

Smith advised with the WOB they we are cautious of how we approach students, any of the content that is viewable on any of these reports is publicly viewable content so anybody can go online. So, some of the work that is done with students is that if you were looking for a job the picture of you holding a replica gun that it is viewable by a potential employer or university. In terms of privacy that information is out there already. We work with students on having privacy settings, but this becomes a catch 22 because if there is concerning content, we don't have access to it. A lot of this is so dependent on the situation that the answer to the question is difficult. Reports are made to the police if there is danger to the community, for example if I see online pictures of firearms. In some cases, we don't act if the police advise there is an active investigation. But most of the time families are included in the process.

Trustee Russell it is my understanding those (reports) also included things flagged by social media companies themselves and passed on to the school, are we still accessing that, if a user flags someone's worrisome online behaviour.

Smith in that case Safer Schools would notify us if there was something relating to a safety concern for example if they were notified of that they would contact us and let us know. Whether that information was part of the WOB reports not sure but can look into that. There is still online monitoring they haven't dropped us from providing this information. That would be unethical.

Trustee Russell I'm also interested in the Digital Baseline report I'm not sure students would be aware that happens, in terms of suicidality I'm wondering if this is the best practice or if a conversation with the student would be more fruitful.

Smith to clarify if a student reported to me or a staff member that they were having suicide thoughts that doesn't automatically trigger me to pull one of these reports (Digital Baseline) that will always involve the counsellor and the school-based admin. If there are larger concerns or if the student starts to show up with evidence of self-harm, then we will investigate further.

Chair Andres thanked Smith for setting up a strong foundation, MOU with the police and the situation table, we commend you for the work.

c. Food Programs/Community Schools/Neighbourhood Learning Centre(s) (Rick Bloudell, Manager of Community Projects and Partnerships)

- Fuel Up! Update
 - Average number of daily orders is trending upward
 - Number of paid orders has also increased compared to last year
 - Evolving menu and new items
 - Sushi bowls
 - Jerk chicken
 - Teriyaki noodle bowls
 - Increased portion sizes
 - Student survey (Grades 4-8)
 - Late November/December

Average # of Orders per Day 571.5 for Sept/Oct 2024

Community School Programming

- 2023-24 Summary
 - 110 Programs
 - 1,663 Students
 - 11 Schools
 - 13 Partners

2024-25 Preview

- NWSS student involvement
 - Drama program for Grade 5 students
 - International student volunteers at Lord Kelvin, Fraser River Middle School, and Qayqayt
- Increase in programming from City of New Westminster Parks and Recreation
- Exploring new program options for January
 - Reading and crafts with seniors from Century House
 - BC Handball Federation
 - STEM

Neighbourhood Learning Centres

Wellness Centre

- Middle School presentations
 - Boundaries
 - Vaping
- Student Health and Wellness Fair at NWSS
- Parent Education Evenings
- Mental Health Summit for Middle Schools
- Lunch time programming

Services – District Clinical Counsellor, Cameray Child and Family Services, Lumara Grief and Bereavement Society, Child and Youth Mental Health, Health Promotion Worker and Nurse Practitioner.

Wellness Centre

- Nurse Practitioner Service

School Year	Time	Average # of Appointments per Day
2022-23	10:30 – 2:00pm	4
2023-24	10:00 – 2:30pm	6
2024-25	8:30 – 4:00pm	11

Welcome Centre

- 2 new English language learning programs for adults
 - SUCCESS BC
 - New Westminster Public Library
- Youth programming four days per week offered through MOSAIC and partners
- Community Navigator
 - Served over 300 individuals and families last year
 - Assisted in organizing 26 programs and events

Trustee Connelly inquired about Federal funding and if we have received any. Superintendent Davidson will find out and provide an update.

Committee members and Superintendent Davidson all commented on the good work and commitment Bloudell, and his team does.

6. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.