



New
Westminster
Schools

Strategic Planning & Direction: January 24, 2017

Creating our Mission & Vision Statements (part 4)

Creating our Mission Statement

At the Open Education Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held on January 10, 2017, the the Board of Education continued the process of establishing a Strategic Direction for the New Westminster School District. In the third of a series of meetings, the Trustees continued work on establishing a mission statement to guide our District in strategic planning and direction.

To establish a meaningful Mission Statement the Trustees were tasked with answering the following question: "Why do we exist as an organization?" The intent of this question is to help reach agreement regarding the fundamental purpose of our School District (and more specifically, what is the fundamental purpose of school?). This clarity of purpose will assist to establish priorities and will become an important factor in guiding decisions.

At the January 10, 2017 Education Policy and Planning Committee Meeting, Trustees worked through 54 draft mission statements that had been created and circulated by the Superintendent of Schools prior to the January 10th meeting. The 54 draft statements were developed based on the work Trustees had completed at the January 3, 2017 Special Open Board Meeting.

After further Trustee input, as well as extensive and concentrated debate and dialogue, the Board of Education agreed to narrow the scope of the draft mission statements to the following four options:

1. To engage each student in personal, meaningful and relevant learning.
2. To engage and enable each student to learn in a caring environment.
3. To inspire each student with relevant and safe learning experiences.
4. To engage and enable each student to learn in a caring and inclusive environment.

It is very important to note that these final four drafts should not be considered as the only options, but rather as another platform from which we can further refine and define our final mission statement.

Trustees have been individually tasked with taking these 4 draft statements and coming back to the January 24th, 2017 Special Open Board Meeting with one statement that they feel answers the following question: Why do we exist as an organization – what is our raison d'être? At the January 24th, 2017, Special Open Board Meeting, Trustees will again have further dialogue and debate on these statements.