

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

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 7:30 PM
Fraser River Middle School
800 Queens Avenue, New Westminister**

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Vice Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Trustee	Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee	Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
	Mark Gifford, Chair	Guests:
	Mary Lalji, Trustee	Debbie Jones, Principal, Fraser River Middle School
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Pam Johnson, Teacher, Fraser River Middle School
		Bertha Lansdowne, Aboriginal Education Coordinator

1. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

Item #3b. Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement was re-ordered to be Item #3a.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the January 8, 2019 Open Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentations

a. Fraser River Middle School Growth Plan Presentation

Fraser River Middle School Principal Debbie Jones introduced teacher Pam Johnson who along with grade 8 students, Abby, Anastasia and Queenie, presented a cross-curricular project called "Masks Across the Curriculum".

The students explained the significance of the masks, which they created and showed them to the Board.

b. Delegation Presentation - School District No. 40 (New Westminister) Menstrual Initiative

Dr. Selina Tribe, P.Geo., Instructor at Douglas College, reviewed findings regarding girls requiring the same level of support to ensure equal access to dignity, education, and social and emotional development relative to managing their menstruation.

The suggested motion was reworded to include direction to staff to bring back information to the February 12, 2019 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting. As well, that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Health and BCSTA pertaining to this initiative.

Moved and Seconded

To enhance the ability of students to manage menstruation without undue delay, embarrassment, financial burden, or shame, be it therefore resolved THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster), to direct staff to report back at the February 12, 2019 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting with information regarding the installation of coin-free tampon and pad dispensers in all girls and universal restrooms in elementary and secondary schools.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) that a letter be sent to the government (Ministries of Education and Health) and to the British Columbia School Trustees Association advocating for the menstrual initiative.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Reports from Senior Management

a. Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement

Aboriginal Education Coordinator Lansdowne, reviewed the finalized Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement. The Agreement survey received some deep and meaningful responses. Various initiatives have been launched as a result of the feedback:

- A peer group has been created to assist Aboriginal students in connecting with each other through various group activities such as snowshoeing and canoeing.
- Collecting baseline information from Kindergarten level will help to track development of students through their schooling.
- Ensuring text books are authentically Aboriginal.
- Transition program for elementary students moving to middle school was introduced in 2018.
- Orange Shirt Day to have the same prominence as May Day.

Additional information regarding funding and how funds are allocated to support Aboriginal education will be forthcoming in February. A recommendation will be brought forward at that time regarding the ongoing funding of this initiative.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) that the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, be endorsed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. School Growth Plans

Associate Superintendent Naser provided an update. School Learning Plans help to identify what the focus will be within their school community and to have students understand what a growth/learning plan is.

This is an ongoing process, constantly reviewing the process and ensuring that it fits the students. The schools/students reflect throughout the year as to what the role of the school community is to support the growth/learning plans.

Schools align professional development goals with the school growth plans such as literacy.

4. **General Announcements**

Nil.

5. **New Business**

- a. Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

Trustee Gifford briefly reviewed the Calls to Action information.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to receive the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report, "Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future" and that, along with the New Westminster Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, commit the District to evaluating and reporting on our progress toward implementing its Calls to Action annually.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Special Education Review

Trustee Russell provided a brief overview of the background information pertaining to Special Education within the District. Every student has a right to an education. There may be an opportunity for a District-wide review; review the model; data, etc.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct the Superintendent to begin a comprehensive review of special education services and programs; AND THAT this Special Education Review include but is not limited to:

- examination of the District's Tiered Service Delivery model, Learning Services Handbook, Policies and Administrative Procedures,
- gathering and analysis of available data from a wide range of District sources,
- research promising practices and the evidence base from other jurisdictions,
- a District-wide consultation plan to learn from parents and caregivers, students, teachers, staff and interested community organizations,
- review in-service opportunities to support staff development
- formation of a review advisory group to include representation from:
 - Parents/caregivers of students with special needs
 - CUPE local 409 members
 - NWTU
 - NWPVPA
 - Board of Education
- plan for ongoing consultation and engagement, and
- alignment with the District's mission to enable each student to learn in a safe, engaging and inclusive environment;

AND THAT a Special Education Review Implementation Plan be presented to the Board of Education by May 2019, with monthly updates to the Education Policy & Planning Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.