

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

**Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 7:30 PM
New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS)
835 Eighth Street, New Westminister**

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Vice Chair Dee Beattie, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee Mark Gifford, Chair Maya Russell, Trustee	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary Guests Joyce Griffiths, Educational Assistant, Carson Graham Secondary School, North Vancouver School District Marcel Marsolais, President, CUPE Local 409 Murray McLeod, Principal, NWSS Veronicah McGhee, English Teacher, NWSS Shannon Isaak, English Teacher NWSS Warren Bleaney, Science Teacher, NWSS Darren Ng, Science Teacher, NWSS Steve Kungel, Technology Teacher, NWSS Val Pontier, Technology Teacher, NWSS Kelly Proznick, Visual Arts Teacher, NWSS Lindsay Waldner, Visual Arts Teacher, NWSS Bruce Cunnings, Director, Instruction, Learning Services Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director, Instruction, Learning & Innovations
REGRETS	Mary Lalji, Trustee Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer	

Chair Dhaliwal recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nations, 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. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm.

Agenda Items Moved:

- Comment & Question Period moved to Item #2
- New Business Item #6 to be discussed after Mental Health Update – Item #4a; agenda to be renumbered accordingly

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the May 7, 2019 Open Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- a. Appointment of Superintendent as Acting Secretary-Treasurer

Moved and Seconded

THAT Superintendent Hachlaf be appointed Acting Secretary-Treasurer, to preside over the May 7, 2019 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting, in the absence of Secretary-Treasurer Morris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **Comment and Question Period**

Joyce Griffiths, Educational Assistant (EA) and CUPE Rep. at Carson Graham Secondary School, North Vancouver School District, addressed the Board regarding concerns of how increasing hours for EAs has had a positive effect with the North Vancouver School District and to the success of the students with whom they work. She detailed how things ran in the past (bell-to-bell coverage) and now (pre- and post-bell).

Marcel Marsolais, President CUPE Local 409, also addressed the Board regarding the EA status within New Westminister Schools. He highlighted the importance of the work of the EA Committee and their role within the District.

3. **Presentations**

a. New Westminister Secondary School (NWSS) Learning Plan (Students/Teachers)

Principal Murray McLeod introduced himself to the Board and the audience. He became Principal in early April and has been enjoying getting to know the teachers and students at NWSS. He spoke of the importance of teamwork, communication and transparency to foster positive relationships within the school.

He shared a mind map he created to show what his ideal school looks like. Instructional leadership - teachers committed to continually improve learning / culture of inquiry / students involved in decision-making / what's best for all students at all times.

Department Presentations:

English - Veronica McGhee & Shannon Isaak

- Literary Festival - explore professional opportunities.
- Celebrate interdisciplinary connections.
- Honour diverse voices.
- Between the Lines Literary Festival:
 - Outside the Lines (SOGI focus) - drag performers read SOGI-related stories (90 students attended);
 - Drawing the Line - Boundary breaking;
 - Local Line-up - Metro Talent;
 - Line Break - Poetry Slam.
- Student Engagement activities.
- Department Culture: progressive assessment; interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Innovation Grant - Theories of Humour (assessment scoring holistic scoring guides).
- First Peoples Integration; Multi-modal forms of literacy; commitment to continued rigor & high assessment standards.

Science - Warren Bleaney & Darren Ng

- Exhibition Learning - presentation-based learning.
- Hands-on learning - how to engage students into deeper learning.
- Equip students with necessary knowledge and skill to perform a safe and professional demonstration of their learning that will amaze and educate them
- Engaging; Differentiated; Accessible.
- Electric Circus, May 27 for Grade 9 students.

Technology - Steve Kungel & Val Pontier

- Cross-department learning - where students share information and teach each other how to solve problems.
- 3D printing and laser cutter tools have expanded the learning horizons for students.
- Kyle showed three of the items he has developed and created using laser cutter and math skills.
- Future is to have more courses which integrate math science and technology- new school should provide more such opportunities.

Visual & Performing Arts - Kelly Proznick & Lindsay Waldner

- Art is transformative.
- Practice builds skills.
- Active art-making uncovers oneself.
- Expression; Imagination; Community; Belonging.
- Inclusive environment.
- Compassion and Empathy flourish.

Former Trustee Slade-Kerr briefly spoke about the impact of hands on Science learning on her children.

b. Mental Health Initiatives at New Westminster Schools

Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations McRae-Stanger provided an overview of the importance of mental health education:

- Mental Health Literacy is the ability to understand and obtain and maintain good mental health.
- Understand and identify mental disorders and their treatment.
- Connection between Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health Literacy (MHL).
- What is the data telling us - 30% of students in the District are not experiencing a high degree of mental well-being.
- Early Action Initiatives Grant of \$33K has been received from the Ministry for New Westminster Schools. The funds are being used to:
 - Focus on Zones of Regulation;
 - Introducing the RULER (Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating) Program;
 - Speaking and talking about behaviours - mindfulness;
 - SEL spaces in schools; flexible furniture; school goals; SEL Working Group be developed for upcoming school year.
 - District-wide mental health literacy training with Andrew Baxter, which took place in early April.
 - Teen mental health curriculum launched with grade 9 students at NWSS; follow-up from training to roll out to Parent Advisory Councils; mental health forum held at NWSS; mental health dinner series - April 30, May 13; May 27; Mental Health Week May 6-10.
 - Plans for 2020-2021 school year: SEL/MHL Working Group Committee; Plans to use the Teen MHL Curriculum from grade 6-12 adapted for each grade; potential for a MHL conference at Middle School level.

It was asked that students and adults with mental health challenges be included in creating the mental health curriculum; mental health model – to identify what are the drivers of mental well-being.

4. **New Business**

a. Proposed Changes to Education Assistants' (EAs) Hours Allocation

Trustee Beattie provided an overview of the backgrounder highlighting concerns around high absenteeism for Educational Assistants (EAs) in the district. EAs' workdays are calculated in minutes, no other job classification banks hours based on minutes, this causes a problem with recruitment and retention. We need to ensure that when a student enters the classroom, there is an opportunity for the EA to have sufficient preparation time.

It was asked whether the Board should consider hiring more EAs; however; it was suggested that this consideration be part of the special education review, which is taking place.

5. **Reports from Senior Management**

a. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hachlaf updated the Board briefly that sound system is being sourced for the live streaming.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to approve livestreaming for Open Operations Policy and Planning Committee and Open Board of Education meetings, excluding Education Policy and Planning Committee due to privacy concerns relative to showing children on camera.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Special Education Review May Update

Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings updated the Board. The District has engaged the services of Special Education Review Consultants, Susan Powell and Laurie Meston. The work involved in the Review is extensive and required a second person to help gather feedback and collate the report.

Next steps include finalizing the workplan, which will be presented at the June 4, 2019 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

Student voices will be included via focus groups.

c. Administrative Procedures Review - Categories 100, 200, 300

Associate Superintendent Naser, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations McRae-Stanger and Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings presented an overview of the Administrative Procedures (AP), which have been revised:

- AP 132: Closure of Schools Due to Inclement Weather or Other Hazards;
- AP 190: Copyright Compliance – new;
- AP 206: Plan for Alternative Delivery of Physical and Health Education K-10 - new;
- AP 240: Student Counselling Services - new;
- AP 354: Physical Restraint and Seclusion - new;
- AP 364: Course Challenge - new;

Concern was expressed around the implications of AP 206 that there is a possibility that parents may choose to have their children opt out of sexual health related activities. It is important to note that very few parents have chosen to have their children not participate over the past number of years.

d. 2019-2020 School Fees

Associate Superintendent Naser briefly highlighted the changes to the School Fees schedule. More alignment of school supply fees for elementary and middle schools which are optional:

- Elementary School Supplies: \$25-\$40 this is an optional fee
- Kindergarten Activities: \$20 activity fee has been removed
- Middle School Supplies: \$40 this is an optional fee
- Grade 8 Athletic Fee: has been standardized at \$25/sport across the District
- NWSS - BCIT Apprenticeship Programs: \$500 supplies fee has been removed

It was asked that staff ensure that communication to parents/guardians and any applicable school forms include information as to which fees are optional.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to approve the 2019-2020 School Fees as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. School Calendar Update

Associate Superintendent Naser explained the ten-minute increase in preparation time for elementary school teachers (110 minutes per week). The bell schedule 2019-20 has been adjusted to allow for this increase in preparation time; as well, the bell schedule is now aligned across the District so that all elementary schools will begin at 9:00 am and end at 2:55pm.

6. General Announcements

Superintendent Hachlaf mentioned that additional amendments to Administrative Procedures - Categories 400 and 500 be forthcoming to the June 11, 2019 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.