

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

**Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 7:30 PM
Connaught Heights Elementary School
2201 London Street, New Westminster**

PRESENT	Dee Beattie, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee Mark Gifford, Chair Maya Russell, Trustee	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent Robert Weston, Executive Director of Human Resources Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary Guests Jennifer Bourne, Principal, Connaught Heights Elementary Laurie Wong, Kindergarten Teacher, Connaught Heights Sharon Gregson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC Stacy Brine, Social Studies Teacher, NWSS (Student Voice) Marcel Marsolais, President, CUPE Local 409 Bruce Cunnings, Director, Instruction, Learning Services Cyndi Adams, School Nutrition Coordinator Quirina Gamblen, Director, Programs & Planning
REGRETS	Anita Ansari, Vice Chair Mary Lalji, Trustee	

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 7:37pm.

Added: Item 5d. Education Assistants

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the June 4, 2019 Open Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentations

a. Connaught Heights Elementary School Learning Plan

Kindergarten teacher Laurie Wong and three students presented Forest Fridays, a weekly outdoor program. Forest Friday dedicates time to connect with, learn, and play in nature. This program was first developed in Scandinavia and has been incorporated into the curriculum in many countries. Spending time in nature has proven health benefits for children and adults. It reduces stress and anxiety and improves concentration.

b. Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Sharon Gregson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, presented an overview of the \$10aDay affordable child care program.

Trustee Gifford thanked the Coalition for their work in the province and for bringing forward this initiative to New Westminster Schools.

3. **Comment and Question Period**

Marcel Marsolais, President CUPE Local 409, indicated that the \$10aDay affordable child care initiative is transformative to those families in need and encouraged the Board of Education to look at how this program could be introduced to New Westminister Schools.

A Queensborough parent spoke about the positive impact the \$10aDay child care would have for those impacted by the lack of available child care either before, during or after school.

4. **New Business**

a. BC Universal Child Care

Trustee Gifford spoke to quality, affordable, early childhood education (child care) as vital to the benefit of children, families, women's equality, employers and communities. The BC Government is now taking important steps to increase affordability, the number of spaces, and wages and benefits available to early childhood educators.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) that the Board endorse the \$10aDay Child Care Plan proposed by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Child Care New Spaces Funding Update

Associate Superintendent Naser confirmed that the Queensborough Middle School StrongStart Centre will change its hours of operation to 5-days a week (mornings 9am to 12noon). The StrongStart program will share space with the before and after school care. The sharing of resources will not impact any of the existing programs. Everyone is committed to ensuring that this initiative will be successful. The District is also pursuing funding opportunities.

c. Sanctuary Schools Update

Trustees Gifford and Russell provided an update relative to the Sanctuary Schools Policy. The Steering Committee has put forward some recommendations to assist with the implementation of the policy. The Committee last met on June 12, 2018. Next steps include reconvening the Steering Committee before the end of June 2019 to review and develop a plan to apply the recommendations.

5. **Reports from Senior Management**

a. Student Voice

Committee Chair Dhaliwal introduced Stacy Brine, Social Studies Teacher at New Westminister Secondary School, and a group of students who have shown an interest in participating at Board of Education meetings. The students shared a preliminary outline of what their participation at meetings could look like including the desire for a place and a voice at the Board table and the opportunity to bring forward concerns and matters of interest from schools, and to take information from the Board back to students in schools.

Committee Chair Dhaliwal clarified with the group which Board meetings they would like to attend to which students responded: relevant topics at the Committee level, as well as the Board of Education meetings.

A budget of \$15,000 has been approved in the 2019-2020 budget for costs related to having student representation at the Board meetings. Students will receive an invitation to participate at the meetings beginning in October 2019.

b. School Nourishment Program Update

Director, Programs & Planning Gamblen and School Nutrition Coordinator Adams provided an update. In the early stages of implementation, the following has been observed:

- The program is well-received and has seen growth, particularly after a Parents Advisory Council (PAC) event.
- Model is sustainable and will be implemented in other schools.
- UBC Researchers will be delivering a report of their observations from within the classroom by end-of-June.
- Families find it easy to access.
- Reaching the vulnerable student population and parents like the flexibility and choice.
- There is much less food waste compared with students who bring a home-made lunch.
- The cold items' packaging is now fully recyclable and compostable, including cutlery. Still need to devise how to make hot items more portable.
- Currently in a memorandum of understanding with the caterer, which is due to expire.
- The caterer has been very committed to the program, is very receptive to the feedback, is committed to making any requested changes and takes notice of those students who should be part of the program and may require assistance.

Discussion followed relative to the terms and conditions of the catering contract and the proposed 5-year term.

Next steps include contract negotiations with the caterer, and on-boarding the remaining schools starting in September.

The Superintendent requested that Trustees send him any additional questions about the School Nutrition Program.

c. Special Education Review June Update

Associate Superintendent Naser and Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings updated the Board as follows:

- Third consultant has been hired, Kathy Guild, who will assist where required.
- Special Education Review Advisory Group invitations have been sent to all stakeholder groups requesting that they provide names of possible Advisory Group members and alternates.
- The Board will be apprised as to who the Advisory Group members will be by school year-end.

d. Education Assistants

Trustee Beattie briefly addressed the newly launched New Westminster Schools' Education Assistant (EA) program and expressed concern about the number of instructional hours obtained by the EAs.

Executive Director of Human Resources Weston confirmed that the program is 530 hours of which 190 hours are practicum hours, one third of EAs hired recently have a 1-year program, and the focus for this program is for New Westminster District to attract EAs and develop them within the District.

6. General Announcements

Trustee Dhaliwal introduced the newly assigned New Westminster Record reporter Dustin Godfrey.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.