

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

Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 6:30 PM

POWER

200-1065 Columbia Street, New Westminster

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Vice Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Trustee	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee	Robert Weston, Executive Director of Human Resources
	Mark Gifford, Chair	Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Guests:
	Student Trustees:	Pam Craven, District Principal, POWER
	Rebecca Ballard	Lloyd Greene, Youth Care Worker, POWER
	Tony Jiang	Jim Russell, Teacher, POWER
	Sierra Rose-Hand	Anjala Banziger, School Psychologist
		Christy den Haan-Veltman, Teacher, NWSS
		Bruce Cunnings, Director, Instruction, Learning Services
		Quirina Gamblen, Director of Programs & Planning
		Emily Larkman, SLP/Reading Intervention
		Tammy McArthur, Teacher, NWSS
REGRETS	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 6:35 pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the November 5, 2019 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentations

a. POWER Learning Plan

District Principal Pam Craven introduced Lloyd Greene, Youth Care Worker, and Jim Russell, teacher at POWER who presented an overview of the Learning Plan as follows:

- Current enrollment: 35 students.
- Most students have selected the POWER program because it provides them with more flexibility and support in their learning.
- This program also supports students who require skills in self-management; conflict resolution; severe anxiety and depression.
 - Feedback from the students: they like the smaller classes; one-on-one with the teachers; self-paced work.

POWER Learning Plan:

- Increase students' social engagement; students will thrive emotionally, academically, and become whole and healthy learners.
- Students enjoy the variety of subjects including cooking; arts.
- Desired Impact: who, what, when, where, why & how.
- Hoping that the students will actively play a role in deciding on what subjects will be taught.
- Looking to the Future: Designing a learning model with the assistance of the teacher.

b. Literacy Presentation

Emily Larkman and Anjala Banziger presented an update on supporting struggling readers. By screening and intervening early, can reduce number of students who will require literacy support in Grades 3+.

In 2016, the District began to pilot the Early Reading Screening Tool (ERST) - designed in English and French; evaluates the skills shown by research to be most predictive of code-based reading difficulties; intended to be used as a universal screener in Kindergarten and Grade 1; can also be used in later grades for students needing to develop those skills; also used a progress monitoring tool for students receiving intervention.

Next steps include:

- Move towards Universal Screening Model in K/grade 1;
- Continue to work on solutions to data collection challenges;
- Monitor outcomes of literacy interventions;
- Continue search for intervention programs suitable for EFL population; build bank of age-appropriate decodable and hi/lo books available at all elementary & middle school sites;
- Provide guidance to classroom and LST teachers;
- Increase student access to e-books & audiobooks; ProD/In-service opportunities for teachers in Structured Literacy and the science of reading; increase opportunities for teachers to share experiences (successes and challenges in Tier 1/Tier 2).

3. Comment and Question Period

Nil.

4. Student Voice

a. Counselling at NWSS

Student Trustees Ballard, Jiang and Rose-Hand addressed the matter of counselling services at New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS). The current ratio of approximately 1 counsellor to 500 students is not optimal and they requested that additional counselling services be added.

International Program Student Trustee Jiang, conveyed the need for additional counselling support for the International Program.

Associate Superintendent Naser stated that the ratio of 1 counsellor to 500 students at NWSS is actually above the Ministry of Education's minimum ratio (1 counsellor to 693 students).

Superintendent Hachlaf explained that although the District's ratio is within Provincial standards, this would not preclude the District from introducing additional resources such as a wellness centre at the new high school.

5. New Business

Nil.

6. Reports from Senior Management

a. Career Programs Report

Presenters Tammy McArthur and Christy den Haan-Veltman updated the Board on the Career, Training and Work Options for students at NWSS. The redesigned curriculum includes two new courses delivered in Grades 10 and 12 - Career-Life Exploration and Career-Life Connections, which prepares students to be effective citizens and life-long learners; provides knowledge and develops personal and social skills for future career life choices. This semester, 77 students are enrolled in Youth Explore Trades Skills.

Plans include to increase classes from 2 to 3 next year; continue to grow WORK student portfolio; explore more dual credit options with local post-secondary institutions; increase work experience opportunities; create help centre for students applying to post-secondary institutions and scholarships; establish new career centre at NWSS.

Superintendent Hachlaf indicated that the Careers Program provides important opportunities for students, which the District will continue to support.

b. Special Education Review November Update

Director, Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings delivered the November update:

- Training meeting will be held on November 6.
- DPAC has reviewed the training plan.
- Scheduling of meetings with parents for third week of November (elementary school-level); December (middle school-level) and January for high school-level.
- Educational Assistants have been trained at ProD days; first session held on October 25 was very successful; another is scheduled for November 12
- School engagement process will start soon.
- ThoughtExchange survey will launch in the next couple of weeks; Special Education Review information will be posted on the District website.
- No dates have yet been confirmed for student engagement; when consultants' attendance at the sessions are confirmed, dates will be forthcoming.

c. Student Enrollment & Staffing Report

Associate Superintendent Naser updated the Board.

Enrolment is up by 104 students at the elementary and middle schools level; NWSS saw a slight increase of 42.87 students; a decrease of 41 Aboriginal students (graduating students and those not returning); and a deliberately planned decrease of 28 International Education Program students. Across the District have increased by 4 divisions in 2019-2020.

Non-enrolling staffing are nearly at the full complement (ratios) as required.

Executive Director of Human Resources Weston reviewed the CUPE staffing - increase in 11 Educational Assistants; increase of 1 custodian; decrease of 4 school clerical staff; and those captured in 'other' category increased by 11.

7. **General Announcements**

Nil.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.