

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

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 5:00 PM  
Via Webex Livestream**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Anita Ansari, Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Trustee	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Vice Chair	Robert Weston, Executive Director of Human Resources
	Mark Gifford, Trustee	Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Guests:
	Student Trustees	Members of the Public
	Jeryca Hechanova	Stacy Brine, Social Studies Teacher, NWSS
	Sam Killawee	Chris Evans, Principal, Glenbrook Middle School
	Anastasija Petrovic	Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager
		Emily Larkman, SLP/Reading Intervention
		Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminister Record
		Cathy McMillan, Dyslexia BC
		Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations
		Sarah Wethered, NWTU
		Carmen Woo, Teacher-Librarian, Glenbrook Middle School
<b>REGRETS</b>	Mary Lalji, Trustee	

*Chair Beattie 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 5:03pm.

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the agenda for the October 13, 2020 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. Presentations**

- a. Carmen Woo, 2020 Prime Minister's Awards, Certificate of Achievement Recipient  
On behalf of the Board of Education, Committee Chair Beattie presented the Certificate of Achievement to Carmen Woo, recipient of the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence. Carmen thanked the Board for their acknowledgement.
- b. Dyslexia Awareness Month  
Committee Chair Beattie introduced Cathy McMillan of Dyslexia BC. Cathy shared that she is the parent of two adult children with Dyslexia. The purpose and goals of Dyslexia BC were reviewed and their advocacy work with the Ministry of Education were highlighted. Approximately, 80% of all learning disabilities are Dyslexia or related to Dyslexia. The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada estimates that

10% of our population have a learning disability. Dyslexia BC is advocating for screening rather than diagnosing since screening can be done more quickly and economically. October is recognized as Dyslexia Awareness Month. Associate Superintendent Naser explained how Kindergarten and Grade 1 students at New Westminster Schools are screened three times during a school year; students identified with a learning disability meet with an intervention counsellor. Screening tools used within the District vary by grade level.

**3. Comment and Question Period**

Nil.

**4. Student Voice**

a. Restart of School Discussion

Committee Chair Beattie introduced the Student Voice Trustees, Jeryca Hechanova, Sam Killawee, and Anastasija Petrovic. Sam began the presentation with an overview of the responses provided by 205 students. Nearly half of the respondents attend NWSS in-person. Jeryca highlighted that about 75.1% of students are wearing their masks. About 54% prefer the quarter system. 68.3% students felt they are being supported by teachers and counsellors.

Anastasija provided a summary of the long-form responses, which were categorized into the following themes:

1. Quarter system is less stressful; less homework; more flexibility vs in-class and online learning; like the variety; social benefits - see friends at school; teachers are flexible and less people in the building which is making everyone feel safer.
2. What do you not like? Classes are 3-hour long; condensed so it's easy to fall behind; students feel more stressed as each course is only 10 weeks long; more negative than positive feedback regarding the quarter system for example half day of math and PE is more manageable than another course combination. Some students are not wearing masks in public areas; would like everyone to wear more masks.
3. Communication difficulties; develop a NWSS app and/or tweet on NWSS website to ensure that all students see communications; push out communication to all students.

Teachers have been very good about following up with students to ensure they do not fall behind.

Sam indicated that the survey feedback did not include many comments about transit concerns. BC Students for Change held a protest on September 22, which highlighted transit over-crowding concerns on buses.

Committee Chair Beattie thanked Student Voice for their thoughtful presentation.

**5. Reports from Senior Management**

a. Child and Youth Liaison Officers (CYLO) in New Westminster Schools

Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations McRae-Stanger, provided a brief background of the role and purpose of Liaison Officers at New Westminster Schools. The experience with Liaison Officers varies with one's personal history, background, relationship with police, therefore, it is important to look at the Child and Youth Resource Program through a trauma informed lens.

For almost 20 years, the District's Child and Youth Resource Unit consists of three Child and Youth Liaison Officers (CYLO), two of these are school-based in Elementary/Middle Schools and Secondary School. The third officer is community-based with the Alternate Programs (RCAP, POWER, and SIGMA). The Program is fully funded by the New Westminster Police Department (NYPD), which is a voluntary partnership with the District. CYLOs receive specialized training; they are currently re-assigned to other duties and are not in schools. The various duties and activities that the CYLOs engage in within the District were highlighted.

Liaison officers do not engage in arrests of students, they advocate for students involved in the justice system.

Next steps to include:

- Review of the program, connecting it to the Board's Anti-Racism policy work;
- Stakeholder input (including Student Voice Trustees) through a facilitated process;
- Update the 2011 Memorandum of Agreement with the police department;
- Commitment from NYPD for continued training of CYLOs around trauma and racism;
- Communication and education of the partnership; use of guiding documents.

The Board indicated there are conflicted feelings about the Liaison Officer Program. They support an independent review of the program by the District and asked that care be taken to not re-traumatize those who participate in the review.

**6. General Announcements**

Nil.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:24pm.