

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

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 5:00 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT

Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Dee Beattie, Vice Chair	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Anita Ansari, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Robert Weston, Executive Director of Human Resources
Mark Gifford, Trustee	Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
Mary Lalji, Trustee	Guests:
Maya Russell, Trustee	Members of the Public
	Tanis Anderson, District Vice Principal, Early Learning
	Anjala Banziger, School Psychologist
	Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction, Learning Services
	Ravinder Johal, District Principal, Equity & Inclusion
	Emily Larkman, Teacher
	John Lekakis, Vice Principal, NWSS
	Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record
	Murray McLeod, Principal, NWSS
	Kai Smith, SOGI Lead
	Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU

Chair Russell recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nation, 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 5:01pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the May 11, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentation

a. NWSS Presentation: School Learning Plan

NWSS Principal McLeod and Vice Principal Lekakis presented a video of students and staff sharing how their learning engagement has been enhanced by the new school.

3. Comment and Question Period

Nil.

4. **Reports from Senior Management**

a. Review Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Report

SOGI Lead Smith began the presentation by explaining how the use of the term SOGI is inclusive as it encompasses everyone within the LGBTQ community. SOGI programming makes schools and Districts safer. District Principal, Equity & Inclusion Johal explained that the District has [Policy 17](#) and [Administrative Procedure 117](#) in place, which have supported the inclusive culture and diversity. Staff are learning to speak in gender neutral terms. Provincial and regional contacts have been very supportive in sharing information.

Next steps will include navigating a "new normal"; further engagement with parents - Q&A nights and sharing the message that having SOGI available to our students is to their advantage and fosters understanding of others; sharing diverse resources. There may be an opportunity to have a space in the Welcome and/or Wellness Centre to provide SOGI information and support.

b. Literacy Support

Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings introduced Tanis Anderson, Emily Larkman and Anjala Banziger who provided an update on inclusive education pertaining to Recommendation 1.8, which ensures academic supports and interventions are in place to support students who are struggling in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Highlights included:

- Learning Support Teachers:
 - Combined model where Learning Support and English Language Learner teachers support one another in all school levels.
- Kindergarten to Grade 5 language arts - 8% Emerging, these are the students which require additional support from Learning Support Teachers
- Middle School - 5% Emerging
- Language Arts by Grade - students in the Emerging category does decrease by Grade 5; every learner will require different method of intervention.
- FSA Grade 4 - on-track or extending - within the District students are trending above the provincial level.
- Classroom instruction (40%); Targeted Support (40-50%) and Intensive Intervention (10%):
 - Rationale for Early Learning
 - All students are screened in Kindergarten (Term 2) and those students who require intervention are provided with support.
- Follow-up Screening to track progress and development.
- Ongoing assessment and progress monitoring
- Intervention programs
- District Literacy Support
- Continued encouragement implementing universal screening model for Kindergarten and Grade One Learners
- Summer Learning Day for Kindergarten and Grade One Teachers
- Pilot project for teachers that focus on early literacy skills; co-teaching and collaboration opportunities to support teachers as they implement new programs.
- Providing additional resources.
- District Book Clubs

It was asked how students in the upper grades are being supported around identifying dyslexia and other severe learning challenges. Teachers have resources and access to Learning Support Teachers. As well, further professional development with Jennifer Katz will focus on middle and high school level.

c. 2021-2022 School Fees

Associate Superintendent Naser provided an overview of the 2021-22 School Fee Schedule. It was asked what is being done to provide financial support to those who are in need. The District currently does not collect data on how many students are supported financially. Associate Superintendent Naser will follow-up.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of the 2021-2022 School Fees as presented.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.