

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

**Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 3:30 PM  
Learning Commons, NWSS**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair Danielle Connelly, Trustee Mark Gifford, Trustee Mary Lalji, Trustee Maya Russell, Trustee	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent Guests: Stacy Brine, Teacher, NWSS Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminister Record Murray McLeod, Principal, NWSS Matt Mitchell, Teacher-Counsellor, Coach, NWSS Susana Quan, Vice Principal, NWSS Ria Renouf, New West Anchor Miriam Schellenberg, Vice Principal, NWSS Connie Swan, District Vice Principal Indigenous Education Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU Student Representatives, SEAS & Student Voice Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary
<b>REGRETS</b>	Anita Ansari, Trustee Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources	

***Committee Chair Beattie 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. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 3:29 pm

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the agenda for the June 7, 2022, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 2. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Indigenous Education Report on Advancement of Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement & Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (Verbal) (C. Swan & M. Mitchell)

District Vice Principal Indigenous Education Swan highlighted the numerous initiatives that were undertaken by the Indigenous Education department, some of which included middle school drum making, NWSS Moosehide Campaign, ISW Handbook, Sto:lo Sitel project and a Chilcotin unit workshop for teachers. Reconciliation work included indigenizing spaces at Skwo:wech, the Board office, NWSS and Welcome Centre as well as Indigenous education budget consultation.

Matt Mitchell introduced himself, sharing he has a dual role as a teacher and graduation coach who also supports Indigenous students in extra-curricular activities. He shared a success story of a student who will be graduating with the required eighty credits as a result of his advocacy assistance.

A language video was shared of Chief Larrabee. National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21, 2022, will be celebrated by NWSS students by creating banners, participating in a walk with Fraser River Middle School and Lord Kelvin Elementary students. Music and vendors will be present. Schools will be encouraged to participate in Orange Shirt Week in September.

Trustees shared their thanks and affirmed the importance to families, that the 2022 Qayqayt Honoring and Rite of Passage Ceremony played.

- b. NWSS Presentation (Staff & Students)

Principal McLeod provided a through presentation that identified accomplishments and ongoing work that included:

- The Five C's (collaboration, communication, celebration, community, and connectedness)
- Restructuring staff and department head meetings to enhance collaboration, reflection and sharing
- Anti-racism training and awareness
- Gender-based harassment and equality
- Professional development for staff
- Enhancing curricular opportunities for students
- Working with student lead groups (SEAS, Student voice)
- Mental health and awareness targeted group support and external consultants
- Classroom blinds, emergency procedures, mock drills with NRPD and Indigenized etched, frosted privacy glass
- Indigenizing spaces
- Visual art exhibitions, dance, and drama
- Livestreaming to include all members of the community
- A return to large scale events and upcoming celebrations

Students Sophie Hansen and Isabella Graham acknowledged the systematic issue of rape culture noting that NWSS is a significant institution within the community, thus the ability exists to change the entire "system".

Highlights of their presentation included:

- Student involvement – how students can help each other
- Working with the restorative justice system team
- Student walkout which included many participants and media
- Policy development
- SEAS weekly meetings that are open call
- More resources for mental health support
- Instagram account shared between school districts
- Curriculum, sexual health talks, in-person health nurse
- Identifying the negative way teachers and students contribute to the problem
- Voluntary, peer led discussions and sharing of stories between the SEAS and football team members (who also experience rape culture) to assist in restorative justice and create a stronger bond

*Trustee Lalji brought forward the following motion:*

**Moved**

***THAT the Operations Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) that both NWSS and Skwo:wech will have commemorative plaques placed on or before September 15, 2022 and if the Board would like a ceremony in conjunction with the commemorative plaques being placed at the same time, to plan with each school principal prior to September 15, 2022 with all parents, students, staff, dignitaries and our community be invited to the ceremony celebration as well as posted on our District website stating all the information for both these celebrations so our constituents have the option to attend.***

**NOT SECONDED**

Trustees commended and thanked the students in a variety of ways, reiterating their support to students and their voices, the need to continually revisit policies and education while ensuring increased support to staff is provided so they will be better equipped to support students.

Associate Superintendent Naser shared it has been a pleasure to work with the students who have stepped up to leadership roles. She commented on how impressive it has been to see the maturity of the students from both the SEAS and football groups, despite friction as the students work together towards restorative justice.

**3. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Brief comments were provided.

**4. STUDENT VOICE**

Student, Sam Killawee who graduates soon, shared it has been a privilege to serve on student voice. Student, Shantei Leal introduced herself and shared that she looks forward to working with everyone next year. They highlighted student voice accomplishments that included COVID-19 protocols, access to technology, feeling welcomed, staggered lunch, private spaces and come September, more universal washrooms on the main floor. Ongoing work will continue on anti-racism, climate action, counselling sessions, middle school involvement and continued inclusion of Student Voice at the Education Policy & Planning Committee meetings.

Trustees shared appreciation for the dedication and work of student voice, reiterating the importance and value having student voice at the table. Appreciation to Ms. Brine for her time and energy was also extended.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.