

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

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 3:30 PM
Fraser River Middle School**

PRESENT Marc Andres, Committee Chair
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee
Cheryl Sluis, Trustee
Elliott Slinn, Trustee
Maya Russell, Trustee
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction-Learning & Innovations
Kristen Keighley Wight, Communications Manager
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Murray McLeod, Principal – NWSS
Jen Harrison, Principal – FRMS
John Lekakis, Principal – QMS
Chris Evans, Principal – GMS
Tammy McArthur, Teacher – NWSS
Carrie Gurba, Teacher - NWSS

REGRETS Robert Weston, Executive Directory Human Resources
Dee Beattie, Trustee

Vice-Chair Beattie recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on who's 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 3:30 pm

Amendment to the Agenda was made to move forward Nancy Brennan's report on Programs of Choice to the beginning of Presentations as she has another commitment to attend.

Moved to Seconded

THAT the agenda for the April 11, 2023, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

Students from Queensborough Middle School - Ryder dillon, Lily Julnes, Ian Lee, Anaiyah Prasad acted out a scene from Shrek The Musical

Glenbrook Middle School - Joyce Grant, Leo Li, Abigail Yonas present information on “The Monkey Rebels Club” – pamphlets were issued to the Trustees.

Students from Fraser River Middle School - Cayleigh Elcheshen, Melody Hur, Julia Racho, Josie vining, Mya Terlicher presented information on Empowered with Skills for Life.

3. **COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

No comments or questions

4. **STUDENT VOICE**

Shantei & Julia introduced themselves to the Board. They provided an update on the Student Symposium that was held on Monday March 27th, 2023. The summary included the following topics:

- Anti-Racism
- Mental Health and Wellness
- School Safety
- Student Success
- Symposium Feedback

Committee provided comments and discussions followed.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Programs of Choice (Nancy Brennan)

The primary objectives of the review are to:

- identify both the strengths of and challenges to the existing programs of choice.
- ascertain whether these programs continue to meet the diverse needs and interests of New Westminster students,
- provide a comparison of program of choice offerings in neighbouring school districts and
- contemplate possible future opportunities for SD 40's Programs of Choice.

Focus group meetings for staff, parents, students, and other interested community partners are currently being scheduled.

b. Career Programs (Maureen McRae-Stanger, Tammy McArthur & Carrie Gurba)

The following points were highlighted in the report presented by the Learning Team: **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning – Student Success in New West Schools 2021-2022**

- Three key developmental areas and specific goals that support measurable student success.

- Intellectual Development initiatives to support literacy and numeracy K-12.
- Human and Social Development initiatives to support a sense of safety, welcome and belonging in our schools.
- Career Development initiatives to support graduation, the core competencies, and career and life goals.

The following points were highlighted in the report: **Career Programs in New West Schools:**

Students will graduate and have the Core Competencies to achieve their Career and life goals through the following opportunities:

- Careers Curriculum K-12
- Work Experience – (WEX) is designed to prepare students for the transition from secondary school to the world of work or further training and education.
- Trades and Apprenticeships – Technology start (Grade 9), Explore & Prepare (Grade 10-12), Train & Work (Grade 10-12)

Programs Offered in New West Schools

- Explore Technology and Trades
- Train in Trades
- Work in Trades

Skilled Trades BC Discover Grant of \$4500 – Grade 8 Discover Trades Days: February 3, April 19 & May 2, 2023

Upcoming events:

- BCIT Indigenous Trades Sneak Peak Day May 30, 2023
- Jill of all Trades - A day for Women - November 29, 2023

New Program Alert

- BCIT Aircraft Maintenance Engineer - BCIT ACE Microcredential/1 yr. Paid Internship Pilot (currently two students participating)
- \$1000 Youth Work in Trades Award - was presented to twelve students in 2022-2023

Discussion followed with appreciation towards the Trades and Apprenticeships.

c. 2023-2024 School Fees (Maryam Naser)

The following topics were discussed:

- Fees have been aligned across schools as much as possible.
- Fees for school supplies are optional
- All requests for school fees are communicated with a hardship clause

Trustee comments included:

- Trustee Connelly it would be helpful if graduation related fees were published as a separate document.



New Westminster Schools

- Trustee Sluis rental fees for music instruments less at the high school, do other schools need more instruments.
- Trustee Connelly recommendation to add all school sports to the fee schedule.
- Trustee Russell suggested that school fees be discussed further at the upcoming Board meeting focused on budget.

6. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:07pm