



New
Westminster
Schools

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

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 3:30 PM
POWER, RCAP**

PRESENT

Marc Andres, Committee Chair
Dee Beattie, Trustee
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee
Cheryl Sluis, Trustee
Elliott Slinn, Trustee
Maya Russell, Trustee

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Guests:
Members of the Public
Pam Craven, Dist. Principal Power Alternate & Online Programs
Bruce Cunnings, Director, Instruction, Learning
Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction-Learning & Innovations
Tanis Anderson, District VP – Early Learning
Ken Headley, Dist. VP – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Antiracism
Connie Swan, Dist. VP Indigenous Education
Melanie Smith, Dist. VP, Safe & Caring Schools

REGRETS

Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Weston, Executive Directory Human Resources

Chair Andres 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

Moved to Seconded

THAT the agenda for the February 7, 2023, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PRESENTATIONS

Pam Craven

Pam provided a tour around the school after the meeting at 5:05pm.

3. **COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

No comments or questions at this moment.

4. **STUDENT VOICE**

Shantei Leal & Porya Dashtipour introduced themselves to the Board. They provided a review of the 2022-23 Fall Survey results and read through some key questions. Currently there have been over 615 responses. The survey and summary are entirely student-based.

- Question: Trustee Sluis - what are the demographics of student's that don't feel safe?
 - Answer: They are anonymous, not gender specific, name, all measured as a unit.
- Question: Trustee Connelly - the budget needs to be considered, we owe it to the kids/teachers to feel safe and have privacy. Questions posed to Superintendent Hachlaf regarding budget.
 - Answer: We will commit to a conversation to bring these concerns forward. Principal McLeod spoke to ongoing updates around frosting, and interior blinds. Exploring avenues to expand spaces, add Camera's but this won't be until after spring break.
- Trustee Russell would like to bring up Wi-Fi during the budget, and bring your own device needs to be looked at further along with accessibility.
- Trustee Dhaliwal asked about dedicated space with teachers for online students.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. **Student Welfare Report (Learning Team)**

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

- 3 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.
- Continuous Improvement Cycle in New West Schools in Alignment with the Framework for Enhanced Learning and the New West School Strategic Plan
- A Padlet along with a QR code was provided for attendees to record any questions that the Learning Team will answer in the coming days. [Padlet](#)

b. District Calendar discussion (Maryam Naser)

- Next year's calendar was posted for public consultation, and we received no feedback. The 2023/24 calendar will be brought back to the upcoming board meeting for final approval.
- Question – Trustee Beattie – we heard today that BC is planning on making September 30th a holiday, has that been incorporated?
 - Answer – Superintendent Karim – no not yet we need time to make that proclamation.
- Question – Trustee Beattie – How does that work? Do we add more minutes to the day or add more school days?
 - Answer – It is contemplated in the calendar as part of our calculations.
- Comment - Trustee Connelly can we have put up on our District website to please check your individual school calendar as it may have additional instructional days or early releases.

c. Programs of Choice Update (Maryam Naser)

- Please refer to the backgrounder for more details provided on the work that's happened so far.
- Nancy Brennan External Consultant is currently travelling, or she would have been here. She will be attending the next Education Committee meeting to provide the board with an update on the work.
- Work to date includes school visits, principal meetings, meetings with the New Westminster Teacher' Union, DPAC, Montessori Parents and well as others. Nancy will arrange future meetings to ensure larger stakeholder engagement.
- We are now engaged with Nancy to develop surveys.
- Data collections and focus groups in the Spring.
- Final report won't be feasible this school year, but Nancy will provide a verbal presentation at the final education meeting.
- Question - Trustee Dhaliwal can Nancy share emerging themes with stakeholders in June prior to the final report being issued.
 - Answer – Maryam yes, we can discuss this with her.

Comment (audience) – we have heard that the students are having a hard time with bring your own devices and connection issues and that by the time they log on they are not able to get their work done which is very frustrating. Student voice survey was very much the same as the DPAC survey with concerns about student safety, also blinds in classrooms will help the mental health of students & staffs.

- Question - How many classrooms have blinds and how many don't?
 - Outstanding - Superintendent Hachlaf – commitment to report back with this information.

6. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm

Chair

Associate Superintendent