

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

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 3:30 PM
New Westminster Secondary School**

PRESENT

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

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction-Learning
& Innovation
Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction-Learning Services
Ken Headley, District Vice Principal – Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion & Antiracism
Tanis Anderson, District Vice Principal – Early Learning
Pam Craven, District Principal – Online Learning/Alternate
Programs
Melanie Smith, District Vice Principal-Safe and Caring
Schools
Jennifer Scorda, District Principal Home Learners Program
Susana Quan, Vice Principal – NWSS
Greg Patton, Vice Principal – NWSS
Kai Smith, Teacher Itinerant SOGI Lead
Sara Eftekhar – NWSS Nurse Practitioner

Members of the public

REGRETS

Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer

Committee Chair Andres 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 3:30 pm

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the May 2, 2023, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

- Susana Quan welcomed the Board, Presenters and Guests.
- Sara Eftekhar – Nurse Practitioner & Student Wellness Ambassadors (Serina and Christina) presented information on the work they are doing to support the Consent and Sexual Health Clinic. Sara is working with the students to prepare tools and information to present to the middle school students. The students expressed their excitement about the work they are doing, but also acknowledged there is still work to be done.

Questions and discussion ensued.

3. **COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Kathleen Carlson – DPAC

- Comment: Regarding the SOGI Report on gender inclusive bathrooms in the high school, we feel this can start at the Elementary schools.
- Response: K. Headley – we support this and will work with the middle and elementary schools to implement this.
- Question: At the April 25th Board meeting a discussion on filling the gap (SLO) with the New Westminster Police (Program) is there an update?
- Answer: M. Naser advised that Melanie Smith has a working relationship with the NW Police Department.
- Comment: Assaults are still happening, and the parents are frustrated, scared, and want to know the actions now not next year.
- Response: Chair Andres advised there are budget items that will address this.
- Response: Superintendent Hachlaf clarified student safety is a priority, we always reach out to New Westminster Police Services as needed. In addition, we continue to provide mental supports to foster a safe environment for students.

4. **STUDENT VOICE**

Chair Andres presented the students with a letter of acknowledgment for their contribution to Student Voice this school year.

Chair Andres also presented current Student Voice Teacher Stacy Brine with a token of appreciation as this will be Stacy's last year as Student Voice Teacher.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. **Health and Wellbeing (Melanie Smith)**

- M. Smith provided information on Counselling and Youth Care Services. At this time, there is a focus on developing strong wellness teams, capacity building and connecting with community partners.

Questions and discussion ensued.

b. SOGI Report (Kai Smith & Ken Headley)

- K.Smith provided information on SOGI 123 (sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Two students from Fraser River Middle School, Basil and Gianna spoke about GSA's (Gender/Sexuality Alliances) and the importance of having a space of belonging in their school.
- K.Smith spoke about the following:
 - re-establishing the District SOGI Committee (with Terms of Reference)
 - reconnecting with school leads
 - continue to receive feedback and making changes to the district forms to ensure inclusivity
- District initiative for the fall that looks at encompassing safety and a sense of belonging.
 - Encompassing the intersectional lens of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Antiracism
 - Do you see me?
 - Do you understand me?
 - Do you support me?

c. Online Learning Report (Pam Craven)

- P. Craven shared information about on-line learning and the recent transition to POLS. The following was shared:
 - Currently in New Westminster we have 116 Students FTE – 53 local and 63 out of district.
 - Next year the HLP will make in-person attendance mandatory 2 days per week. (Tue/Thurs)
 - A pause on Brightspace will be taken to give time to build staff capacity at Hume Park.

d. Inclusive Education Update (Bruce Cunnings)

- B. Cunnings shared information about the current Inclusive Education Implementation Plan. Highlights were noted in the following areas:
 - High quality professional learning
 - Learning Services Teacher In-service
 - English Language Learners Teachers
 - Educational Assistants
 - Effective student supports
 - competency based individual education plans
 - Home/School Partnerships
 - student transitions have greatly improved
 - NWSS Parent Information evening for incoming grade 9 students was held on Monday April 17th and was highly successful.
- B. Cunnings shared information about the upcoming Learning Services Art Show which is a celebration of art by students with diverse needs. Twenty students from NWSS will be showcasing their art at the Anvil Centre between May 12th – 31st, 2023.

e. Programs of Choice (Maryam Naser)

The next steps in the review process involves focus groups for parents, students, and staff. The focus groups have been scheduled during the month of May with both virtual and in-person opportunities for engagement. There will be three overarching questions that will guide the discussions:

- What is working well?
- What challenges or obstacles are being faced?
- What are the opportunities for improvement?

Group	Date	Time	Location
HLP Staff	27-Apr	3:15 pm	Hume Park
HLP Parents	01-May	6:30 pm	Virtual
HLP Parents	09-May	10:00 am	Hume Park
Montessori – Parents	02-May	6:30 pm	Virtual
	03-May	4:00 pm	Skwo:wech
French Immersion - Staff	08-May	3:30 pm	Virtual
French Immersion – Parents	09-May	6:30 pm	Virtual
	11-May	4:00 pm	GMS
Montessori – Staff	15-May	3:30 pm	Connaught
CUPE	16-May	3:30 pm	Board Office Room 118
NWSS Students (French Immersion)	18-May	3:30 pm	Virtual
GMS Students (French Immersion)	24-May	1:00 pm	GMS
PVPA	29-May	3:30 pm	Virtual

- The review began in early January of 2023 and will continue through to the end of June 2023. An update will be provided at the June 6th Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting, and a final report will be presented in the fall of 2023.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No.40 (New Westminster) to direct staff to present an action plan on the continuation of the Inclusive Education Plan, including a parent survey to assess district progress towards key themes and objectives.

**TABLED
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.