

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

**Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, 3:30 PM
New Westminster Secondary School (In-person)**

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

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Guests:
Members of the Public
Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs
Murray McLeod, NWSS Principal
Connie Swan, District VP Indigenous Education
Amelia Laidlaw, Indigenous Curriculum Coordinator
Kenneth Headley, District VP – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
& Anti-Racism

Student Voice members
Julia MacCormac, Callum Purewall and Gunjot Nahal

REGRETS Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources

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 October 10th, 2023, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

New Westminster Secondary School (P. Craven & M. McLeod)

Pam and Murray presented highlights on NWSS school startup including school opening activities, Grade 9 Parent night and Reconciliation week activities.

A presentation of proposed changes to the NWSS Timetable was shared:

<u>Actions Taken</u>	<u>Exploration of Ideas</u>
Consultant Report	Optimizing schedule
Exploration of space and numbers	Drop and add structure for courses
Meeting with other district staff	Increase online offerings [CLE]
Survey to teachers & students	Other spaces (Sigma/Online)

Next steps include an update at the Education Policy & Planning committee meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, followed by the proposal on December 12th, 2023.

Questions and comments ensured.

3. **COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

No comments or questions

4. **STUDENT VOICE**

Julia introduced this year's Student Voice members Callum and Gunjot who were present as well she acknowledged Murray McLeod as the Student Voice Teacher representative.

Julia, Callum, and Gunjot outlined upcoming Student voice agenda items which included launching the fall survey. The students are looking forward to the Symposium in the spring and the use of Instagram for student engagement and communication.

Trustees thanked the students for their participation and provided comments which included Chair Andres suggestion to provide updates on positive accomplishments throughout the year.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Indigenous Education Report (C. Swan, A. Laidlaw & K. Headley)

➤ Introduction to Indigenous Education Department Staff

After staff introductions, staff presented on initiatives planned for the 2023/24 school year. The following were highlighted:



- Indigenous Systems of Knowledge
 - Curriculum & Grad Transitions
 - Truth and Reconciliation initiatives at schools
 - Indigenous Education Council development
 - Equity in Action Plan representation
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism** presented by Ken Headley
- Professional Learning Series connecting DEIA and Truth and Reconciliation (Deepening Indigenous Ways of Knowing) offerings this year.
 - Staff collaboration opportunities.
 - District wide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Antiracism Pro D
 - Panel and Deepening Indigenous Ways of knowing Presentation
 - JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) leads in schools.

Questions and comments ensued.

b. Programs of Choice (POC) Review Recommendations (M. Naser)

Maryam provided a brief overview of the POC Review & presented staff recommendations for the 2023/24 school year:

Context

- POC review completed June 2023
- 3 Guiding Questions:
- What is working well in the program (EFI, LFI, Montessori, Home Learners)?
 - What challenges are obstacles are being faced by the program?
 - What opportunities are there for improvement to the program?
- Program Strengths
- Programs are well regarded by the community
 - Programs meet current community needs
 - Alignment with curriculum
 - Dedicated staff
 - Strong parent involvement
- Program Challenges
- Limited number of spaces
 - Staffing
 - Gaps in understanding of parent understanding of program
 - Impact of attrition in intermediate grades
 - French “presence” in schools
 - Inclusive supports
 - Resource to support curriculum



- Considerations from Consultant
- Staff Recommendations:

<input type="checkbox"/> EFI and Montessori waitlists dissolved on the last day of instruction in December	October 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> The inclusion of the Home Learners Program in all district notices and events and improve communication with families.	October 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> The development of more French Immersion & Montessori Program information resources for parents, including video clips, interviews, newsletters, etc.	December 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> More opportunities for teacher collaboration across the district and between the elementary, middle, and secondary FI programs.	January 2024
<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstate school visits to all Grade 5 classrooms to fully promote the Late French immersion Program.	January 2024
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase efforts to provide bilingual signage in all common areas of French Immersion school sites and increase French language usage within the school day.	April 2024
<input type="checkbox"/> Consider the creation of a District Montessori Advisory Committee.	May 2024
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing to advocate for the implementation of Montessori training programs at BC universities. Consider providing some financial support to teachers interested in pursuing Montessori training.	May 2024
<input type="checkbox"/> A small annual district budget allocation to both schools intended to be used for items unique to the Montessori program.	May 2024
<input type="checkbox"/> A review of the funding currently allocated to professional services.	January 2024

- Areas for further investigation

Questions and comments ensued.

6. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.