

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

**Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, 3:30 PM
Lord Kelvin Elementary School**

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
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs
Ken Millard, Principal – Lord Kelvin Elementary
Carly Eirickson – Vice Principal – Qayqayt Elementary
Ileana Neilson – Manager, Early Learning and Child Care
Maureen McRae-Stanger – Director of Instruction –
Learning and Innovation
Tammy Dewar – Curriculum Facilitator
Sarah Lynes - Curriculum Facilitator

REGRETS Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources
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 November 14th, 2023, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PRESENTATIONS

Lord Kelvin Elementary School (Ken Millard – Principal)

Principal Millard demonstrated a live CLKS News production, the students do weekly at the school. Trustee Slinn was interviewed as part of the broadcast.

Questions and comments ensued.

3. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

No comments or questions

4. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. **District Literacy Update** presented by Carly Eirickson (Vice Principal & Literacy Lead)

- Presentation included the following:
 - What do we know about literacy development?
 - Post-school success is closely tied to reading proficiency.
 - Learning to read is one of the most fundamental skills in early education.
 - Focus for District Literacy Lead this year:
 - Support literacy screening and programming in Grade 1 classrooms at Qayqayt
 - Investigate literacy screeners and classroom programs being used across the district.
 - Support UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) Program through data collection related to effectiveness.
 - Develop an inventory of high-quality literacy materials and programs.
 - Focus for this Year: Next Steps
 - Early Literacy Survey to all elementary schools
 - District-level supports
 - District or school-wide literacy documentation
 - How can we incorporate more evidence-based assessments, programs, instructional methods, etc.?
 - How can we support our teachers and staff?
 - Is UFLI making a difference? Compare ELLT data from last year to this year.

Question:

Trustee Connelly – Is there any provincial direction or protocols around this?

Answer:

Alberta and Ontario potentially more mandated, BC teachers have such strong autonomy and are excited about UFLI and really going with it as it is evidence based. It's a PowerPoint that teachers can just click through and follow online.

Question:

Trustee Connelly – What is the cost?



Answer:

UFLI is \$70 for the manual plus shipping which is \$40 for one book. Qayqayt has purchased 1 per grade and 9 other teachers were onboard with purchasing it.

Question:

Chair Andres – Is the district supportive of teachers using money from their pockets?

Answer:

Teachers are using their Pro-D funds willingly for UFLI.

b. **Early Learning Programs and Gradual Entry to Kindergarten in New West Schools** presented by Ileana Neilson & Maureen McRae-Stanger.

Presentation included the following:

- Early Years Programs
 - Seamless Day
 - Just B4 preschool
 - StrongStart BC
- Kindergarten Gradual Entry
 - Differences between Childcare/Pre-School and Kindergarten
 - Caregiver to Child ratio: 1:8 – Teacher to student ratio: 1:20.
 - Kindergarten is environment larger and includes multiple learning spaces.
 - BC Primary Teachers support gradual entry.
 - Most districts in the province participate in gradual entry.
 - Sample Gradual Entry Schedule provided.
 - Parent communication about gradual entry dates/times and expectations gives them time to determine a care plan for their child.
- Gradual Entry considerations for 2024-2025 include:
 - Feedback survey for new Kindergarten parents in early February.
 - Gather a representative group of K-5 Admin, District Staff and Kindergarten teachers to discuss parent feedback and develop plan for 2024-2025.
 - Each school sets their gradual entry schedule by March 31.
 - Earlier communication of gradual entry process and schedule to support parents to make childcare arrangements (April).
 - Update to the Board of Education on the plan for the upcoming school year at the upcoming April or May Education Meeting.

c. **Competency based IEP** presented by Tammy Dewar and Sarah Lynes

Presentation included the following:

- The Journey
 - 2021-2022 – CB IEP Training for District Staff
 - 2022-2023 – CB IEP Pilot Group
 - 2023-2024 – CB IEP Training for all LST's
- Why the shift to Competency Based IEP's?
 - Aligns with the same curriculum as peers.
 - Meaningful consultation with students and families.
 - Measures authentic progress.



- Strengths-based focus.
- Addresses core competencies.
- Responsive planning and authentic assessment.
- S.M.A.R.T Goals

| Traditional | Competency Based |
|----------------|--------------------|
| S – Specific | S – Strengths Base |
| M – Measurable | M - Meaningful |
| A – Attainable | A – Authentic |
| R – Realistic | R – Responsive |
| T – Timely | T - Triangulated |

- Parents are provided with information sessions and learning support teachers to understand where we are going.

Question:

Trustee Russell inquired about the 8 pages for IEP

Answer:

Suggestion to not go over 3 goals.

d. NWSS Timetable Exploration Update presented by Pam Craven

Overview provided on the following:

- Student and staff survey does not support changes to timetable.
 - Classroom allocations that support effective space utilization are a priority.
 - Online delivery of Career Education classes.
 - Next steps: continue to explore opportunities to improve space utilization, student, and staff consultation, provide an update at the December 12th Board of Education meeting.

e. Board Authority Authorized Courses prepared by Pam Craven

- Motion Moved and Seconded
 - THAT the Education Policy and Planning Committee move the presentation on the Board Authority Courses to the next Board of Education meeting, November 28th, 2023.

5 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.