

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

**Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, 3:30 PM  
Glenbrook Middle School**

**PRESENT** Marc Andres, Committee Chair  
Danielle Connelly, Trustee  
Cheryl Sluis, Trustee  
Maya Russell, Trustee

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent  
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary Treasurer  
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary  
Chris Evans, Principal – Glenbrook Middle School  
Sandra Singh, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovation  
Rhonda Jones, Director of Instruction, Inclusive Education  
Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs  
Murray McLeod, Principal – New Westminster Secondary

**REGRETS** Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources  
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee  
Elliott Slinn, Trustee

***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 January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 2. PRESENTATIONS

### **Glenbrook Middle School (Chris Evans – Principal)**

The EGMS Tech Committee - Amy, Tito, Cooper, and Peter presented a PowerPoint presentation on Digital Wisdom: Navigating the Online World safely incorporating respect and resilience. The presentation covered:

- 5 common challenges
- Scenarios
- Digital safety
- Reflection

The presentation included in interactive quiz using Kahoot.

#### **Questions:**

- Q. Trustee Connelly asked the committee how much time do you spend per week?  
A. The EGMS Tech Committee meets weekly.
  
- Q. Trustee Connelly asked if they find the questions come from people who bring their devices from home or from the school?  
A. Bringing their devices from home and trying to connect to the Wi-Fi.
  
- Q. Chair Andres asked if they think parents don't know as much as students?  
A. The committee commented on Gen Z and Gen A and the different social media sites, and devices they have available to them compared to the older (parents) generation
  
- Q. Trustee Connelly asked what is the one thing a parent needs to be aware of?  
A. What's going on with the child's digital life.
  
- Q. Trustee Sluis stated that she appreciated the addition of pronouns, but to get a better understanding, who doesn't feel safe and is there an opportunity to isolate the data by pronoun use?  
A. Shantei advised when they do the data in chunks, they get this information and can send this over to the Trustee's.

## 3. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

No comments or questions

## 4. STUDENT VOICE

Fall Survey 2023-2024 results presented by Student Voice – Julia MacCormac, Shantei Leal, and Callum Purewal.

- Some common concerns from the 400 responses included:
  - Wellness Centre – 34% of students are unaware



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- Universal washrooms
  - Vaping and Drug use
  - School Wi-Fi
  - Long serverly lines
  - Air conditioning
  - Longer lunch time
  - Open gym at lunch
  - Bring back guest speakers on drug/vaping use
  - Put a scramble on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> Street
- Some next step highlights included:
- Education/Learning – including sex education
  - Student Support – resources for people struggling with vape/drug use
  - Common Space Management – need more spaces during lunch
  - Safety – focus on bathrooms; vape detectors have been positive
  - Timetable/Scheduling – keeping start time the same or later
  - Positive Feedback – morning buzz a good sense of community
  - Next Steps – School Level – allow more study spaces during spare blocks
  - Next Steps – District Level – more EA's and IEP resources
- Principal McLeod provided a summary with the following information:
- Assemblies regarding vaping and drug use along with student expectations
  - Addition of vape directors
  - The morning buzz (weekly) students responding positive
  - April 12<sup>th</sup> – ½ day Wellness fair – more information to come
- 2024 Student Symposium to be held on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> at Shadbolt Centre in Burnaby.

## **Questions:**

- Q. Trustee Russell questioned is sex education not in the gym curriculum?  
A. Not in the curriculum for Grade 9 students
- Q. Trustee Connelly asked if we considered an ordering system for the survery?  
A. Principal McLeod advised the timing is hard and it's difficult to add more tills.
- Q. Trustee Connelly asked if we had staffing resources for vaping?  
A. Superintendent Hachlaf advised that we have a campaign but no funding for a staff liaison, and that we also coordinate with Melanie Smith, District Vice Principal-Safe and Caring Schools on educational planning.
- Chair Andres commented that “the fact inclusive bathrooms are unsafe is very concerning, as this is working against the Board and District goals, and more needs to be done”.
- Student Voice member Shantei commented that the vape detectors are starting to make a change.



- Further discussions were had regarding vaping protocol, crowding at lunch, and use of collaborative areas.

## 5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

Chair Andres introduced Rhonda Jones who started with SD40 in November of 2023.

### a. Inclusive Education Action Plan (Rhonda Jones)

- Reviewed the June 6<sup>th</sup> recommendation from the board
- Where are we now? Area's of focus for the remainder of 2023-2024 school year.
  - Universal Design for Learning
  - Transitions
  - Competency-Based IEP Implementation
- Parent Survey on Individual Education Plan (IEP) Process
  - Seek input from parents/guardians regarding IEP and the process
  - Data collection for meaningful consultation process
  - Highlight any challenges faced by parents/guardians
  - Determine the next steps for improvements

### **Questions:**

- Q. Trustee Connelly asked is the survey available to all families or only students with an IEP?
- A. Yes, only students with an IEP but it's something we can look into (families waiting for IEP and pre-IEP)
- Q. Chair Andres asked if the survey is only available in English?
- A. Yes, but we can talk to our Communications Manger Mike Lee to see if we can get this changed.

### b. Career Programs Report (Pam Craven)

- Showcasing Careers Programs:
  - Work Experience (WEX)
    - Course description
    - Benefits of WEX
    - Key employer partnership
    - Highlight enrolment and plans for future growth
    - Share WEX success stories
  - Trades and Apprenticeships
    - Describe the programs and their benefits
    - Describe options for explore train and work
    - Describe some key Post-Secondary Institute (PSI) and employer partnerships
    - Highlight events and promote programs



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- Highlight enrolment and plans for future growth
- Share success stories
  
- Trades and Apprenticeship Year Plan
  - Electrical and Lamp Wiring workshops at Middle Schools and NWSS
  - Trade presentation – NWSS CLE 10 & Tech Classes, RCAP/POWER & SIGMA
  - BCIT Teacher of Technology Day
  - Plumber work experience week
  - Discover New West Schools
  - Origins Chocolate Bar to host PC1 students for Chocolate 101 Tasting Jill of All trades
  - Carpenter work experience week
  - BCIT Indigenous Sneak Peak Trades Day – NWSS/SIGMA
  - Grade 8 Trade and Tech highlighted as part of NWSS tour in May
  
- Current enrolment of students
  - EXPLORE Technology and Trades – 48 students
  - TRAIN in Trades – 45 students
  - WORK in Trades – 14+ students

Questions and comments ensued

- c. District Calendar (Karim Hachlaf)
  - Review of School District Calendar for 2024-2025

No comments or questions

## 6. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil

## 7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.