

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

**Tuesday, February 13th, 2024, 3:30 PM
Herbert Spencer Elementary School**

PRESENT	Marc Andres, Committee Chair Danielle Connelly, Trustee Cheryl Sluis, Trustee Maya Russell, Trustee Kathleen Carlsen, Trustee	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary Treasurer Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary Julie Pearce, Associate Superintendent Karen Catherwood, Principal – Herbert Spencer Simran Hare, Vice Principal – Herbert Spencer Sandra Singh, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovation Rhonda Jones, Director of Instruction, Inclusive Education Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs Rick Bloudell, Manager of Community Projects, and Partnerships
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 February 13th, 2024, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Andres introduced and welcomed the new School Board Trustee Kathleen Carlsen.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

Herbert Spencer Elementary School (Karen Catherwood, Principal, Simran Hare, Vice Principal)

Karen presented a PowerPoint that showcased Family Teams where each month staff and students from various age groups get together in their family teams to work on projects to build a sense of community. The projects included Pink Shirt Day and Ocean Animals. Student work regarding the project is displayed all year long in the Learning Commons area of the school. Currently displayed in the Learning Commons area are the Orange Shirt Day projects from the fall.

Simran provided information on the Grade 4/5 and Grade 4 Technology classes she teaches. The class uses a program called Scratch that is designed for young people ages 8 to 16. The students use Scratch to code their own interactive stories around theme days.

Students Nathan, Matthew, and Aiden provided examples of their own interactive animations and games. Trustee Connelly took part in playing one of the games.

Questions and Comments

- Trustee Connelly commented on how impressive the demonstrations were and thanked the students.

Q. Chair Andres asked if this was hard schoolwork or if it was enjoyable?
A. Students agreed it was enjoyable.
- It was noted that the students are assessed on this work.

4. **COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

No comments or questions

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Review Recommended 2-year District Calendar (Julie Pearce)

Julie presented District Calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 along with the dates requested from Chair Andres for NWSS semester end dates (which are not reflected on the District Calendar).

Term 1 ends January 29, 2025 - 2024-2025

Term 1 ends January 28, 2026 - 2025-2026

Questions and Comments

Chair Andres requested that ½ days be communicated well in advance. Karen Catherwood replied that these dates will go out in May at which time the individual school calendars will be posted to the website.

b. Community Schools and NLC Programs (Rick Bloudell)

Rick presented PowerPoint slides that included information on the following programs:

- What are Community Schools?
 - Extended hours, extended services, and extended relationships
 - A Community School is the Hub of the Community
- Initiatives
 - After School Programs
 - Community Rentals
 - Neighborhood Learning Centres
 - Welcome Centre
 - Wellness Centre

Questions and Comments

Questions and comments were made around the time programs start at the schools, staffing of custodial workers, waitlists for programs and the availability of snacks.

Q. Trustee Russell wished there was more for kids to do after school and expressed the desire for more access to schools' within the community.

A. Rick noted that it is dependent on funding and/or space, and that programs are close to capacity. Rick noted that there are currently 20 partners in our community schools.

Q. Trustee Russell asked how partners were decided.

A. There is an application form that is filled out and shared with Principals and the Associate Superintendent.

Q. Trustee Connelly ask if there were more opportunities to engage with the city?

A. Rick advised that Parks and Recreation programs are seasonal and that they are at full capacity. In addition, Rick noted that staffing recruitment has been challenging for the city.

Comment – Trustee Connelly noted that this should be discussed further.

Q. Trustee Carlsen asked if Fraser Health and Lumara have any openings for our students.

A. Rick noted that counselors and nurse practitioners at the Wellness Centre service our New Westminster Students.

Q. Trustee Russell asked a question as to custodial support and to which extent do programs rely on them.

A. Rick noted that school custodial support is already on site.



New Westminster Schools

Superintendent Karim Hachlaf thanked Rick and the entire team adding “it’s remarkable to see where we started from to where we are now”. He also mentioned there was more to come on neighbourhood communities for the Board of Trustees to converse and consult on.

Q. Chair Andres asked if the Nurse Practitioner’s were limited due to funding?

A. Rick advised that funding is provided by Fraser Health.

No further comments or questions

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.