

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

**Tuesday, May 14th, 2024, 3:30 PM
School Board Office**

PRESENT Marc Andres, Committee Chair Sylvia Russell, Superintendent
Cheryl Sluis, Trustee Bettina Ketcham, Secretary Treasurer
Elliott Slinn, Trustee Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Maya Russell, Trustee Julie Pearce, Associate Superintendent
Kathleen Carlsen, Trustee Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee Rhonda Jones, Director of Instruction, Inclusive Education
Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs
Trevor Gee, Manager, International Education
Stephen Inniss, District Vice Principal, Adult/Summer Programs

REGRETS Danielle Connelly, 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 3:32 pm

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the May 14th, 2024, Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

➤ Chair Andres thanked all staff for the incredible work they have been doing throughout this time of change. Wanted to acknowledge their work is appreciated.

2. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

Nil.

3. REPORTS FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. International Program Report – Trevor Gee

- Success from 2023 – 2024
 - New Markets – Australia, Bolivia, Poland
 - New Agents – Korea, Macao, Mexico, Spain, Thailand
 - Increase in returning students
 - China: Increase in graduating students
 - Japan: Maintaining target number of students
 - Increased student engagement in trips/activities
 - Decrease in 1 semester student
- Data provided on FTE (full time equivalent) from 2023/24 to 2024/25
- Goals and Objectives
 - Increase in one-year students from France
 - Maintain numbers from Japan, Italy, Spain, and Germany
 - Build relationships with agents in China and Korea to ensure they are not promoting Parent Study Permit or Work Permit
 - Build agent connections in Mexico, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam
 - Support our smaller markets to maintain a diverse program
 - Increase student enrolment for students not requiring homestay
 - Maintain Short Term Summer Program
- 2024-2025: Key Markets
 - Students enrolled for graduation (2+ years)
 - Students that do not require homestay
 - Markets to Maintain and Manage
 - ✓ Markets with high number of students and loyal agent relationships
 - Markets to Maintain and Grow
 - ✓ New markets that promote diversity
 - ✓ Markets that require growth in agent relationships
- 2024 International Culture Day
 - Thursday May 23rd @ 1:00pm Grand Commons at New Westminster Secondary School

Questions and discussion ensued.

b. Inclusive Education Review Update – Rhonda Jones

- Learning Services
 - High Quality Professional Learning
 - Effective Student Supports
 - Collaboration and Teamwork



- Individual Education Plan Survey Data provided
 - Parent Survey comments were shared
- Supporting the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Process
 - Create a structure and process that outlines clear timelines for parent/guardian contact and IEP meetings
 - Develop a parent-friendly guide to IEPs and IEP meetings
 - Continue to educate teachers on the Competency-Based IEP and its strength-based approach
- Transitions
 - Aligning Home/School Partnerships – focusing on students moving through our schools

Questions and discussion ensued.

c. Online Learning & Continuing Education Report – Pam Craven and Stephen Inniss

- Continuing Education - Overview
 - Our location
 - Our courses
 - Our students
 - Our students goals
 - Our growth (now over 640 students per term: close to doubled)
- Online Learning
 - Provincial Online Learning School – Governance Documents
 - Online Learning Policy
 - Interim Procedures Guide
 - Accountability and Quality Assurance (AQA)
 - Student Support – Tiered Approach
 - Tier 1: Universal Strategies to encourage academic engagement for ALL students
 - Tier 2: Early Intervention to prevent academic disengagement
 - Tier 3: Intensive Support for students facing the greatest challenges becoming engaged academically
 - Data
 - NWSS school age students: 728
 - POWER/RCAP: 8
 - Sigma: 25
 - Other school age students: 88
 - NW Online adult students: 298



- Home Learners Program (K-8)
 - Consistent registration – increased registration of students within the district
 - Successes:
 - Activation Activities – increased engagement from families
 - School Learning Plan – Student self-reflection
 - ADST Projects – mud kitchens created by students, gardening
 - Resource Library – catalogued and better tracking of books and resources
- Programs of Choice Review:
 - Consistent Communication – weekly school and district updates sent home
 - In-person learning
 - Next year: increased in-person learning opportunities
 - More support for vulnerable students

Questions and discussion ensued.

d. Extracurricular Athletics Update – Chair Andres

Chair Andres presented the motion that was requested to be brought forward in March (2024) but had been delayed to April and then to the May Education meeting.

- The recommendation received from the December 12th, 2023; Open Board Meeting was read:

THAT the New Westminster School Board (SD40) direct staff to review the district's approach to provide and support extracurricular physical activities (including intra-murals and inter-varsity competition), including but not limited to:

- *Item 1 - Review current mandates / regulations including the British Columbia School Athletics Association and Burnaby New West School Athletics Association,*
- *Item 2 - Review district policies and procedures,*
- *Item 3 - Assess the current situation (including quantity and quality of extracurricular opportunities for students, quality of coaching, funding for and access to equipment and facilities),*
- *Item 4 - Identify gaps, and*
- *Item 5 - Make recommendations*

All work should be completed with equity lens considering gender, race, sexual orientation and gender identity, class, age, and ability.

Chair Andres acknowledged there has been some preliminary work received on item (3) which was completed by Queensborough Middle School Vice Principal Sukhdeep Rai in the form of a survey.

Chair Andres has requested this be referred back to the Interim Superintendent and be brought to the new Superintendent Mark Davidson for further review as there is a need for resources to complete this work. Chair Andres requested an update be provided to the board in the fall.

Trustee Russell extended the boards thanks to Sukh Rai for his work and would be open to hear more from him and the findings of the survey.

4. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.