



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

**Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, 3:30 PM
School Board Office**

PRESENT

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

Sylvia Russell, Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary Treasurer
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary
Julie Pearce, Associate Superintendent
Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs
Tu Loan Trieu, Principal, Connaught Heights
Stephen Inniss, District Vice Principal, Adult/Summer Programs
Ileana Neilson, Manager, Early Learning and Child Care
Dominic Pistor, Teacher – New Westminister Secondary School
Student Voice: Shantei Leal, Julia MacCormac 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 3:35 pm

Moved and Seconded

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

Nil.

3. **STUDENT VOICE**

a. Student Symposium follow-up, next steps – Murray McLeod and Pam Craven

- What have we done?
 - Focus group for improving Technology at NWSS
 - Volunteered in the District Debate
 - SD40 Student Symposium
 - Annual Fall Survey (Close to four hundred respondents)
- Points of Focus
 - Student Technology
 - Student Involvement/Communication
 - Sex Ed Curriculum
 - Scheduling/Timetables for the upcoming school years
 - Programs of Support
 - i.e. accessibility, outreach, IEP considerations, vaping, and drug use
- Next Year
 - Revising our fall survey to ask questions that may provide us with fresh data.
 - Continuing our annual student symposium system.
 - S.E.A.S Merger (Safety Education Advocacy & Support)
 - Finding a way to designate a focus group within student voice to working on S.E.A.S content, to increase continued membership.
 - New Executives/Student Trustees
 - Ava Purewall & Raqaiyah Clouden

Follow-up/Action Items:

Student Voice would like to schedule a meeting with Pam Craven to further discuss scheduling for the following school years.

Chair Andres suggested asking for feedback on IEP experiences with suggested changes. Shantei will bring forward the question to the students and report back to Murray McLeod.

Questions and comments ensued.

4. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Draft Cell Phone Policy – Pam Craven

- Effective July 1, 2024 [September 2024] – BC MECC – Ministerial Order No. M89 to promote provincial consistency and to support boards of education in ensuring their schools have appropriate policies in place to restrict student personal digital device use.
- Administrative Policy 104 - District Code of Conduct along with all school Code of Conduct's will have specific elements embedded – see Section 1.3 AP104
- Addition of Appendix A: Student Use of Digital Devices this was shared with Principals/Vice Principals to receive feedback.
- Addition of Appendix B: Parent Letter
- Further information will be shared with students and parent voice in September.

Trustee Connelly clarified bandwidth capacity allocation for schools citing outdated methodology and put forward the following recommendation.

THAT the New Westminster School District send a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care, the honorable Rachna Singh, to ask for a significant investment, prior to the start of the new school year, in technology for schools to meet the growing need for electronic devices in response to the new mandated legislation restricting the use of personal digital devices in schools as well as an increase in funding for bandwidth to ensure schools are able to manage the additional pressure to existing bandwidth capacity.

TABLED

Bettina Ketcham advised there was a technology presentation coming up in the Operations meeting and suggested to hold off on the motion until after the presentation. Chair Andres and Trustees agreed to table the motion to the Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting scheduled June 11th, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Shantei, Student Voice representative, offered student feedback if needed before year end.

Questions and comments ensued.

- b. Climate Action Update Report – Sandra Singh and Dominic Pistor
 - Climate Action Education Initiatives
 - Leads – continue to meet 4 to 5 times a year.
 - Grants – 11 schools – 1 district position; next year award between 10 and 15
 - Challenges – add climate dimension to existing pedagogical practice.
 - Education – more climate clubs now exist at our schools.
 - Staff Portal – more teachers need to be made aware.
 - Conference – annually in February
 - Moving into Next Year...
 - Climate Action Facilitator position continuing
 - Promote district climate work and portal.
 - Follow-up on grants
 - Climate Action leads at all sites
 - Climate Club conference
 - Climate Action Pro-D
 - Environmental Science 12 course at NWSS
 - New IB Environmental Systems and Societies Course

Questions and comments ensued.

- c. Child Care Update – Ileana Neilson
 - Tweedsmuir After School Studio
 - Licensed in January 2024
 - Start date September 2024
 - Funded by the Board of Education
 - Seamless Day Kindergarten
 - Located at Ecole Qayqayt Elementary
 - SDK is funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care
 - 1 SDK in the third year of funding
 - 1 SDK in the second year of funding

- Relocation of child care
 - Successful relocation of child care at F.W. Howay and Ecole Lord Tweedsmuir with no interruption of services to families
- Our success stories.
 - Increased StrongStart participation
 - Supporting educators with best practices in the early years
 - Learning grounded in the BC Early Learning Framework

General concern with the number of children on the waiting list. There will be no opportunity for growth due to lack of space.

Ileana will provide the Board a copy of the Historical Child Care and Waitlist data. Ileana will also provide further information from the Ministry as it is received.

Questions and comments ensued.

D. Summer School Update – Stephen Inniss and Tu Loan Trieu

- Successes
 - Large growth
 - Addressing needs of designated students
 - Positive impact on the community
 - Staff interested in the program.
- Challenges
 - Meeting needs of growth
 - Facility constraints
 - Finding space at NWSS
 - Long term planning for k-5 program.
 - Oversight of course selection for secondary courses, class composition for K-5
 - Determining baseline for material cost
 - Appropriate level of administrative and secretarial support

Conversation on growth and funding occurred. It was noted that summer school is funded and provided free to students. Need and request for growth will continue but currently there is no space.

Questions and comments ensued.

5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.