



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 7:00pm
West Vancouver School Board Office

Present: C. Broady, Chair; N. Brown, Vice Chair; S. Donahue, P. Dorsman, D. Stevenson, Trustees; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; K. Martin, Associate Superintendent; S. Nosek, Associate Superintendent; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; L. Hill, Director of Instruction; A. Campbell, Acting Director of Instruction; W. Hickey, Director of Facilities

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Broady called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation. She said we look forward to another school year working with all members of the Nation as we move education forward in our district.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

“Westcot ADST: Growing our Understanding of ADST through the lens of Engineering”
– Westcot Elementary

Principal Cathie Ratz and Vice Principal Tricia Yurkowski

Principal Ratz introduced Vice Principal Tricia Yurkowski, the driving force behind bringing the Future City program to West Vancouver Schools and asked her to explain more about the initiative. Vice Principal Yurkowski gave a brief background of the ADST path at Westcot and its inclusion as a school goal. She directed people to the school website, where Learning Stories are showcased and resources shared.

It was within the context of an engineering focus with grade 6 and 7 students that an article in The Globe and Mail caught her attention. The article told the stories of middle school students in Ontario and the Maritimes who were participating in the Future City competition. Future City is a project-based learning program where students in grades 6 – 8 imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. Well-established in the United States, Engineering Canada does have a chapter, but only in the eastern part of the country. Vice Principal Yurkowski was sure that this program would be successful in BC, as it brings together so many facets of the new curriculum. After gauging interest from other elementary vice principals, and after much

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persuasion on the part of Ms Yurkowski, Engineering Canada agreed to support the program in West Vancouver.

This month, six and possibly seven elementary schools have started work on this trans-disciplinary project based on the challenge of designing a city with a power grid that can be maintained in the event of a major natural disaster. For four months, students in 15 classrooms across the district will work in groups of three to research, design, and write up their solution to this issue. They will then apply their learning to the physical building of the model. Each school will have an in-school showcase, and the top two presentations from each class will participate in a district-wide showcase with 30 teams.

With the support of teachers and mentor engineers, including UBC students, as well as initiatives such as Geering Up and district innovation grants, students will demonstrate their understanding of learning concepts such as: engineering and the design cycle; electricity and power grids; the growth of urbanization; alternative energy; rate, ratio, and scale; and essay and speech writing.

Trustees thanked Vice Principal Yurkowski for her determination and perseverance to provide this ADST / STEM opportunity for girls and boys in key years, and for her efforts to support and apply the learning within the new curriculum.

“Fencing Summer Accomplishments” – WV Premier Academy Programs

Director of Instruction Diane Nelson, Coach Igor Gantsevich, and athletes

Director Nelson introduced Igor Gantsevich, fencing academy coach, and athletes Howard Z. and Christina Z. She then reminded trustees of the four year journey that fencing has taken in the district, from exposure lessons in PE classes, to a fledgling academy housed at Eagle Harbour, to the new fencing-specific facility at the field house at Sentinel Secondary with a full academy cohort of 29 students. Coach Gantsevich thanked the board, the district leadership team, and the district for the opportunity to teach and grow the fencing academy and give students the opportunity to do what they love while receiving an excellent education. We are now attracting students not only from across the Lower Mainland, but Europe and China as well. He said that West Vancouver Schools is the only school district in the country providing this kind of opportunity and facility for fencing student athletes and that several of our athletes are becoming global names in the world of competitive fencing. Coach Gantsevich then introduced Howard Z. and Christina Z., both of whom are attending school in West Vancouver specifically to be able to participate in the Fencing Academy. Howard is the U17 2017 North American Cup Champion and the U17 2018 US National Champion, and Christina is a member of both the 2018 U17 and U20 Canadian National Teams and the 2018 U17 World Cup Bronze medallist. Both students are actively being recruited by Columbia University. Director Nelson and Coach Gantsevich are confident that in five years, the bulk of the national team will be training in affiliation with our academy, but were quick to point out that the program is an inclusive one, and trains fencing athletes of all abilities. Every athlete’s accomplishments, personal or competitive, are a source of pride.

“West Van Warriors - CSSHL” – WV Premier Academy Programs

Director of Instruction Diane Nelson, Coaches Nathan Fischer and Jon Calvano, and athletes

Director Nelson reminded the board that this is now the third year of the team concept, with four travelling teams now competing in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League (CSSHL) as the West Van Warriors. Members of the newest team, Bantam Prep, were in attendance, along with their Head Coach Jon Calvano and Nathan Fischer, partner and head of hockey personnel for West Van Warriors. Coach Calvano and the players introduced themselves and identified the various locations across the Lower Mainland and Canada from where they come. Mr Fischer thanked the Superintendent, Director Nelson, and trustees for their support and partnership, noting that the pillars of academics, athletics, and leadership are critical to the program’s success.

Defenseman Jonathan Corbett concluded by inviting trustees and staff to attend their home-opener on Saturday, September 22 at Hollyburn Country Club, when they face the Pacific Coast Academy.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1370	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting September 18, 2018 be adopted.	<u>Carried.</u>
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D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- said that in his 18 years coaching in the district, has seen the academic and athletic achievements of the academy students
- asked if Director Nelson has considered creating academy alumni displays in each high school highlighting their successes or looked into the possibility of sponsorship by alumni

Director Nelson replied that she regrets not doing more formal tracking of academy alumni, but noted that her focus has always been on elevating all students in the academies

Chair Broady thanked Mr Inman for his comments and said they would discuss his idea further.

Renee Willock – President, WVTA

- reminded the board that last spring when the budget was announced, WVTA members were extremely worried about the reduction in EA levels
- said she was relieved to be reassured by Associate Superintendent Martin that supports would be put in place according to student need and not a formula
- despite this reassurance, has heard from several teachers who are finding their class composition challenging and, in some cases, dangerous

- is aware that support is going to be looked at in October, but would like to make clear the sense of urgency in some classrooms

Chair Broady thanked Mrs Willock for bringing the concerns forward and suggested that she connect with Associated Superintendent Martin tomorrow to try to immediately resolve these particular situations.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting June 12, 2018

#1371	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting June 12, 2018 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record June 15, 2018

#1372	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record, June 15, 2018 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Vice Chair Brown said she found the Technovation presentation by the girls from Rockridge and Parnaz Kashani so impressive last June that she would like to see the program expand to the other secondary schools.

Chair Broady asked Director of Facilities Hickey if he could please give a brief update on both the Irwin Park building envelope and HVAC project, and the Gleneagles Ch'axáy playground grant.

The Director told trustees that the Irwin Park project is on schedule and on budget, though there was some nervousness close to Labour Day about classroom preparedness. The project should be completed by mid-November. He also said that facilities was happy and excited to be able to get the new playground in at Gleneagles and that students were thrilled with the new structure.

The Chair thanked the Director and asked that he pass on her thanks on behalf of the board to the custodial staff who worked long hours during the Labour Day weekend to ensure that the interior of Irwin Park was clean and ready to welcome staff and students back on the first day of school.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

Superintendent Kennedy gave brief updates on a number of topics of interest:

Elementary Physical Literacy

This program is continuing and extended to grade 4 this year. Teacher-Mentors Amber Pascual and Erin Crawford will conduct pre and post assessments and will report to the board in May 2019. A one-day Physical Literacy Conference is being hosted at Sentinel on the provincial pro-d day on October 19.

Academy Programs

There are 500 students in 18 academies this year, including new additions animation, environmental science, table tennis, volleyball, and bantam prep hockey. Paul Eberhardt has joined the district as vice principal of academies and is based at WVSS. As well, all three Ignite Your Passions programs for students in grades 6 – 8 are fully subscribed: All Hands on Tech; Big Bad Bot Builders; and Great Bots of Fire.

Technology Update

This year sees the second wave of the teacher device refresh and approximately 120 devices will be distributed to replace old machines. New IT Manager Tyler Soron has joined the district and is overseeing continued work around digital security (encryption, protection against malware, ransomware etc.), disaster recovery, and modernization. Our digital platforms remain consistent, with use of GSuite, Fresh Grade, Discovery Education, Math IXL, and MyBluePrint now commonplace. Grade 6/7 students across the district will participate in the third year of Coding Quest, as well as be invited to participate in the FutureCities program. Google Expeditions virtual reality is in use at Westcot and Rockridge this year, after a successful pilot at Hollyburn last year. Increased work around digital citizenship for students in grades K- 9 will focus on finding credible sources, on-line behaviour, privacy etc.

BC Graduation Program Update

The new grade 10 curriculum is now fully implemented, and the grade 11 and 12 curriculum will be in effect next fall, though much of it is already in use. Provincial assessments in numeracy and literacy are a graduation requirement and align with the new curriculum. The numeracy assessment is already in place, and the literacy assessment will be introduced in January 2020. In the meantime, students are still required to write the English 12 provincial exam. Grad Transitions is replaced by 8 credits of career education. What delivery of those 8 credits looks like is flexible, but there will be a common approach across our district. Director of Instruction Liz Hill is currently holding meetings with students, teachers, and administrators to shape that delivery. Students are still required to earn a minimum of 80 credits in order to graduate, but there are now more course options available, particularly in English and Social Studies.

Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL)

This is the replacement for the old school improvement plans and accountability contracts and requires schools to develop one or two inquiry questions/goals around student learning and success. The process takes place over a three-year cycle. The final set of schools will complete their third year this school year, and the district will also engage in a District FESL, using the same framework model as schools.

Early Learning

StrongStart programs are running at three sites: Chartwell and Hollyburn four days a week; and Eagle Harbour three days a week. Kindergarten Gradual Entry continued this year and

has proven to be successful. Sandra-Lynn Shortall, district principal of early learning, is heading up the District Early Literacy team supporting students in Kindergarten – grade 3.

Fine Arts Review

Program reviews are undertaken at the discretion of the Superintendent and recent reviews include ACCESS and French Immersion. Reviews are conducted with an outside facilitator and look at the full delivery of a program, examining the full scope of the field, including items such as whether we are providing the right opportunities, ensuring equal access, overlapping with community options etc. The Fine Arts Review will begin this fall and will conclude with a report to the board in the spring.

West Vancouver Place for Sport

The project actually has some good momentum at the moment, driven by a revised project scope and budget. The new budget is \$2.5 million, approximately half of the original budget. The plan is now to work within the existing footprint, installing a rubber track and artificial turf infield, new lights, and a new washroom building. With \$1 million already raised through donations from the District of West Vancouver, West Vancouver Community Foundation, West Van Football Club, West Vancouver Schools, and track and field groups, the remaining \$1.5 million is a much more realistic fundraising target. It is acknowledged that a time limit does need to be set for fundraising and, if the money is raised, a realistic start date would be in 2020. There is renewed optimism as a result and the topic has been part of civic election discussions around youth and community services.

In response to trustee questions, Associate Superintendent Nosek noted that teacher devices are PC laptops, with a small number of senior math and science teachers receiving tablets. As well, they are looking at expanding the number of virtual reality sets in the district and will be engaging schools and PACs in the discussion. In response to a question from the Chair regarding the removal of provincial exams, the Superintendent reported that he is not hearing of push-back and the general feeling is that it will not affect university acceptance. He said the government seems committed to this new model, but is aware of concern among trustees. The Superintendent also expanded on the delivery of the new careers program, saying that different districts have different models and that there is a greater likelihood of structural change. Director Hill and her team will consider a range of possibilities. There is still a chance that Career Life Education will be offered online, but the Superintendent feels that the delivery is robust enough, students will want to take the course in school.

2. Enrolment Update

Kim Martin, Associate Superintendent

Associate Superintendent Martin reviewed preliminary enrolment numbers for the last four years, noting that this year's numbers are not official until September 30. Our regular enrolment is stable, despite smaller class sizes at primary. We now have 85 primary divisions across the district and many schools are at or near capacity. There are pockets of room for late-enrolling students and any West Vancouver students are being accommodated. The managed decrease in fee-paying international student numbers continues, and academy and specialty program enrolment remains strong. Our English language learners (ELL) are as projected, and there is a slight increase in our elementary Indigenous education numbers. A more detailed report will be given at the October board meeting.

3. Class size / Composition

Kim Martin, Associate Superintendent

Associate Superintendent Martin reminded the board of the history of this funding stream, from the Learning Improvement Fund (LIF), to Priority Measures, to the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF). The CEF allows boards to staff their district to levels in the previous collective agreement language, taking into consideration class size, composition, and non-enrolling ratios. West Vancouver Kindergarten classes are limited to 20 students, down from 22 in 2016-2017, and grade 1 – 3 classrooms are limited to 22, down from 24 previously. There are no class limits for grades 4 – 12 in West Vancouver, but the School Act caps classes at 30 students at September 30. Any classroom with more than 30 students after that date is considered to be non-compliant. For the 2017-2018 school year, West Vancouver Schools had seven French Immersion primary classrooms that were non-compliant. This year, we are fully compliant at elementary and Associate Superintendent Martin acknowledged the efforts of principals and vice-principals in ensuring this happened. As is typical, there is one secondary Calculus 12 class over 30 (with 31 students), but it is anticipated that this will decline by the end of first term.

West Vancouver has no local language in our collective agreement regarding composition and we continue to use the School-based Team (SBT) process to determine staffing levels. Dave Platt, district administrator of student support services, is proactively involved in this process and will check in with all schools in the coming weeks. In the interim, he will work with the WVTA to provide supports for challenging classrooms.

We continue to receive \$233,000 in LIF funding for Education Assistants (EAs) and it is spent according to a formula agreed upon after consultation with the WVMEA. Paid time is added to EA assignments to allow for the work they do with students before and after school.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Audit Committee Meeting – September 10, 2018

Committee Chair Dorsman reminded those present that this is the second year the Audit Committee has been in existence and that Trustee Donahue and Cathy Imrie, CFO for the Vancouver Aquarium are on the committee with him. He briefly reviewed the minutes and said that the committee was pleased with the thorough audit process and results.

Board Chair Broady thanked the committee, Secretary Treasurer, and staff, and said she appreciated the clear manner in which the many complicated funding structures were explained. While she understands that the make-up of our student population has a bearing on our funding (number of ELL, Indigenous, or special education students etc.), the Chair expressed concern about the provincial funding model review and its potential effect on our budget.

#1373	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Audited Financial Statements 2017/18 be approved and filed with the Ministry of Education.
	<u>Carried.</u>

Committee Chair Dorsman then reminded trustees that the initial contract signed with KPMG in 2015 was for three years, with the option to renew for another two years. Based on a quote from KPMG and with the support of the Secretary Treasurer, the Audit Committee recommends extending the two year option on the existing contract.

#1374	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the contract with KPMG for audit services be extended for a further two years.	<u>Carried.</u>
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#1375	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held September 10, 2018 be received.	<u>Carried.</u>
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2. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – September 11, 2018

Committee Chair Stevenson briefly reviewed the minutes and thanked the Secretary Treasurer for her clear and thorough presentation reviewing the financial statements.

#1376	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held September 11, 2018 be received.	<u>Carried.</u>
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I. FOR INFORMATION

The Chair noted that changes have been made to administrative procedure AP 183 – Parent Email Databases. The updated version has been posted on the public district website and the Superintendent will speak to the updates at the next DPAC meeting.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of the correspondence from the past month is posted online at <http://westvancouver.schools.ca/board-correspondence>

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Trustee Donahue reported that she has recently participated in two traffic safety blitzes, with one more to follow. This collaborative effort with West Vancouver Police Department and Speed Watch volunteers is to highlight driving behaviour in school zones while students are walking and biking to school.

The Chair noted that campaigning will shortly begin in earnest for the municipal and school board elections and encouraged all eligible residents to vote on October 20 or on one of the many advance voting dates: October 6, 9-12, 14 and 15.

Audit Committee Meeting BCSTA Metro Meeting Board of Education / DLT Planning Day Coho Festival District Opening Day and Long Service Awards Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Gleneagles Traffic Safety Blitz Inglewood Graduation Liaison Meeting with Mayor and Council North Shore Congress NSIIP Working Group Presidents' Committee Meeting Ridgeview Traffic Safety Blitz Rockridge Graduation Banquet School Traffic and Safety Committee Meeting	Sentinel Graduation Banquet Sentinel Commencement Vancouver Pride Parade West Vancouver Mayor's Lawn Bowling Tournament WVSS Graduation Banquet West Vancouver Track Meeting with District Council Staff Breakfast Meeting with WVSD Long Service Employees West Vancouver Police Department Open House Lunch meeting with WVTA WV Memorial Library Summer Reading Club Ceremony
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L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- through the Chair, asked the Superintendent how the reduction in the WVSS track budget was achieved

The Superintendent replied that the initial plan included a new eight-lane track, a FIFA-sized artificial turf infield, removal and reconstruction of bleachers, and associated expansion of the site. The new plan, while of the same quality, has a smaller scope and will use the existing footprint. It is more a case of replacing, rather than rebuilding, and accordingly, associated costs are reduced.

The Chair added that the West Van Football Club is amenable to the new plan, as they will be able to use the artificial turf for soccer practices etc. She also noted that while local track groups will not be able to host international events as hoped, they are pleased at the prospect of an improved practice and local event surface and are in support of the revamped proposal.

M. ADJOURNMENT

8:38 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER