



**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE
WEST VANCOUVER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 7:00pm
West Vancouver School Board Office**

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

Absent: W. Hickey, Director of Facilities

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Secretary Treasurer (in the Chair) called to order the inaugural meeting of the newly elected West Vancouver Board of Education. She recognized that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation and thanked our friends and colleagues in the Nation who are working with us to guide our understanding of the history of this land and its people. She said we respect and honour the Elders past, present, and future, as we bring this knowledge to the students of our community. The Secretary Treasurer raised her hands to Sahplek, a respected Elder from the Squamish Nation and a key partner in our journey to welcome the Nation within our district and advance our learning together.

The Secretary Treasurer recognized the newly elected Board of Education: returning Trustees Carolyn Broady, Nicole Brown, Sheelah Donahue, and Dave Stevenson; and new Trustee Lynne Block. She then introduced special guest Judge James Sutherland and invited him to read aloud the Oath of Office and swear in the new Board.

B. SWEARING IN OF THE NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION

Judge James Sutherland

Judge James Sutherland began by saying it was his honour and privilege to be here to administer oaths and affirmations and offered his congratulations to the trustees. He said that school trustees are responsible for building and maintaining a school system that reflects the values of the community they represent. As they guide and make decisions, they do so with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement. Judge Sutherland said it was this last piece that truly

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makes evident the privilege one holds as trustee, and he urged the new board to remember the direct link between the education of students and the betterment of our community and society as a whole. Being a trustee is tremendously meaningful and privileged work and he said that as a member of the local community, he is grateful for it. The Secretary Treasurer thanked him for his service and his thoughtful words.

Judge Sutherland then conducted the Oath of Office for each trustee in turn. The five trustees read aloud the individual oaths and were officially sworn in as School Trustees for a term of four years.

C. SQUAMISH NATION BLESSING

Sahplek

Director of Instruction Liz Hill said it was her privilege to introduce Sahplek, an integral member of the district Aboriginal Education team, in his role as Cultural Advisor. She said he was an important friend to the district and could think of no one better to welcome the newly sworn-in trustees.

Sahplek began by acknowledging distinguished family, elders, leaders, and newly elected board members, saying that it was an honour for him to be able to give the blessing. He recounted how, for years, he has thought about how good it would be for all of us to be in the same metaphorical canoe, working together on the same journey. He is excited about the recent purchase of our own school district canoe, and is working on getting protocols and a curriculum in place for its use. He said the canoe is another classroom, where teaching is based on respect, and will be used to educate students about the place we live, its history, and its meaning. Sahplek is excited about what this school year will bring and invited trustees to join him out in the canoe in the spring.

Sahplek then performed his song The Gathering of Eagles. The song is used to mark an occasion, and is a way to address ancestors and focus our journey. It encapsulates the spirit of the eagle and of family. This song is now used by some schools in our district as a complement to the Canadian national anthem at school assemblies, and has recently been scored by composer Robert Buckley and performed by the West Van Youth Band. Sahplek invited those present to dance with him as he sang.

D. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Secretary Treasurer (in the Chair) called for nominations for the role of Chair of the West Vancouver Board of Education.

Trustee Stevenson nominated Carolyn Broady and Trustee Brown seconded the nomination.

Nominations were called for a second time and a third time. There being no further nominations, the Secretary Treasurer asked Trustee Broady if she was prepared to accept the position of Board Chair. Trustee Broady accepted and was declared Board Chair by acclamation.

The new Board Chair took over the meeting and called for nominations for Board Vice Chair.

Trustee Donahue nominated Nicole Brown and Chair Broady seconded the nomination.

Nominations were called for a second and third time. There being no further nominations, the Chair asked Trustee Brown if she was prepared to accept the position. Trustee Brown accepted and was declared Vice Chair by acclamation.

The Chair congratulated her colleagues and said she was looking forward to working together for four years, and there is amazing work ahead to be done on behalf of students.

E. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1384	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Inaugural Meeting November 20, 2018 be adopted.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting October 16, 2018

#1385	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 16, 2018 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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G. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMITTEES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

A list of representatives on committees and organizations, as well as school liaison assignments, was reviewed and will be available on the district website at westvancouver.schools.ca

H. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach

- said he had recently heard that the Ministry was considering changing funding, including that for special education students, and wondered if that was true and how it would affect West Vancouver

Chair Broady replied that there is a full funding review underway and it has been going on for about 12 months. While it has been mentioned in past board meetings, we have no details at this point. There have been regional meetings between trustees, superintendents, secretary treasurers and trustees and a professional committee, which has put together a working paper based on those meetings. That paper is now sitting with an implementation committee. The Ministry is currently working out details and last Friday, committed to having recommendations out before Christmas break. We will know more then, but in the meantime, it is all speculation.

- Mr Inman then asked for an update on the Sentinel bubble project

The Chair passed the floor to the Secretary Treasurer, who reported that while the good news is that the sprung structure is in production, we have missed the weather window for safe installation. It will now be put in place next summer and be fully functional for September 2019. She knows that Sentinel staff is working hard to manage gym access in the meantime and appreciates their efforts.

I. ADJOURNMENT

7:25 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER