



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Tuesday, December 18, 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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair called the meeting and 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 in our community.

**B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

**"Recognizing Orange Shirt Day & Learning about Canadian Indian Residential Schools"**  
**– Bowen Island Community School**

*Principal Scott Slater, teachers Andrea Layzell and Stephanie McDonald, and students Beatrice L., Kate P., Ronan R., and Cole W.*

Principal Slater introduced teachers and students and thanked the board for the opportunity to speak about what Orange Shirt Day and learning about Canadian Indian Residential Schools looks like in an elementary school. He explained that three years ago, while Orange Shirt Day was acknowledged, it was not particularly meaningful for staff or students and efforts were made to change that in the time since. Staff have made use of a number of age-appropriate learning resources, participated in a field trip to UBC to learn about reconciliation and held school-wide assemblies with presentations by Squamish Elder Sahplek. This year, increased efforts around community outreach for Orange Shirt Day included articles in the local newspaper and an on-island screening of the film Indian Horse, hosted by BICS and Sahplek. Principal Slater said it was important for conversations around reconciliation to not just be held

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at school, but to continue at home and in the community, and that inclusiveness is a shared common goal.

Teacher Stephanie McDonald explained that in the grade 4/5 classrooms, the learning around residential schools begins to go deeper, and she spoke about the innate sense of justice and fairness held by many children that age. She said it is the ideal time to look at past government decisions and the unintended consequences of them, using some of the excellent resources that are now available. She said books and stories in particular help make the subject accessible and students told trustees what resonated with them in stories such as *Fatty Legs* by Christy Jordan-Fenton, including how sad it must have been to be far away from your parents, or the symbolism of the pictures to represent the power of the nuns. Students also studied historical documents and photographs of residential schools. Double-entry journals were completed as they read stories and books, detailing their thoughts and responses about intended and unintended consequences of government policies.

Teacher Andrea Layzell said students had many questions and some were answered, but they are still young, so some questions, such as the development of the worldview and sense of superiority held by the nuns, will not be answered at this stage. Still, she said they are developing their questioning and critical thinking skills and will be equipped to answer bigger questions as they get older. Students also started to develop research skills as they studied the Indian Act, expanding their knowledge by reading things such as school food inspection reports, student letters to chiefs, and finding and examining floor plans of school like St. Mary's in North Vancouver. They were able to compare residential schools to their own using Venn diagrams, among other strategies. One student used Scratch block programming to create a re-telling of the story *When We Were Alone* by David Robertson, and at the end of the unit students complete Colour Symbol Image (CSI) documents to represent what they had learned.

### **"WVSS Senior Mentors and PIT Crew" – West Vancouver Secondary**

*Principal Steve Rauh, counsellor Joey McLeod, and students*

Principal Rauh introduced students Raman, Peter, Jenny, and Nika, and counsellor Joey McLeod. He said that he is extremely proud of the work Mr McLeod has done and the value he brings to the school. He has been hoping to put a mentorship program in place for a long time and said he is very grateful to Mr McLeod for making it a reality. Mr McLeod thanked the principal for his kind words and explained to trustees that senior mentorship is part of his course load. Grade 11 and 12 students are matched with grade 8s to ease the transition to high school and to give them a peer point of contact to provide a listening ear or give advice.

The students told trustees that they started to make connections with the new grade 8s at the opening day grade 8 barbeque, and then at the one-day outdoor school event, designed to promote cooperation and further bonding. Students were then assigned in small groups to a mentor with whom they felt a particular connection. There are 28 students in the class, and each has six or seven grade 8s in their group.

To help the mentors provide support, they have participated in various seminars, including suicide-awareness, and have learned about adolescence and active listening skills in after-school meetings. Mentors explained that their interactions with their assigned students can take many forms, from pull-out meetings during class to talk, to meeting at lunch or after school individually or in small groups, to arranging basketball sessions after school to boost the morale of those students who didn't make the school team. They explained that conversations don't

always need to be deep, but they just need to be present, and that any interaction is meaningful. They want to be good role models for their grade 8s as well, demonstrating good work habits, personal responsibility, and appropriate behavior through their own actions.

Mentors spoke of the challenges they encountered at the beginning of the program, from managing their time effectively, to finding it difficult to get the younger students to open up, to overcoming their own shyness. They all agreed, however, that the experience has become so much more than fulfilling the requirements of a course, and they have developed true friendships, learned skills that they can apply in other areas of their lives, and now truly look forward to and value the time they spend with the grade 8s.

Mr McLeod concluded by saying how impressed he is with his mentorship students, their passion, and their dedication. The class has been so successful, that he has now started a junior level mentorship program called the Peer Inclusion Taskforce, or PIT Crew. He said they are just getting going, but will build in the future and complement the solid mentorship program being established at the senior level.

## **C. WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

### **District of West Vancouver Community Award Winners**

*Hey-Jung Choi, District Honour Choir accompanist; Kyra Smiljanic and Victoria Mendes, Pauline Johnson Community Park*

Vice Chair Brown reported that she was very proud of the West Vancouver Schools-affiliated volunteers recently recognized at the District of West Vancouver Community Awards. Kyra Smiljanic and Victoria Mendes were unable to attend this evening, but the Vice Chair honoured them in their absence, saying their work to create the PJ Community Park was a five and half year labour of love. She said she is proud of the passion they hold for outdoor learning and of their accomplishment and legacy.

The Vice Chair then welcomed Hey Jung Choi and said she is constantly amazed not only by her level of talent and passion, but also the number of community groups with which she volunteers, including the District Honour Choirs, the Hollyburn Elementary Choir, and the Silk Purse Singers, among others. Mrs Choi's husband, Hoon, then spoke on her behalf, thanking trustees and the district for their recognition and saying that music is his wife's words and her way of saying thanks. To that end, Mrs Choi played a selection of popular and traditional Christmas music.

The Chair concluded by presenting her with flowers, thanking her for her wonderful performance and for all that she does in our schools and community.

## **D. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

<b>#1388</b>	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting December 18, 2018 be adopted.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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## E. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

*Rob Inman – West Vancouver resident and coach*

- said he liked the WVSS mentors presentation and wondered, if it is a success, will it expand to Rockridge and Sentinel?
- asked if mentors will attend the grade 7 family information evenings held by high schools in January

The Chair replied that she hoped similar programs would expand to the other secondary schools and said she thought the idea of the student mentors attending information evenings was a great idea and one she hoped may be possible.

## F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Inaugural Meeting November 20, 2018

#1389	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting November 20, 2018 be approved.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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- General Record November 27, 2018

#1390	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record, November 27, 2018 be approved.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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## G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising.

## H. BOARD BUSINESS

### 1. Choice Consultative Committee

*Diane Nelson, Director of Instruction*

Director of Instruction Nelson reviewed materials and information for a new BAA Course, Sports & Recreation Mentorship 11, and two new Premier Academy programs: Kickboxing and Engineering. These were recommended to the Board by the Choice Consultative Committee after they were presented at the November committee meeting. Rationale, format, instruction, and logistics were explained and the offerings will be part of upcoming course planning information evenings at our three secondary schools.

#1391

**MOTION THAT the BAA course Sports & Recreation Mentorship 11 and Premier Academy Programs for Kickboxing and Engineering be approved for the 2019-2020 school year.**

**Carried.**

The Chair extended thanks to Director Nelson and the teachers involved for building the academy program.

**2. Trustee Stipend**

*Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer*

The Secretary Treasurer briefly reviewed the 2007 engagement of an independent review committee to look at the trustee stipend issue and noted that they made two recommendations: that the stipend be adjusted to reflect the average of those districts in the region; and that it be reviewed annually in June and compared to the Vancouver Consumer Price Index. She reported that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has recently changed its rules regarding non-taxable benefits and the change affects all districts in the province. Previously, one third of the trustee stipend was considered a non-taxable benefit in recognition of expenses. As of January 1, 2019, that allowance no longer applies and 100% of the stipend is taxable, which reduces the trustees' take-home amount.

It was decided to wait until the new board was in place to make a decision on this matter, and the Secretary Treasurer recommends that the stipend be adjusted, raising the amount enough to ensure that the take-home amount is the same as before the new CRA regulations. The recommended increases are \$150 per month for the chair, \$129 per month for the vice chair, and \$122 per month for trustees. Annual stipends would be: \$25,500 for the chair; \$23,500 for the vice chair; and \$22,900 per trustee.

The Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer for the information and noted that this change affects a number of groups across the country, and that BCSTA and others in Canada have tried to mitigate the effects upon their members.

#1392

**MOTION THAT the Trustee Stipend rate be adjusted to reflect new Canada Revenue Agency regulations.**

**Carried.**

**3. BCSTA Fall Academy**

*Carolyn Broady, Chair*

The Chair gave a quick update on the recent BCSTA Fall Academy, reporting that it was the largest in history, with 46% of membership newly-elected trustees after October's elections. There were presentations by George Couros and Deputy Minister Scott Macdonald, and professional development sessions for trustees. Indigenous Education was embedded throughout.

Of note was the attendance by Minister Rob Fleming and the operationalization of the newly-signed Memorandum of Understanding between the BCTSA and the Ministry of Education. The Chair said that while everyone is waiting to see how it plays out, it is good

news, as the last MOU under previous Minister Michael Fassbender was signed but nothing happened.

## I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. Human Resources Committee Meeting – November 27, 2018

Committee Chair Brown reviewed the minutes, highlighting the expiration of both the WVTA and WVMEA agreements on June 30, 2019. The board has approved their support staff bargaining plan and it will be submitted to BCPSEA for approval. Teacher bargaining will not begin until after BCPSEA holds its AGM in January. She encouraged people to read the minutes once they are posted online tomorrow.

#1393	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held November 27, 2018 be received.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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### 2. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – December 11, 2018

Committee Chair Stevenson briefly reviewed the minutes, including the Sentinel gym project update, and then passed the floor to the Secretary Treasurer to speak about the 2018-19 amended budget revenue.

The Secretary Treasurer reported that overall revenue is up just under \$930,000 over the preliminary budget as a result of a student enrolment increase of 25 FTE, as well as additional funding in the operating grant, special purpose funds and some sources of local revenue. She stressed that it was important to remember that there are costs associated with all these items. Expenses are currently being calculated and will be presented later in the winter. We will still have a deficit for 2018/19 of approximately \$450 – 600,000, resulting in a further draw upon our reserves. Though revenue is up slightly and will somewhat mitigate any increased costs, it is a very tight budget year and we will need to find increased cost-savings and efficiencies moving forward.

The Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer for her summary and then took the opportunity to extend thanks on behalf of the board to the staff, students, and families at Sentinel for their patience and flexibility as they deal with delays in construction of the new gym structure. She said it is a very unfortunate situation and assured them that trustees are very aware of the consequences. She also asked Mrs Willock to express thanks to the members of the WVTA as well.

#1394	<b><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held December 11, 2018 be received.</b>	<b><u>Carried.</u></b>
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**J. FOR INFORMATION**

The Chair noted that housekeeping changes have been made to administrative procedures AP 280 – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting of Student Results and AP 415 – Workplace Bullying and Harassment.

The updated procedures have been posted on the public district website.

**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**

The Chair noted that it had been a busy month and thanked trustees. Trustee Donahue said she had attended the ELL Consortium meeting and that MLAs and MPs have been invited to the next meeting. She said she was impressed with the leadership and knowledge of ELL Coordinator Maria Yioldassis.

BCSTA Trustee Academy ELL Consortium Meeting Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Human Resources Committee Meeting Inglewood Secondary Charity Pancake Breakfast Mindset Matters (SFU) Presidents’ Committee Meeting Trustee Orientation Meetings Various Schools’ Community Performances	Various Schools’ Holiday Concerts WV Chamber of Commerce Christmas Dinner WV Community Centre Society WV Streamkeepers’ Wrap-Up WV DPAC Meeting and Christmas Luncheon WV School District Christmas Party and Charity Theme Baskets WVSS Honour Choir Concert
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**L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)**

*Renee Willock – President, WVTA*

- said she sits on the Choice Consultative Committee and did vote in favour of the academy programs approved this evening
- said her role is to bring the voices of teachers to these meetings, and they are questioning whether we should be expanding academy offerings to the extent we are, burdening the system in certain schools and perhaps creating a two-tier system
- teachers are keen to make it clear that they are not criticizing colleagues who work in academies or any one particular program, but are asking a philosophical question

The Chair thanked Mrs Willock and said she appreciated her comments.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and a happy and productive 2019.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

**8:20 pm**

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BOARD CHAIR

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SECRETARY TREASURER