

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

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 5:00 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Dee Beattie, Vice Chair Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Anita Ansari, Trustee Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Danielle Connelly, Trustee Robert Weston, Executive Director of Human Resources
Mark Gifford, Trustee Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
Mary Lalji, Trustee Guests:
Maya Russell, Trustee Members of the Public
Tanis Anderson, District Vice Principal, Early Learning
Anjala Banziger, School Psychologist
Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Ravinder Johal, District Principal, Equity & Inclusion
Emily Larkman, Teacher
John Lekakis, Vice Principal, NWSS
Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record
Murray McLeod, Principal, NWSS
Kai Smith, SOGI Lead
Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU

1. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the May 11, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentation

a. NWSS Presentation: School Learning Plan

NWSS Principal McLeod and Vice Principal Lekakis presented a video of students and staff sharing how their learning engagement has been enhanced by the new school.

3. Comment and Question Period

Nil.

4. Reports from Senior Management

a. Review Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Report

SOGI Lead Smith began the presentation by explaining how the use of the term SOGI is inclusive as it encompasses everyone within the LGBTQ community. SOGI programming makes schools and Districts safer. District Principal, Equity & Inclusion Johal explained that the District has [Policy 17](#) and [Administrative Procedure 117](#) in place, which have supported the inclusive culture and diversity. Staff are learning to speak in gender neutral terms. Provincial and regional contacts have been very supportive in sharing information.

Next steps will include navigating a "new normal"; further engagement with parents - Q&A nights and sharing the message that having SOGI available to our students is to their advantage and fosters understanding of others; sharing diverse resources. There may be an opportunity to have a space in the Welcome and/or Wellness Centre to provide SOGI information and support.

b. Literacy Support

Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings introduced Tanis Anderson, Emily Larkman and Anjala Banziger who provided an update on inclusive education pertaining to Recommendation 1.8, which ensures academic supports and interventions are in place to support students who are struggling in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Highlights included:

- x Learning Support Teachers:
 - o

It was asked how students in the upper grades are being supported around identifying dyslexia and other severe learning challenges. Teachers have resources and access to Learning Support Teachers. As well, further professional development with Jennifer Katz will focus on middle and high school level.

c. 2021-2022 School Fees

Associate Superintendent Naser provided an overview of the 2021-22 School Fee Schedule. It was asked what is being done to provide financial support to those who are in need. The District currently does not collect data on how many students are supported financially. Associate Superintendent Naser will follow-up.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of the 2021-2022 School Fees as presented.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.