

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

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 5:00 PM

Via Webex Livestream

- PRESENT** Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair
Anita Ansari, Trustee
Mary Lalji, Trustee
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Maya Russell, Trustee
Mark Gifford, Trustee
- Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary
Guests:
Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director Instruction Learning & Innovations
Bruce Cunnings, Director Instruction, Learning Services
Tanis Anderson, District Vice Principal Early Learning
Amy Grey, Associate Secretary-Treasurer
Connie Swan, District Vice Principal, Indigenous Education
Murray McLeod, Principal, NWSS
Stacy Brine, Teacher, NWSSM-Lu Vi,i NW7.20 -0.002 Tc4-W1.9 (i).
Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU
Student Trustees
- REGRETS** Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair
Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources

Committee Chair Beattie 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 Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the February 8, 2022 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

Nil.

3. **STUDENT VOICE**

a. Fall Survey Update

Student Trustees shared the results, feedback and next steps from the Fall Survey. A total of 309 students, 15% of the student body, responded to the survey that encompassed 4 major themes:

- Safety & Feeling Welcome at New Westminster Secondary School
 - 85% of student respondents feel measures to protect them against the spread of COVID-19 are adequate or somewhat adequate. Students provided input on how to improve COVID-19 safety measures at school
 - 90% of student respondents feel welcomed or feel neutral on this topic. Students provided input on how to create a more welcoming feeling at the school
- Supporting LGBTQA+ Students
 - 26% of student respondents identify as part of the LGBTQA+ community and 17% preferred not to answer. Students provided input on how to better support the LGBTQA+ school community.
- Mental Health Supports
 - 56% of student respondents identified that school was affecting their mental health, negatively or very negatively. Students provided their input on what was particularly challenging for them. Some students feel they are reaching their breaking point.
- Technology
 - 65% of student respondents indicated they can bring their own device to school and 25% indicated they could, though not on a consistent basis.

Superintendent Hachlaf confirmed there is plan for an upcoming student symposium.

4. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Student Learning / Welfare Accountability Report - Policy 12 (M. McRae-Stanger, B. Cunnings, T. Anderson & C. Swan)

Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations McRae-Stanger along with District Vice Principal, Early Learning Anderson; Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings; District Vice Principal, Indigenous Education Swan provided context to the Student Learning / Welfare Accountability Report – Policy 12 presentation. Please refer to the [meeting video](#) for the detailed presentation. A copy of the presentation was also included in the [meeting agenda package](#). Trustees were asked asenp0.002 Tc[(D)2.6 (Gov)-2

- Students with diverse abilities completion rate is 48% (five year) & 65% (six year) which was previously on par with the provincial trend until it dropped slightly this past reporting year