



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

**Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, 3:30 PM  
New Westminster Secondary School (In-person)**

**PRESENT** Marc Andres, Committee Chair



2. **PRESENTATIONS**

**New Westminster Secondary School (P. Craven & M. McLeod)**

Pam and Murray presented highlights on NWSS school startup including school opening activities, Grade 9 Parent night and Reconciliation week activities.

A presentation of proposed changes to the NWSS Timetable was shared:

| <b><u>Actions Taken</u></b>       | <b><u>Exploration of Ideas</u></b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Consultant Report                 | Optimizing schedule                |
| Exploration of space and numbers  | Drop and add structure for courses |
| Meeting with other district staff | Increase online offerings [CLE]    |
| Survey to teachers & students     | Other spaces (Sigma/Online)        |

Next steps include an update at the Education Policy & Planning committee meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, followed by the proposal on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Questions and comments ensued.

3. **COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

No comments or questions

4. **STUDENT VOICE**

Julia introduced this year's Student Voice members Callum and Gunjot who were present as well she acknowledged Murray McLeod as the Student Voice Teacher representative.

Julia, Callum, and Gunjot outlined upcoming Student voice agenda items which included launching the fall survey. The students are looking forward to the Symposium in the spring and the use of Instagram for student engagement and communication.


Trustees thanked the students for their participation and provided comments which included Chair Andres suggestion to provide updates on positive accomplishments throughout the year.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

**a. Indigenous Education Report (C. Swan, A. Laidlaw & K. Headley)**

**Introduction to Indigenous Education Department Staff**

After staff introductions, staff presented on initiatives planned for the 2023/24 school year. The following were highlighted:

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- Indigenous Systems of Knowledge
  - Curriculum & Grad Transitions
  - Truth and Reconciliation initiatives at schools
  - Indigenous Education Council development
  - Equity in Action Plan representation

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism** presented by Ken Headley

- Professional Learning Series connecting DEIA and Truth and Reconciliation (Deepening Indigenous Ways of Knowing) offerings this year.
- Staff collaboration opportunities.
- District wide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Antiracism Pro D Panel and Deepening Indigenous Ways of knowing Presentation
- JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) leads in schools.

Questions and comments ensued.

**b. Programs of Choice (POC) Review Recommendations (M. Naser)**

Maryam provided a brief overview of the POC Review & presented staff recommendations for the 2023-24 school year.



Considerations from Consultant  
Staff Recommendations:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| EFI and Montessori waitlists dissolved on the last day of instruction in December   | October 2023  |
| The inclusion of the Home Learners Program in all district notices and events and improve communication with families.  | October 2023  |
| The development of more French Immersion & Montessori Program information resources for parents, including video clips, interviews, newsletters, etc.   | December 2023 |
| More opportunities for teacher collaboration across the district and between the elementary, middle, and secondary FI programs.   | January 2024  |
| Reinstate school visits to all Grade 5 classrooms to fully promote the Late French immersion Program.   | January 2024  |
| Increase efforts to provide bilingual signage in all common areas of French Immersion school sites and increase French language usage within the school day.  | April 2024    |
| Consider the creation of a District Montessori Advisory Committee.  | May 2024      |
| Continuing to advocate for the implementation of Montessori training programs at BC universities. Consider providing some financial support to teachers interested in pursuing Montessori training. | May 2024      |

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