



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

**Tuesday, February 13th, 2024, 3:30 PM
Herbert Spencer Elementary School**

PRESENT



3. **PRESENTATIONS**

Herbert Spencer Elementary School (Karen Catherwood, Principal, Simran Hare, Vice Principal)

Karen presented a PowerPoint that showcased Family Teams where each month staff and students from various age groups get together in their family teams to work on projects to build a sense of community. The projects included Pink Shirt Day and Ocean Animals. Student work regarding the project is displayed all year long in the Learning Commons area of the school. Currently displayed in the Learning Commons area are the Orange Shirt Day projects from the fall.

Simran provided information on the Grade 4/5 and Grade 4 Technology classes she teaches. The class uses a program called Scratch that is designed for young people ages 8 to 16. The students use Scratch to code their own interactive stories around theme days.

Students Nathan, Matthew, and Aiden provided examples of their own interactive animations and games. Trustee Connelly took part in playing one of the games.

Questions and Comments

- Trustee Connelly commented on how impressive the demonstrations were and thanked the students.

Q. Chair Andres asked if this was hard schoolwork or if it was enjoyable?
A. Students agreed it was enjoyable.
- It was noted that the students are assessed on this work.

4. **COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD**

No comments or questions

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Review Recommended 2-year District Calendar (Julie Pearce)

Julie presented District Calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 along with the dates requested from Chair Andres for NWSS semester end dates (which are not reflected on the District Calendar).

Term 1 ends January 29, 2025 - 2024-2025

Term 1 ends January 28, 2026 - 2025-2026



Questions and Comments

Chair Andres requested that ½ days be communicated well in advance. Karen Catherwood replied that these dates will go out in May at which time the individual school calendars will be posted to the website.

b. Community Schools and NLC Programs (Rick Bloudell)

Rick presented PowerPoint slides that included information on the following programs:

- What are Community Schools?
 - Extended hours, extended services, and extended relationships
 - A Community School is the Hub of the Community
- Initiatives
 - After School Programs
 - Community Rentals
 - Neighborhood Learning Centres
 - Welcome Centre
 - Wellness Centre

Questions and Comments

Questions and comments were made around the time programs start at the schools, staffing of custodial workers, waitlists for programs and the availability of snacks.

Q. Trustee Russell wished there was more for kids to do after school and expressed the desire for more access to schools' within the community.

A. Rick noted that it is dependent on funding and/or space, and that programs are close to capacity. k 9Rapac.004 Tw 0.8370 Td[k 9Rapac[)t10.6 (s1-0.0A1.1 ((w)2.-5.9 16)-2 (e)10.d(t)-6.6 (a) ce cre



Superintendent Karim Hachlaf thanked Rick and the entire team adding “it’s remarkable to see where we started from to where we are now”. He also mentioned there was more to come on