

BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting Summary of September 11, 2018

Meeting Summary of the Board of Education's Standing Committee Meeting held at the Education Services Centre, 2121 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, British Columbia, on Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

Meeting Attendance:

Trustees Forward, Gerlach, Higgins and Sacré and were all in attendance.

Call to Order:

Standing Committee Chair Cyndi Gerlach called the Standing Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 pm, thanking those in attendance for coming to engage with the School District. The traditional territorial lands of the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation were acknowledged.

District Principal Kathleen Barter - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment:

Change over the last three years regarding curriculum and assessment has been monumental. Last year the focus was on communication student learning (reporting to parents). Comments were changed on the report cards to be much more meaningful and easier to understand; feedback from parents has been great. The focus on assessment (ongoing in the classroom) and reporting (communicating to parents) will continue this year.

Principal Jeremy Church - Social and Emotional Learning and Mental Health:

The school district is focusing on supporting student mental health from kindergarten all the way to grade 12. Last year, the school district worked to educate administrators (principals, vice principals and district leadership) so that they are fully aware of how we can support students proactively with mental health. This year, the goal is to engage in meaningful conversations throughout our school district so that we can ask questions and delve into the areas in which we need to enhance or improve.

District Principal Yolande Martinello - Artists for Kids:

Last year, a partnership with the Indigenous Education Department brought powerful Indigenous arts learning to students in North Vancouver. Roughly 15,000 students came through the Artists for Kids Gordon Smith Gallery as a result of this initiative. This year, Artists for Kids will continue to engage our entire community and more information about these initiatives will be shared throughout the year.

District Principal Deb Wanner - Academies, Early Learning, Early Literacy, and Physical Literacy:

Regarding literacy, librarians in all schools are using a new online database for digital resources that is very robust and powerful for student learning. This year, the primary literacy program will be invigorated. Physical literacy was a big focus last year and continues to be this year. We are working with various community partners to bring professional learning opportunities to staff for them to teach physical literacy to students. We are also educating parents.

District Principal Brad Baker - Indigenous Education:

The term has changed to Indigenous Education from Aboriginal Education. The work is important for all students in many ways – from creating schools that are welcoming and create a sense of belonging for all, to the best practices embedded within the First Peoples' Principals of Learning that are permeating the entire curriculum and deepening learning for all students. Over the past 18-months there has been a powerful partnership with Indigenous Education and Inclusive Education where the past racist practices of labelling Indigenous learners as 'special needs' is being tackled head-on; the goal is reconciliation in order to move forward to fully support Indigenous students in all ways. Overall, we have very successful Indigenous students.

Director of Education Programs, Outdoor School, Conor McMullan - Cheakamus Centre:

Over the past several years the programs at the Cheakamus Centre have been revamped as there has been a focus on modernizing the Cheakamus curriculums to reflect BC's new curriculum. They are also embedded Indigenous Education in more wholesome ways. The response to these changes has been excellent. Clear proof of this success has been the amount of students who now go through the intermediate program and then want to come back to volunteer as a secondary school counsellor at Cheakamus Centre.

District Principal Vince White - Inclusive Education

Inclusion is now embedded in all of the work we do in the school district. It is now a natural and mindset that is inherent in our system – we should be proud of this. A lot of work has been happening, but some of the highlights from last year that will continue into this year are: staff professional learning on a variety of inclusive education topics, SOGI initiatives, reconciliation, new curriculum and the value it brings to support diversity. Areas we are working on this year include: concerted and creative efforts to recruit specialist teachers and support workers; a revised approach to Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training throughout the school district; implementation of standardized evacuation procedures for students with mobility-related needs; development of a Seclusion and Restraint Policy; and consultation to gauge how we are doing to assess areas of growth.

The presentations can be found online: [Meetings & Minutes 2017/18](#)

Next Meeting:

October 2, 2018
Mountain View Room