

**BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**Education and Programs**

**NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Meeting Summary of November 9, 2021**

Meeting Summary of the Board of Education's Education and Programs Standing Committee meeting held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, November 9, 2021.

**Call to Order:**

Standing Committee Chair George Tsiakos called the Education and Programs Standing Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., thanking those in attendance for participating. It was noted that this virtual meeting was being recorded and would be posted to the school district website following the meeting. The traditional territorial lands of the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation were acknowledged.

**Anti-Racism Steering Committee:**

Mabel Nahanee, Co-chair of the Anti-Racism Steering Committee started the presentation, highlighting her journey and experience in the North Vancouver School District. Mabel shared her challenges and adversities, and her success and accomplishments. She is now helping the School District move forward in a better way with her voice.

Continuing the presentation, Brad Baker, District Principal of Indigenous Education and Safe Schools, provided highlights on the initiatives that the Anti-Racism Steering Committee has started and completed to date. During the summer, the development of a survey was completed and sent to staff, students, parents and guardians. Over 2000 responses were received allowing the consultant group, Bakau Consultants, to hear lived experiences. Bakau Consultants will take the raw data received and provide themes to the School District. This ensures that the responses remain confidential. Along with the survey, Bakau Consultants are facilitating focus groups for students, staff and parents and guardians. Mr. Baker shared his thanks to Mabel Nahanee and Jessica Day for co-chairing the Anti-Racism Steering Committee and thanked stakeholders for being a part of this journey.

Superintendent Mark Pearmain continued acknowledging the Anti-Racism Steering Committee for their work noting that the committee is still in the very early stages of collecting information and this is long term work that will have a long lasting effect on the North Vancouver School District. Under the guidance and direction of the Anti-Racism Steering Committee, the North Vancouver School District is undergoing an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion audit this school year. Superintendent Pearmain introduced Principal Rick Chan, Vice Principal Brigitte Gerandol, Principal Sandra Singh and Vice Principal Bridget O'Brien-Kopacek to share the work they are doing challenging and exploring what equity looks like in education.

Mr. Chan, Ms. Gerandol, Ms. Singh and Ms. O'Brien-Kopacek are leading the North Vancouver School District in a reflection and exploration of equity. Throughout the presentation, the team reflected on their own lived experiences sharing that in order to understand equity, one must explore their own identity, which is grounded in the First People's Principles of Learning. In order to work towards equity, one must engage in reflection and listen to others. The team invited attendees to share stories about their own experience and identity.

Interactive discussions were held through a virtual anonymous "truth wall" where attendees were able to write down their thoughts and understandings about equity. Following that, the group was split into breakout rooms to discuss the following question: How does power and privilege directly influence your view regarding equity? In closing, the team recognized the importance of creating a safe space to continue these hard conversations and continue the work of creating equity in education.

The presentations and video recording can be found online: [Meetings & Minutes 2021/22](#)

**Next Meeting:**

January 12, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting