

BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE
Education and Programs

NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting Summary of October 5, 2021

Meeting Summary of the Board of Education's Education and Programs Standing Committee meeting held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

Call to Order:

Standing Committee Chair Christie Sacré 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.

The Framework for Enhancing Learning (FESL) is a strategic plan that the Ministry of Education requires from all school districts. The North Vancouver School District has its Ten-Year Strategic Plan that reflects goals from the school district. There is overlap and alignment between the Framework for Enhancing Learning and the Ten-Year Strategic Plan with the Two-Year Operating Plan bringing the strategic plan and framework to life.

2020/21 District Priorities in Review:

Superintendent Mark Pearmain started the presentation by introducing the Ten-Year Strategic Plan; sharing the six aspirational goals that that Board of Education has centered on and how these themes tie into the school year.

Chanin Smyth, District Principal of Curriculum and Assessment, Elementary, highlighted the work that has been done over the past year at the elementary level, including the StrongStart program, Ready Set Leap into Learning, and Changing Results for Young Children, along with many other initiatives to support innovative instruction and education. The focus this year will be a commitment from the School District to ensure all primary classrooms will include the early literacy assessment into their practice by the end of next year. Additionally, the School District will collaboratively develop and pilot an Early Numeracy Assessment Framework to support dialogue and explore assessments that are currently being used across the province to support Early Numeracy.

Greg Hockley, District Principal of Curriculum and Assessment and Careers Education, Secondary, presented the key areas of strength at the secondary level that came from learned experiences over the last year. Blended learning has been innovative and along with technology, including the use of Microsoft Teams, which has evolved learning and networks. There will be a continued focus on innovating assessment practices, redesigning the curriculum and instruction and a focus on nurturing networks to connect, contribute and collaborate.

District Vice Principal of Inclusive Education Janis Mann shared that inclusion is embedded in all of the work done in the School District. All learners should have a positive sense of identity and belonging and feel safe within our schools and in their classrooms to express all aspects of their identity. The school district's seven core components continue to inform our planning as we celebrate and support complex and diverse learners. These components are emergent and always developing as we work towards a shared learning. The Office of Inclusion continues to provide many opportunities for professional development to support all staff with building understanding of inclusion and developing targeted skills to support students.

Jeremy Church, District Principal of Social and Emotional Learning and Mental Health, spoke about intentional connections and the idea of centering on students with an integrated mental health support system. Imperative to the learning practice will be aligning with traditional ways of learning and redefining mental health literacy across the school district. The focus in the coming school year will be to create a harmonized language and vision by building a sense of belonging and sense community while re-establishing good connections for students at school as we help support them with mental health.

District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Brad Baker, shared the commitment that the North Vancouver School District has made to *Truth, Healing and Reconciliation* in the Strategic Plan. The commitment asks that we continuously take the time to reflect and assess where we are on this journey. Part of the journey includes the development of supports/resources that embraces First Peoples ways of knowing and cultural practices and celebrating student successes. Ensuring that indigenous student voices are heard during the decision making process is a primary focus this year as well as offering learning opportunities to all staff led by Indigenous knowledge leaders.

Greg Hockley, District Principal of Curriculum and Assessment and Careers Education, spoke to the importance of careers in students learning. Within our education plan, career development is a part of the goals of public schooling and the school district's priorities. The goals moving forward will be to make career education relevant and meaningful for students in kindergarten through grade 12 by extending student learning into the community and help students build awareness of the variety of careers available, the skills and competencies need to be successful.

The above departments are essential for the North Vancouver School District to do its core work, which is focusing on learners. In order to create tangible directives, the two-year operating plan will assist in bringing the strategic plan and framework to life. Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) is vital in supporting the school district. The focus of ICT will be developing a multi-year, student-centered technology plan to provide equitable access and upgrades to technology to support innovative teaching and learning. Human Resources supports the success of every student by promoting and enhancing a welcoming and inclusive work culture by attracting and retaining exemplary employees. Facilities and Planning will implement systems and refine processes that harness technology, innovation and adopt best practices and support environmental initiatives that champion sustainability. Lastly, Financial Services will work on developing new policies that support financial planning and reporting and management of the accumulated surplus. The two-year operating plan lays out a plan for how time and funds can be utilized efficiently in order to do the important work of helping students and staff share learn and grow in North Vancouver.

Concluding the presentation, Chair Sacré thanked those who attended.

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

Next Meeting:

November 9, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting