

BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting Summary of November 3, 2015

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, November 3, 2015.

Meeting Attendance:

Trustees, representatives of the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC), North Vancouver Administrators (NoVA), North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTa), members from community agencies, the public, and members of District Staff attended the meeting.

Call to Order:

Standing Committee Chair Barry Forward called the Standing Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Social Emotional Learning: Mental Health & Wellness Initiatives

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Pius Ryan introduced Jeremy Church, Principal at Mountainside Secondary School and Tim Ireland, Counsellor for Seycove Family of Schools, and shared that the evening would highlight different frameworks in community agencies across the North Shore that promote: intellectual learning; human and social development; and, career development. The North Vancouver School District recognizes that the notion of social emotional learning involves a variety of services and individuals working together.

Mr. Ireland spoke to the importance of 'universal design' within the community, specifically, creating healthy students and healthy community within the key pillars of self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision making and relationship skills. Programs need to be universally accessible to all students in the District and agency approaches need to connect. Mr. Church continued, speaking to mental health literacy and what it could mean to decrease the stigma related to mental illness and enhance help-seeking efficacy. As a system, students move through different layers/tiers of distress - universal, targeted and intensive - and support has to be intentionally provided to allow students to move through the different layers seamlessly.

After each presentation, groups of individuals were asked to participate in an honest reflection by answering the following questions:

- What are some of your current approaches in this area?
- What are some things that are working well?
- Which areas require a greater degree of development/focus going forward?
- What are some opportunities for inter-agency focus/partnerships?

The North Vancouver School District will collate the information in order to identify universal practices to continue with the shared and meaningful discussion around social emotional learning.

Dave McQuarrie, Team Leader, Child and Youth Mental Health, Ministry of Children & Family Development and Tanis Evans, Manager, Child & Youth Mental Health & Substance Use, Vancouver Coastal Health provided an information overview of their services and support.

Concluding the evening, Dr. Ryan thanked all of those who participated in coming together to create a common language and identify with intentionality, noting that an evolution of understanding must continue to grow in order to create a positive outlook on social emotional learning and mental health.

The presentation can be found online: [Meetings & Minutes 2015/16](#)

Next Meeting:

January 14, 2016

Sutherland Secondary School

Topics: Transitions 7/8 Programs