

TOWARDS THE FUTURE FOR SCHOOLS STANDING COMMITTEE
NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
Meeting Notes

Meeting Summary of the Board of Education's Towards the Future for Schools Standing Committee Meeting held at the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre, 810 West 21st Street, North Vancouver, British Columbia on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Meeting Attendance:

Trustees, representatives of the Student Leadership Council, the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, members of District Staff, the community, and a member of the NVTAs attended the meeting. Trustee Mike McGraw, Acting Chair of the Standing Committee, chaired the meeting.

Welcome and introduction:

Trustee McGraw provided a welcome and an overview of the meeting. The Standing Committees provide increased opportunities to share and receive information and input, to review and consider matters, and to make recommendations to the Board. The Standing Committee membership includes every trustee, representatives of all partner groups, and members of the public.

3-Year Operating Plan Overview:

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, provided a brief overview of the 2011-2014 3-Year Operating Plan, with specific reference to the Goal to *Develop and promote innovative and sustainable programs*. An overview of the strategies identified within the 3-Year Operating Plan was provided, highlighting some of the progress achieved to date.

District Program Opportunities:

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, outlined the proposals received and reviewed through the call for proposals related to the strategy of increasing access to district specialty programs. These included a Soccer Academy, and a Mountain Biking Program (Grade 6/7).

In addition to proposals received, the Executive Committee has also established Project Teams to conduct research and development related to potential future programs in support of the 3-Year operating plan. These potential future programs include: the expansion of International Baccalaureate, Volleyball (possibly for September 2013), Jazz and Music Composition, Environmental Education / Distributed Learning and 'Peak Performers' (at the Elementary level). Mountain Biking was also included as a Project Team, as the district proposal received was referred for further investigation and development.

Soccer Academy Proposal:

The proposal for a North Vancouver School District Soccer Academy submitted by the North Shore Girls Soccer Club was reviewed in-depth with the Standing Committee. The School District Project Team for the potential development of a Soccer Academy had previously met with the proponents and identified the strong potential for this Academy to be established within the School District. In addition to the interest expressed within the community, the School District has an existing partnership with the North Shore Girls Soccer Club regarding the Training facility at Windsor Secondary School. This partnership would be extended through the development of the North Vancouver School District Soccer Academy at Windsor Secondary.

The proposed Academy is built upon the success of the North Vancouver School District Hockey Academy at Windsor and is supported by Windsor Secondary School. The Academy is parallel to the Hockey Academy in its design; providing for the participation of all students, regardless of their level of experience in soccer. A number of questions were discussed at the meeting regarding registration, enrolment, fees, opportunities for financial support, relationship to Soccer BC, Soccer Canada, and the boys' soccer clubs on the North Shore.

The School District's Soccer Academy Project Team will meet to conduct a further review of the proposal and will seek further clarification of any concerns, or issues, with the proponents. The Project Team will provide a recommendation to the Board of Education for the Public Board Meeting of January 24, 2012.

If approved by the Board, the School District would proceed with marketing, promotion and recruitment for September 2012. An Advisory/Implementation Committee would be established to assist with the start-up, oversight, and monitoring of the Academy.

District Program Opportunities: Victoria Miles, Communications Manager, provided an overview of the District Resource that describes the program opportunities available for secondary students. This resource is available online and will be cross-referenced with the course selection materials that are provided at all secondary schools. This District Resource may now be distributed to parents of students in all secondary schools through a *SchoolConnects* message. It was also suggested that this resource would be of particular interest to parents of students in Grades 6 and 7 as they begin to consider the programs and courses available to them in our secondary schools. As additional programs are added, this district resource will be updated to ensure that students and parents are aware of the increased offerings. The Advanced Placement opportunities at Handsworth and Argyle may also be added, as the document is updated.

Board Authority Authorized Course Development:

Twenty courses were reviewed and approved by the North Vancouver Board of Education (No. 44) at its Public Board Meeting on December 6, 2011. The majority of these courses were developed at Carson Graham Secondary in association with the International Baccalaureate Program. The number of additional courses exceeded the 3-Year Operating Plan Goal to increase the Board Authority Authorized course offerings by **10%** within three years (baseline 2011: 72).

The meeting discussed the foundation of personalized learning within each classroom, as teachers engage each individual student in their learning. The opportunities for flexibility and choice exist within the instructional approaches and differentiation offered within each and every classroom by skilled teachers.

Student Enrolment Analysis:

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, provided an update, on behalf of Greg Milner, regarding the registration for Kindergarten for September 2012. A total of 999 Kindergarten registrations were received by the priority deadline of December 16. Registrations received following this date brought the total number to 1024. We are on track to achieve our projected total of 1080.

General discussion:

Questions and comments were addressed throughout the presentations. Trustee McGraw, the Acting Standing Committee Chairperson, thanked the presenters for an informative session and for the participation of those in attendance.

Next Meeting:

February 28, 2012 (4:00 p.m. at the LMCC)