

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, March 12, 2018

The Education Committee met on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 4:30 pm. In attendance were Trustees Harman Pandher (Chair) and Baljinder Narang, DPAC Representative Kristin Schnider, BTA Vice-President Leanne Sjodin and Assistant Superintendents Heather Hart and Wanda Mitchell.

1. Artificial Learning Environments

Tim Wozney, Principal of Alpha Secondary, Matt Yedlin, Professor of Engineering UBC, Abraham Hashemian, Doctoral Candidate SFU, Mike Wong, Social Studies Department Head Alpha Secondary, Elixia Neumann, teacher of the Beta Mini School, Andrej Vlacil, Mathematics teacher Alpha Secondary and Kevin Brandt, Director of Instruction provided an update on the various virtual, mixed and augmented reality programs being used and developed at Alpha Secondary and in the District.

Since September of 2017 teachers at Alpha Secondary along with University partners have been developing a full emersion virtual reality software program with the goal of supporting students in the area of fractions. The group selected this topic due to the fact it is a foundational concept which is necessary in understanding many areas of math and science. Fractions also proves to be a difficult concept for many of our struggling learners. For the purpose of this project the fractions topic addressed in grades 4 to 8 was broken into 40 discreet concepts, each with a specific learning objective, within the virtual reality program. Students work their way through the program and are assessed on their understanding with pre and post evaluation. The purpose of these built in assessments are to test the pedagogical efficacy of the program ensuring the objectives are being met.

Students have been involved in the development and testing of the program at the beta level. A fully functional prototype will be available in May 2018 consisting of the first 7 units and an assessment component. This first part of the program has the user working through escape rooms on a virtual space station and ends with the assessment component; using their knowledge of fractions to start a space ship to get off the planet. This adds a whole new dimension to the term “assessment vehicle”.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information

2. Health & Wellness Survey

Julia Han, District Student Advisory Council (DSAC) member, Deena Lewis, Physical and Health Education (PHE) Department Head, Lee Anne Kristmanson, Principal of Burnaby Mountain Secondary School, and Jeannette Laursoo, Director of Instruction, presented an update on the Wellness Survey that has been created. DSAC and secondary school PHE Department Heads collaborated to develop a Wellness Survey, which will be administered

to Grade 8 and 9 students in all secondary schools in April. This survey will help inform secondary PHE teachers in their teaching of both the healthy and active living and mental well-being aspects of the Grade 8 and 9 PHE curricula. This survey will also help inform next steps for DSAC, which may include the development of a health fair in the next year.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

4. Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session Monday, March 12, 2018

The Youth and Community Services Committee (YCSC) met on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Trustees Baljinder Narang (chair), Harman Pandher and Larry Hayes, Assistant Superintendent Roberto Bombelli, and DPAC representative Jocelyn Schonekess.

1. Reports from Community Committees

Trustees who represent the Board on community committees updated the YCSC on items that would be of interest to the Board.

Parks & Recreation

Trustee Narang reported that playground development grant requests were approved for Cameron and Montecito Elementary Schools. Montecito's application is for developing an outdoor classroom and Cameron will use the grant money to purchase an accessible swing for their playground. The Byrne Creek Community School artificial sports field, installed in 2005, is being recommended for replacement and will go to council for approval.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Reviving 5,000 Years of Civilization Society

Hershy He, Director of Public Relations, Reviving 5,000 Years of Civilization Society, presented '*Essence of China's Traditional Culture*'. This traditional Chinese story-based performance of music and dance mixes cultural aspects with political messaging. The committee received and discussed the presentation in detail. It was determined that the material is not appropriate for presentations to secondary school students in its current format.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

3. AltruYouth Association

Parwaz Brar, President, AltruYouth Association (AYA), a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for students to make positive community connections and access youth resources, presented *Connect Initiative*. This program provides youth with information about transitioning to university life and one on one mentorship by university students at their former secondary school. While the mentorship component of the *Connect Initiative* requires further development prior to being introduced into schools, the committee recommends staff to connect with AYA to explore the secondary student presentation aspect of their program.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Youth and Community Services Committee is April 3, 2018.