



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**November 28, 2013 - 5:00 p.m.
Oak Room, Century House**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brandon Lee	- Member at large
Ellelan Degife	- Member at large (Co-Chair)
Sadie DeCoste	- Member at large
Veronika Gukova	- Member at large
John Cao	- Member at large
Dana Radivojevic	- Member at large
Lily Nikolova	- Member at large
Jelena Mitrovic	- Member at large
Hannah Block	- Member at large

VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Hayden Goss	- Member at large (Co-Chair)
Caitlin Nault	- Member at large
Kiara Dale	- Member at large
Simar Saini	- Member at large
Tay Su-Jeong Kim	- Member at large
Valeria Nandayapa	- Member at large

NON VOTING ADVISORS:

Chuck Puchmayr	- City Council
Ashley Currie	- Community School Coordinator
Andrea Mears	- District Parent Advisory Committee

STAFF:

Leslie Cole	- Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
Sandon Fraser	- Youth Services Coordinator
Alison Worsfold	- Committee Clerk
Stephanie Lam	- Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Karon Trenaman	- ICBC Representative
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The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions.

Procedural Note: Items 5.1 & 5.2 were considered prior to Item 2.1.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Oath of Office

Stephanie Lam, Committee Clerk, issued the oath of office and the following appointees signed a declaration statement:

- Brandon Lee
- Ellelan Degife
- Sadie DeCoste
- Veronika Gukova
- John Cao
- Dana Radivojevic
- Lily Nikolova
- Jelena Mitrovic
- Hannah Block
- Andrea Mears
- Ashley Currie

5.2 Election of Chairs

The following Committee members' names were put forward for the position of Co-Chair (two spots available):

- Hayden Goss
- John Cao
- Jelena Mitrovic
- Veronika Gukova
- Ellelan Degife
- Dana Radivojevic

Ballots were cast by the Committee members.

Hayden Goss and Ellelan Degife were elected Co-Chairs for 2013/2014.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the ballots for 2013/2014 Co-Chairs be destroyed.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Notes of October 24, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the notes of the Youth Advisory Committee meeting held on October 24, 2013 be amended by correcting Item 6.3 to read "Respect Ed" instead of "Spec Ed."

CARRIED.

AND THAT the notes be adopted as amended.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Ellelan Degife, Chair, welcomed Karon Trenaman who has applied for the ICBC representative position. Ms. Trenaman advised that she has been a Committee member in the past, and that she looks forward to working with the group regarding road safety initiatives.

Ms. Trenaman noted that Operation Red Nose has now begun in New Westminster. Operation Red Nose is a program that encourages responsible behavior with regard to impaired driving by enabling communities to provide a free and confidential chauffeur service to their members, with the financial benefits being redistributed to local organizations dedicated to youth.

Andrea Mears, District Parent Advisory Committee, and Councillor Puchmayr questioned whether or not youth have the ability of utilizing the Operation Red Nose service. Councillor Puchmayr suggested that the service should be available to people of all ages. Ms. Trenaman advised that there are national requirements associated with the project, and that she will follow up with the Committee after she investigates the matter further.

Ms. Trenaman briefed the Committee on the upcoming 180 Video Contest, which encourages youth to get involved in preventing vehicle collisions in British Columbia. From 2010-2012 ICBC received more than 170 submissions, all aimed at changing their friends' attitudes about dangerous driving behaviours. Ms. Trenaman noted that there have been many pedestrian fatalities in the recent months, and that both pedestrians and drivers need to take more caution at this time of year.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.3 BC Youth Parliament (Sadie DeCoste)

Sandon Fraser, Youth Services Coordinator, noted that at the October 24, 2013 meeting, Sadie DeCoste was chosen to attend the BC Youth Parliament, which will be held in Victoria from December 27-31, 2013. Ms. DeCoste advised that she will be attending the pre-session meeting on Saturday November 30, 2013 in Vancouver, and will report back to the Committee with details of both events at the January 23, 2014 meeting.

5.4 Radio Youth Advertisement

Sandon Fraser, Youth Services Coordinator, noted that the Youth Advisory Committee has completed a radio advertisement in the past, and suggested that a Radio Advertisement Sub-Committee be formed to develop a script and record the advertisement for 2014.

The following Committee members expressed interest in serving on the Radio Advertisement Sub-Committee:

- Ellelan Degife
- Lily Nikolova
- Brandon Lee
- Sadie DeCoste
- Dana Radivojevic
- Jelena Mitrovic
- Hannah Block
- John Cao
- Veronika Gukova
- Tiger Xu (non-member)

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Councillor's Report: Councillor Chuck Puchmayr

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr noted that The Santa Claus Parade will be held on December 7, 2013 at 11:00 a.m., starting at the corner of Fourth Street and Columbia Street and ending at Hyack Square. The parade will be themed around emergency services in light of the fire that occurred in New Westminster in October 2013. It was noted that float registrations are still being accepted.

Councillor Puchmayr advised that he attended the third annual Human Library Conference at Alpha Secondary School in Burnaby on November 27, 2013. The Human Library Conference is an international phenomenon started in Copenhagen as a project to fight hate in communities. It is designed to promote dialogue, reduce prejudices and encourage understanding. At the event, Councillor Puchmayr shared his story of being a homeless teen and how his experiences have shaped his political activism.

6.2 School Board Trustee (Vacant)

The position is currently vacant.

6.3 Community School Coordinator's Report – Ashley Currie

Ashley Currie, Community School Coordinator, reported that Respect Ed training began last weekend, and that there are 12 students and 28 youth facilitators involved with the program that will provide presentations throughout local grade 6/7 classrooms. The Respect Ed students plan on travelling to Loon Lake during the weekend of December 6, 2013 to obtain more training in preparation for the presentations.

Ms. Currie advised that Pink Shirt Day will be held on February 26, 2014, whereby students are encouraged to wear pink on this day to symbolize that they do not tolerate bullying. Last year local students designed their own pink shirts and sold them as a fundraiser. A total of 500 shirts were sold, with all of the proceeds going towards bullying prevention. This year the students hope to collaborate with the City in order to make shirts available for purchase at numerous venues. Travis Price, Pink Shirt Day co-founder, received a shirt from the students in 2013 and has since asked if he could use the design on the website for the national campaign.

Ms. Currie noted that training for REAL (Real Experience Applied Leadership) has been completed. The program trains young adults in leadership and program development, skills, child development, and also helps provide affordable after school programs for kids.

Ms. Currie advised that the Liquor Bag Program will soon commence, whereby Elementary School children draw on brown bags, which are distributed throughout BC Liquor Stores to support responsible drinking and aid in the abolishment of drinking and driving.

6.4 District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) Coordinator Report – Andrea Mears

Andrea Mears reported that DPAC has been working on the following three initiatives:

- 1. Seclusion rooms** – It was suggested that there are no procedures with respect to the use of seclusion rooms. DPAC is conducting a review of the use of the rooms and has requested the school district to provide information with respect to how often staff are checking on the kids in the rooms.

The Committee advised that the Canadian Television Network (CTV) broadcasted a story about seclusion rooms, highlighting New Westminster Secondary School, which was shocking to the youth who were not aware of the rooms.

Ashley Currie, Community School Coordinator, explained that seclusion rooms can be made available to students with special needs attending public schools. The program supports the inclusive school model. When youth are overstimulated, a seclusion room provides a private area for them to relax and recuperate prior to entering/re-entering their classroom.

- 2. Submitted letter to province about funding cuts**

The Committee questioned their request for the New Westminster Secondary School budget, and advised that there have been rumors that the International Bachelorette program will be cut.

- 3. Open meetings special education policy**

6.5 Youth Coordinator's Report: Sandon Fraser

Sandon Fraser, Youth Services Coordinator, reported that the youth homelessness count for Burnaby and New Westminster was published in the Burnaby Newsleader. Although the 2013 homelessness count was higher than the 2012 homelessness count, more people reported than in previous years. The article can be found at:

<http://www.burnabynewsleader.com/news/226922841.html>

Mr. Fraser advised that in response to the numbers, there is a Task Force that deals with outreach and sexual exploitation of the youth. The Task Force is not currently recruiting; however, the Youth Voice Sub-Committee, which raises awareness on youth homelessness and seeks prevention, is looking for new members.

Mr. Fraser noted that there are several other initiatives he is currently working on:

- **The Youth Firefighter Program** – The program has been expanded from one week during summer to an 80 hour program, including 2 days during spring break and community events;
- **2014 Youth Awards Planning Committee** – The Committee is currently recruiting. The awards ceremony will be held on May 7, 2014.
- **iStand Youth Summit** – The event will be held on January 18, 2014 and aims to increase the awareness of mental health in youth, decrease stigma towards mental illnesses, increase connection between youth and improve the self-image and care of youth. In order to volunteer for the event youth are required to partake in icebreaker training, even if the training has been completed in the past.

6.6 Member Reports

Brandon Lee reported that he is interested in learning more about seclusion rooms.

Ellelan Degife reported that she is interested in learning about the 'N' and cellphone driving rules, and also the school district budget process. Ms. Degife advised that British Columbia Model United Nations New Westminster will be held on December 8, 2013 at Century House and that the event is still seeking youth volunteers.

Sadie DeCoste expressed interest in learning about the coal Port expansion at Fraser Surrey Docks, as she has been working with the Environmental Committee at New Westminster Secondary School to campaign against it. Ms. DeCoste noted that she has met with several people, including the school's custodians, in regards to composting towels in the school's bathrooms.

Councillor Puchmayr advised that there is 30 days to comment on the proposal to expand the Fraser Surrey Docks coal terminal. You can express your concern by sending letters to the Province or signing the petition.

Veronika Gukova reported that she is interested in learning more about first aid programs and education budget cuts.

John Cao reported that he would like to learn more about seclusion rooms.

Dana Radivojevic reported that she would like to learn more about seclusion rooms.

Lily Nikolova reported that she is the President of Operation Med School (OMS). OMS is a one-day medical conference that allows students to learn more about the field of medicine through activities and lectures by medical experts. Ms. Nikolova advised that there have been issues with finding a venue for the event.

Hannah Block reported that she is a member of Respect Ed and that she looks forward to attending Loon Lake for training to give presentations in the coming year.

Jelena Mitrovic reported that she is interested in learning more about education budget cuts.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 5:00pm

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**ELLELAN DEGIFE
CO-CHAIR**

**ALISON WORSFOLD
COMMITTEE CLERK**