



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**February 27, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.
Oak Room, Century House**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hayden Goss	- Member at large (Chair)
Brandon Lee	- Member at large
Ellelan Degife	- Member at large
Sadie DeCoste	- Member at large
John Cao	- Member at large (exited at 5:45 p.m.)
Dana Radivojevic	- Member at large
Jelena Mitrovic	- Member at large
Tiger Xu	- Member at large

VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Lily Nikolova	- Member at large
Hannah Block	- Member at large
Veronika Gukova	- Member at large
Caitlin Nault	- 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
Andrea Mears	- District Parent Advisory Committee
Karon Trenaman	- ICBC Representative

GUESTS:

Al Balanuik	- School District #40
Jonina Campbell	- School District #40

STAFF:

Lesley Cole	- Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
Sandon Fraser	- Youth Services Coordinator
Alison Worsfold	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of January 23, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee meeting held on January 23, 2014 be adopted.

CARRIED.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 School District Budget

Al Balanuik, School District #40, provided a PowerPoint presentation and outlined the following details regarding School District #40's budget:

- There were significant cuts to School District #40's 2014 budget due to a structural deficit of over \$4 million dollars;
- 63 positions and approximately 1.5 million dollars in supplies and services were cut in 2014;
- There were several positions in the New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) library that were cut;
- Approximately 90 percent of the annual budget is allocated towards staff and benefits, leaving 10 percent for other costs, such as supplies, services and extracurricular activities; and,
- The Board of School trustees ultimately decide where the money will be distributed.

The Committee noted that they value the following services with respect to schooling and education:

- The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program was noted as a program that provides an intimate learning experience for students, and attracts students from all over the lower mainland;
- Ensuring that Massey Theatre programs remain available to students during construction;
- Extracurricular service clubs, such as Interact and Environment Clubs;
- Library resources; and,
- Elective courses, such as band and drama.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the misestimate of the 2013 budget;
- It was questioned if there are procedures in place that would prevent another misestimate of the budget in the future;

- New Westminster's ranking with respect to funding per student was questioned; and,
- Concerns were expressed regarding possible cuts to the IB program.

In response to the Committee's concerns, Mr. Balanuik noted the following comments:

- The Ministry of Education implemented a monthly financial warrant on School District #40 to monitor the District's finances;
- New Westminster students are funded approximately \$1,000 less per student than the national average; and,
- School District #40 plans on repaying the debt within approximately five years.

Jonina Campbell, School District #40, provided the following details regarding School District #40's budget cut:

- The School Board will continue to provide excellent programs to students despite the budget cut;
- It was advised that there is a School Board meeting on March 14, 2014 regarding the provincial funds provided to New Westminster students for the fiscal year. Youth are encouraged to attend, as the Board would like to increase student engagement; and,
- It was noted that there are no intentions to cut the IB program;

Procedural Note: John Cao exited the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Councillor's Report (Councillor Chuck Puchmayr)

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr reported that Pink Shirt Day was a success, and that he attended the Pink Shirt Day celebrations at Queen Elizabeth Elementary School.

6.2 School Board Trustee

Jonina Campbell, School District #40, reported the following:

- The Respect Ed students organized a successful Pink Shirt Day;
- John Gaipman is the new Superintendent of Schools for School District #40;
- The District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) has partnered with School District #40 to complete a special education guide book; and,
- Mr. Gaipman has been contacted with respect to distributing the 'Child and Youth Friendly' survey at NWSS.

6.3 Community School Coordinator's Report

Ashley Currie, Community School Coordinator, was not in attendance.

6.4 DPAC Coordinator Report

Andrea Mears, District Parent Advisory Committee, reported that DPAC has partnered with School District #40 to complete a special education guide book. Ms. Mears also noted that the upcoming DPAC newsletter will feature information regarding traffic.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested that a pedestrian crosswalk should be implemented on 8th Avenue between 8th street and 6th street in the area by NWSS where there is currently no crosswalk. The Committee advised that they will bring forward a recommendation at the March 27, 2014 Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

6.5 ICBC Representative Report

Karon Trenaman, ICBC representative, reported the following:

- ICBC launched a month long Distracted Driving Campaign for February 2014;
- Pedestrians are advised to walk with reflective devices to increase motorist visibility;
- Ms. Trenaman attended an informative session on February 26, 2014 outlining the adverse effects of distracted driving and walking;
- It was noted that select American states have established a law for distracted walking; and,
- The alcohol prevention worker at NWSS is planning on setting up a Road Sense speaker to talk to students in Spring 2014.

6.6 Youth Coordinator's Report

Sandon Fraser, Youth Coordinator, reported that New Westminster Youth Award nominations are now available online at www.newwestyouth.ca.

6.7 Member Reports

Brandon Lee reported that track season has begun.

Ellelan Degife reported that Operation Med School has sold out and will be held on March 1, 2014 at the Simon Fraser University Surrey campus. Ms. Degife also noted that a group of students have formed a student council to act as a liaison between the School Board and the students. The student council is still waiting on formal approval.

Hayden Goss reported that he started a mariachi band with ten other students, and that the band will be performing at the Mexican Culture Centre in Vancouver in the near future.

Sadie DeCoste reported that she attended Rotary's 'Adventures in Film Camp' in Powell River.

Dana Radivojevic reported that the process of applying for scholarships has begun, and that there are numerous opportunities for students to receive financial aid and recognition for past community involvement.

Jelena Mitrovic reported that planning has started for the Honours Society gala fundraiser.

Tiger Xu reported that he is involved in the production of a NWSS play and that he attended a meeting at the Massey Theatre with major players of arts and culture in New Westminster. The meeting was held to discuss the Anvil Centre and a new initiative that would provide art services at a new level in New Westminster. Mr. Xu noted that he has been invited to attend the follow-up meeting.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 5:00pm in Council Chamber, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**HAYDEN GOSS
CO-CHAIR**

**ALISON WORSFOLD
COMMITTEE CLERK**