

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation).

1.2 OPENING REMARKS

The meeting is currently being broadcasted live, and both the audio and video recordings will be accessible to the public for viewing even after the meeting ends. Footage from this meeting may be viewed from Canada or anywhere else in the world.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 EDUCATION PLAN COMMITTEE

2.1.1 Report: Meeting of June 5, 2024

2.1.2 Matters Arising

2.1.2.1 Motion: Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety

That the Board direct the Superintendent to develop the Ministry of Education and Child Care required updates to school Codes of Conduct related to restricting student use of personal digital devices at schools and associated implementation guidelines for the implementation of these updates in collaboration with school leaders, by July 1, 2024.

And further,

That school Codes of Conduct include a requirement that students in kindergarten to grade seven will be required to keep personal digital devices on silent and out of sight for the entire school day unless they get explicit permission from an educator.

And further,

That the Board direct the Superintendent to form a working group comprised of rights holders, district stakeholders, district leaders and school leaders with a mandate to discuss lessons learned, share best practices to restrict student personal digital device use at school, promote online safety and support focused learning environments, and propose changes to Codes of Conduct as needed during the 2024-2025 school year.

3. ADJOURNMENT

EDUCATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Committee Report to the Board, Monday, June 10, 2024

The Chairperson of the Committee called the meeting to order on Teams and acknowledged with deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

This meeting was live-streamed, and both the audio and visual recordings were also available to the public for viewing after the meeting. Footage from this meeting may be viewed from Canada or anywhere else in the world.

A master PowerPoint presentation detailing the flow of the agenda was shown throughout the meeting, a copy of which is on file with the meeting agenda.

1. Motion referred from April 29 Board meeting: Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety

Trustee Jung presented a motion that was included in the report, entitled ***Motion referred from April 29 Board meeting: Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety***, a copy of which is on file with the meeting agenda.

In response to a trustee's question, Trustee Jung confirmed that the motion considered by the Board at the May 27, 2024 Board meeting and referred to this Committee for discussion was slightly modified from the motion that was originally presented at the April 29, 2024 Board meeting.

Committee members, trustees and stakeholder representatives provided feedback and asked questions and Trustee Jung and staff provided clarification on various points.

There was support by three committee trustees to recommend the following motion to the Board for consideration at the June 10, 2024, Special Board meeting:

That the Board direct the Superintendent to develop the Ministry of Education and Child Care required updates to school Codes of Conduct related to restricting student use of personal digital devices at schools and associated implementation guidelines for the implementation of these updates in collaboration with school leaders, by July 1, 2024.

And further,

That school Codes of Conduct include a requirement that students in kindergarten to grade seven will be required to keep personal digital devices on silent and out of sight for the entire school day unless they get explicit permission from an educator.

And further,

That the Board direct the Superintendent to form a working group comprised of rights holders, district stakeholders, district leaders and school leaders with a mandate to discuss lessons learned, share best practices to restrict student personal digital device use at school, promote online safety and support focused learning environments, and propose changes to Codes of Conduct as needed during the 2024-2025 school year.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.

Lois Chan-Pedley, Chairperson

Committee Members Present:	Lois Chan-Pedley (Chair) Christopher Richardson (Vice Chair) Janet Fraser Jennifer Reddy Preeti Faridkot (Alt.) Suzie Mah (Alt.)
Other Trustees Present:	Victoria Jung
Senior Team Members Present:	Helen McGregor, Superintendent Pedro da Silva, Associate Superintendent Pete Nuij, Associate Superintendent Maureen McRae-Stanger, Associate Superintendent
Association Representatives Present:	Jaclyn Ferreira, DPAC Tim Chester, IUOE Ericka-Jade Mulherin, PASA Salena Sharma, VDSC Karine Ng, VEAES Riley McMitchell, VEPVPA Carl Janze, VSTA
Also Present:	Emily Rogness, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

June 10, 2024

ITEM 2.1.2.1

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Education Plan Committee

RE: Motion: Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety

Reference to Education Plan

GOAL: The Vancouver School Board will improve student achievement, physical and mental well-being, and belonging by ...

OBJECTIVE(S): Improving school environments to ensure they are safe, caring, welcoming, and inclusive places for students and families.

INTRODUCTION

The motion, Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety, is presented to the Board for approval with the recommendation of the Education Plan Committee which met on June 5, 2024.

BACKGROUND

At the April 29, 2024, Public Board meeting, the Board referred the motion, Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety, to the May 15, 2024 Education Plan Committee. At the committee meeting, a quorum was not reached as only two Education Plan Committee trustees were present. In the absence of quorum, the motion was referred back to the May 27, 2024 Board meeting. At the May 27, 2024 Board meeting, trustee Jung tabled a slightly modified motion and the Board voted to postpone consideration of this motion until the Education Plan Committee convened with a quorum.

At the June 5, 2024 Education Plan committee meeting, the motion received support from three committee trustees and is being presented to the Board for final consideration at the June 10, 2024 Special Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board direct the Superintendent to develop the Ministry of Education and Child Care required updates to school Codes of Conduct related to restricting student use of personal digital devices at schools and associated implementation guidelines for the implementation of these updates in collaboration with school leaders, by July 1, 2024.

And further,

That school Codes of Conduct include a requirement that students in kindergarten to grade seven will be required to keep personal digital devices on silent and out of sight for the entire school day unless they get explicit permission from an educator.

And further,

That the Board direct the Superintendent to form a working group comprised of rights holders, district stakeholders, district leaders and school leaders with a mandate to discuss lessons learned, share best practices to restrict student personal digital device use at school, promote online safety and support focused learning environments, and propose changes to Codes of Conduct as needed during the 2024-2025 school year.

Attachment:

Notice of Motion: Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety (May 27, 2024)

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Victoria Jung, Trustee

RE: Notice of Motion – Promoting Focused Learning Environments and Online Safety

Reference to Education Plan **GOAL:** The Vancouver School Board will improve student achievement, physical and mental well-being, and belonging by ...

OBJECTIVE(S): Improving school environments to ensure they are safe, caring, welcoming, and inclusive places for students and families.

REFERENCE TO VSB POLICY

Please indicate if the proposed motion relates to an existing policies from the [Board Policy Handbook](#). You must check one or more boxes.

- Relates to Policy No.
- This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing policies from the Board Policy Handbook

PROPOSED MOTION

That the Board direct the Superintendent to develop the Ministry of Education and Child Care required updates to school Codes of Conduct related to restricting student use of personal digital devices at schools and associated implementation guidelines for the implementation of these updates in collaboration with school leaders, by July 1, 2024.

And further,

That school Codes of Conduct include a requirement that students in kindergarten to grade seven will be required to keep personal digital devices on silent and out of sight for the entire school day unless they get explicit permission from an educator.

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That the Board direct the Superintendent to form a working group comprised of rights holders, district stakeholders, district leaders and school leaders with a mandate to discuss lessons learned, share best practices to restrict student personal digital device use at school, promote online safety and support focused learning environments, and propose changes to Codes of Conduct as needed during the 2024-2025 school year.

RATIONALE

Digital literacy skills are of paramount importance to students in today’s digital age. However, we must also acknowledge the challenges that come with it. The overuse of electronic devices, particularly cell phones, among our younger students has been associated with distractions, setbacks in social development, and hindrances to academic performance. Our students require guidance to navigate the

addictive nature of these devices and to learn responsible usage. It is our collective responsibility to educate them and foster habits that prioritize learning without distractions. While we are proponents of leveraging technology for educational purposes, we must also ensure that schools develop strategies to restrict access to devices that are not focused on learning outcomes.

In response to the Ministry of Education and Child Care's (the Ministry) amendment to the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order, which requires appropriate guidelines to restrict student personal digital device use, we want to encourage district and school staff to develop school-wide strategies and update their Codes of Conduct to reflect provincial guidelines prior to July 1, 2024.

Furthermore, to support the implementation and refinement of these new guidelines it is proposed that a working group be initiated in September, comprising rights holders, stakeholders, district and school leaders. The working group mandate will be to examine, discuss, and review the approaches used to support age-appropriate use of devices in the classroom. The working group will work throughout the following school year to discuss lessons learned, share best practices to restrict student personal digital device use at school, promoting online safety and supporting focused learning environments and propose changes to Codes of Conduct as needed.