

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OPEN BOARD MEETING
OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 7:00 PM
Via Zoom Link**

PRESENT Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair
 Maya Russell, Vice-Chair
 Dee Beattie, Trustee
 Danielle Connelly, Trustee

 Elliott Slinn, Trustee
 Cheryl Sluis, Trustee
 Marc Andres, Trustee

 Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
 Maryam Naser, Assistant Superintendent
 Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer

 Guests
 Members of the Public
 Dave Crowe, Director Capital Projects
 DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair
 CUPE 409: Erica Bigland, Secretary Treasurer
 NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President
 Laura Goodman, Recording Secretary

REGRETS Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources

The New Westminster School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2022-074

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the November 22, 2022, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

 i. October 25, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes.

 ii. November 7, 2022, Special Open Inaugural Meeting

2022-075

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for October 25, 2022, Regular School Board meeting and November 7, 2022, Special Open Inaugural Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes
Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Chair Dhaliwal congratulated Rome Lavrencic for being selected as the recipient of the Canadian Association of the Second Language for Teachers Robert Roy Award for Teaching Excellence. Rome was presented with a framed certificate to mark the occasion at NWSS on Monday, November 21, 2022. Rome thanked the Board for acknowledging his award, and accepted the award on behalf of his entire association.

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC: Laura Kwong provided highlights:

- November DPAC meeting highlights presented. Next DPAC meeting will be held at NWSS in January 2023, and will include a Q&A with the honourable Jennifer Whiteside.
- November 18th & 19th DPAC members participated in a summit conference which were held throughout B.C.; an opportunity to connect with other DPAC members.
- DPAC will be receiving assistance from the Ministry of Education and Child Care for completing their strategic plan this school year.
- DPAC assisted with the writing of the letter addressed to Premier David Eby, which contained 3 requests to be included in David Eby's mandate letter to the Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside. The 3 items are to align housing policy & school planning, restore the lifecycle of cost analysis for school facilities, and to provide timely and equitable access to education for students with disabilities.

CUPE 409: Erica Bigland

- Erica congratulated all the Trustees for being inaugurated into their new roles.
- One member is participating in the BC Federation of Labour convention, in which there are great speakers presenting. Current bargaining is running smoothly.
- CUPE 409 concerned with the NWSS rising incident reports; they continue to keep their relationship with the Health and Safety team an active priority.
- CUPE will soon be out and about visiting schools to make more personal connections with their members; to help their people feel supported during these difficult times.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley

- Kristie spoke to the various incidents at NWSS, and acknowledged that staff continue to work quickly and efficiently, during these incidences to keep everyone safe. She also stated that a letter she had sent to the Board of Education on Friday, November 18th outlining her concerns was well received. Her letter included the request to review the number and placement of video surveillance at NWSS, and to explore the possibility of implementing more.
- Currently, monitoring the number of students who are sick due to the cold and flu season.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting. Please refer to the meeting video for full comments.

Members of the public voiced concerns regarding discussions by the Board of Education

regarding the Programs of Choice Review, the Purpose Society Daycare issue, and the decision to relocate the QayQayt and FRMS infant-toddler program to an area outside the downtown New West area.

Chair Dhaliwal reassured everyone present that the program of choice review report recommendations will not occur until the 2024/2025 school year. She also stated that decisions over childcare has been a difficult decision for all concerned; however, the District is in a crisis situation which led to the decision to prioritize K-12 learners. The Board of Education has reached out to the City of New West, and has spoken with Mayor Johnstone re: the space in the NW downtown core, and will continue to discuss feasibility and viability issues with them over the course of the next few weeks, up to and including the next Regular Open Board meeting held on December 13, 2022.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Chair Dhaliwal acknowledged the letter that was sent from the Board of Education to the City of New Westminster re: Capacity and Childcare.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
 - i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Beattie.

Trustee Beattie stated that the EPPC meeting was well attended, and that it was nice to hear from Student Voice, and to see their presentations.
 - ii. Approval of the November 8, 2022, Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

2022-076

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the Education Policy and Planning Committee held on November 8, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
 - i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly.

Trustee Connelly provided brief comments.

- ii. Approval of the November 8, 2022, Operations Policy & Planning Committee Minutes.

2022-077

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes held on November 8, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. Short Term Capacity Review - Childcare

Several Trustees acknowledged the parents who were present at this meeting, and thanked them for taking the time to voice their concerns. Chair Dhaliwal reiterated that this is a decision to serve notice to Purpose Society; it is not a decision to determine the location. This decision will be made at our December 13, 2022 Regular Open Board meeting. As previously presented, the only district owned sites that the Board is contemplating is Howay and Tweedsmuir. Staff are continuing to work with our community partners to assist the Purpose Society in locating an alternate location that meets their needs, and commitments.

2022-078

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) provide notice to Purpose Society that existing childcare spaces with QayQayt, and Fraser River Middle School be needed by March 2024.

AND THAT the staff continue to work with community partners to assist Purpose Society in identifying alternate downtown/central locations up to December 2022 in parallel with planning for a District-owned site to be utilized in the event no other options are identified.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iv. Programs of Choice – Scope and Consultation Plan

Associate Superintendent Naser stated that there is information re: the Programs of Choice Review including the Engagement Plan and timeline on the NW Schools website. The website will continue to provide further information/updates re: specific dates and times including focus group meetings, and family communication timelines. Proposed Plan: the data will be compiled in March 2023. A draft report with recommendations will then be presented at the EPPC on April 11, 2023, prior to a finalized report being issued in April 2023.

2022-079

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Programs of Choice – Scope and Consultation Plan as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

v. BC Electoral Boundary Commission

2022-080

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) send a letter to the Electoral Boundaries Commission highlighting the concerns of their proposed changes as tabled in their Preliminary Report dated October 3, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf) provided an update on the following activities:
- NWSS - Annual Discovery New Westminster School event on January 10, 2023. An opportunity to explain to families about a diverse range of programs that are available, including the Program of Choice. Specialized program meetings will be held in the new year; an event calendar will be sent out before winter break.
 - Framework for Enhancing Student Learning - The Ministry has now initiated a new model working with school districts, and now have a cohort of school districts on a 4-year cycle; New Westminster was elected to be part of year 1 of this cohort. The assessment for the School Board is to look at areas of strength, and areas of ongoing consideration for improvement. More to follow.
 - Early Learning and Child Care (staffing update). On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the District is pleased to announce that they have received multi-year funding which has allowed them to hire an Early Learning Child Care position to work with their team.
 - Provincial Online Learning School (POLS) - transition continues in our successful application to become a provincial online learning school; course offerings are being submitted to the Ministry; Home Learner's Program (HLP) will send out communication updates tomorrow, as we will be adopting a new management learning system (\$10 per student).

- b. Receive Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer stated that Districts are required to submit a SOFI Report. Two significant items within the SOFI Report are the financial statements which the Board approved in September 2022. The District is also required to report all employees who earn over \$75K per fiscal year (July 1st - June 30th) including

their incurred expenses. We are also required to send in a list of suppliers for which we have spent over \$25K, most of which are related to capital projects and capital works.

2022-081

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) Acknowledge receipt of the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report for Information

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Bank Signing Authority (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham stated that the request for bank signing authority is a result of the internal election process that was undertaken at our Inaugural meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

2022-082

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) Bank signing authorities Trustee Gurveen Dhaliwal and Trustee Maya Russell, Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent; and Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer be approved;

AND FURTHER that effective immediately, bank signing authority Trustee Dee Beattie former Vice-Chair, be removed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of Committee Chairs (Chair Dhaliwal)

Chair Dhaliwal appointed Marc Andres as Chair for the Education Policy & Planning Committee, and Maya Russell as Chair for the Operations Policy & Planning Committee.

- b. Chair Dhaliwal also appointed Trustee Reps for School Liaison Assignments, and for the various Board of Education committees. Staff will be reaching out to schools to inform them of their newly appointed Trustee Liaisons. This will allow Trustees to receive invitations to events and their respective assigned schools.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- a. Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in November.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

When is the deadline to submit correspondence for inclusion in the Open Board meeting package, who is responsible for compiling this correspondence, and what is the criteria for inclusion.

Chair Dhaliwal stated that the Board packages are reviewed and finalized on Mondays by the Chair, Vice-Chair, Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer. This is when the agenda and board correspondence is considered for inclusion into the Board meeting package. The Board Package is finalized on Thursdays, and the distributed to the Board of Education Trustees, and the public on the Friday before the Regular Open Board meeting the following week.

Board of Education staff are responsible for retrieving and compiling email correspondence, and bringing it forward to the Senior Management Team. Timing is also at the discretion of the Board Chair. Chair Dhaliwal informed all present that these dates would be posted on our website.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 – Open Board Meeting at 7:00 pm Via Zoom Link.

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the October 25, 2022, In-Camera Board Meeting.
- b. Record of the November 15, 2022, Special In-Camera Board Meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer