

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

**Tuesday, June 24, 2024, 7:00 PM
In-Person and Via Zoom Link**

PRESENT	Maya Russell, Chair Cheryl Sluis, Vice-Chair Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Elliott Slinn, Trustee Cheryl Sluis, Trustee Kathleen Carlsen, Trustee	Sylvia Russell, Interim Superintendent Julie Pearce, Interim Associate Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Weston, Executive Director, HR Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects District Learning Team Laura Goodman, Recording Secretary Members of the Public Laura Kwong, DPAC Chair Krista Macaulay, Treasurer Kristie Oxley, NWTU President
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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 7:05 p.m.

**2024-053
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the June 24, 2024, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

- a. Minutes from the Open meetings held:
 - i. May 28, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting.

**2024-054
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as presented for the Regular School Board meeting held on May 28, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes.

Nil.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

4. **COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS**

DPAC: Krista McCaulay, Treasurer

- DPAC shared they participated in three district committees and attended City Council as a delegation to request financial support for the continuation and expansion of the walking school bus.
- DPAC will be hosting an overdose prevention and naloxone treatment seminar for parents, caregivers and students on Thursday, June 26th at 6:30 p.m. at NWSS Library.
- DPAC participated with the Board of Education regarding Simcoe Advocacy and the Columbia Square Development at the suggestion of the Board.
- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Fraser Health Authority (FHA) recently released air quality requirements for schools and childcare facilities for indoor temperature and air quality; DPAC looks forward to hearing how the District will ensure they meet these new health and safety standards.
- DPAC passed a resolution to write a letter of advocacy to the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) to address the capacity crisis and funding issues in the District, and other districts across the province; the letter will be sent to Ministry and local MLAs.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

- Oxley thanked the Board for their response letter regarding Kindergarten Gradual Entry.
- NWTU appreciates the opportunity to engage in the School Generated Funds Ad Hoc Committee, and AP 520 which will be reported on later this evening.
- Oxley is currently working with Mentorship Facilitator, Patricia Pain on an early career teaching session that will take place the week of August 26th.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting with staff responding where appropriate. To view the full comment and question period, please refer to the meeting video at the [\[7:08 p.m.\]](#) mark.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, June 11, 2024.

1. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.

Trustee Andres highlighted the following main topics: Student Voice presented their final report; new personal digital devices (PDD) cell phone policy; Climate Action update report from Environmental Lead, Dominic Pistor; New Courses: Environmental Science 12 & Systems and Societies; Child Care Update, Ileana Neilson, and a Summer School Update with Stephen Inniss and Tu Loan Trieu.

2. Approval of the June 11, 2024, Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

Moved and Seconded
2024-055

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approves the minutes from the June 11, 2024, Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, June 11, 2024.

Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly.

Connelly provided the following brief highlights: Memorial Park project (old NWSS site); Queen Elizabeth expansion project; and the FRMS and Qayqayt classroom renovations. Trustee Connelly reiterated the acknowledgement and thanks that were initially shared at the OPPC meeting held on June 11th; specifically Chair Russell's acknowledgment of the maintenance staff for all the work they do to support the District's events and celebrations. Connelly also thanked Rick Bloudell, Manager Community Projects and Partnerships for his continued work to ensure the lunch program and school nutrition program remain accessible and equitable for students in their District.

1. Approval of the June 11, 2024, Operations Policy and Planning Committee minutes.

Moved and Seconded
2024-056

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the June 11, 2024, Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To view the EPPC & OPPC comments please refer to the [\[7:13 p.m.\]](#) mark.

2. Technology for Schools

Moved and Seconded
2024-057

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) send a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care, the Honourable Rachna Singh, to ask for a significant investment, prior to the start of the new school year, in

technology for schools to meet the growing need for electronic devices in response to the new mandated legislation restricting the use of personal digital devices in schools.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Federal Food Program

**Moved and Seconded
2024-058**

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) write a letter to MP Peter Julian underscoring the importance of and outlining the urgent need for additional funding for food programs in our schools and to request more clarity about the method and timing of distribution of the national program funds.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Russell noted that an announcement was made late last week regarding the National School Food program and will investigate to see if additional funding is available.

Chair Russell called for a one-minute recess at 7:24 p.m. and left the meeting with Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources, and reconvened the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Chair Russell acknowledged and thanked interim Superintendent Sylvia Russell, and Interim Associate Superintendent Julie Pearce for their work over the past several months. The Board, Senior Management Team, and the District are deeply grateful for their guidance, leadership, and experience that they have brought to the District.

7. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Superintendent Update

1. Good things are happening 2023-2024 year in review.

Interim Superintendent Sylvia Russell and members of the District Learning Team highlighted the District successes from the 2023-2024 school year.

District Learning Team: Ileana Neilson, Manager Early Learning & Child Care; Sandra Singh, Director of Instruction-Learning & Innovation; Connie Swan, District VP Indigenous Education; Ken Headley, District Vice Principal, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA); Rhonda Jones, Director of Instruction-Learning Services; Melanie Smith, District Vice-Principal, Safe and Caring Schools, and Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs • Sigma.

Highlights included but not limited to:

- 6th Annual Student Symposium
- Long-Range Facilities Plan Approval
- Board 2024 Advocacy Action Plan Adoption

- Establishing a New Board Office Team
- Success Stories at Our Schools
- Early Learning & Child Care and Children as Caring Citizens
- Fostering Collective Teacher Efficacy
- Indigenous Graduation Ceremony, Supporting the Success of Indigenous Students & Implementation of the Indigenous Education Council
- DEIA Reimagining and Rebuilding Communities Document Update & Professional Day
- Competency-Based Individualized Education Program (IEPs) – Putting Students at the Centre of Their Learning
- Mental Health Resource Fairs with Community Partners; Fall & Spring Semesters at NWSS

Superintendent Russell stated that she was impressed with the District's Learning Team and thanked the Board for providing her with the opportunity to work with them and the Partner Groups – a wonderful place with wonderful people.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Russell acknowledged and thanked the District Learning Team for the incredibly important work that they continue to provide to the District.

To view this presentation please refer to the meeting video at [\[7:26 p.m.\]](#).

1. NWSS 5-Block Timetable Update (P. Craven)

Pam Craven, Director of Instruction-Secondary Programs provided an update regarding the NWSS 5-Block timetable, and spoke to the following two key action items which transpired since the last Open Board meeting held on May 28, 2024; 1) a JEDIC meeting, and 2) A visit to Terry Fox Secondary School.

JEDIC Meeting:

- A third Joint Educational Implementation Committee (JEDIC) meeting took place on June 4, 2024. The meeting was productive; discussions centred around the NWSS 5-block timetable structural survey results and insights from NWSS staff activities and student focus groups.

Terry Fox Secondary School (TFSS) Visit:

- Susana Quan, incoming NWSS Principal, Pam Craven, and three NWTU members visited Terry Fox Secondary School in Port Coquitlam on June 12, 2024.

Next steps: Proposed timetables will be presented to all partner groups in the fall for review and feedback, the results and recommendation from staff will be presented to the Board of Education in November 2024 for consideration.

b. 2024-25 Board Annual Work Plan (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham spoke to the Draft Board Annual Work Plan which included only September and October 2024. Mark Davidson, the new Superintendent of Schools is starting in July 2024 and approving only the first two months of the school year would allow him to provide input on the upcoming presentations being brought to the Board for the remainder of the school year. A board work plan for the entire school year will be brought forward for approval in October 2024. New to the attached September and October plan are "Learning Stories" - a framework for enhancing student learning which will be brought forward to Board meetings.

**Moved and Seconded
2024-059**

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Board work plan for September and October 2024 with the full board work plan for the entire 2024-25 school year coming forward for approval in October 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. 2025-2026 5-year Capital Plan (Major Projects) (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham walked through the major capital plan in detail and provided updates on new and recurring project requests. The plan looks to request over \$340M in major capital projects. The District is required to submit the Major Capital Plan for the following year by June of the current year. This request to the Ministry is largely driven by the Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) that was approved by the Board in October 2023.

**Moved and Seconded
2024-060**

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2025-2026 Major Capital Plan for submission to the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. District Code of Conduct – AP 104 (Appendix A & Appendix B) (P. Craven)
(Specifically related to Cell Phone Use).

Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs provided an update regarding Personal Digital Devices (PDD) as it relates to the District Code of Conduct Administrative Procedure (AP) 104 (*AP 104 Appendix A - Student Use of Mobile Devices AND AP 104 Appendix B - Restrictions on Cell Phones and Personal Internet-Connected Devices*); includes the Noncompliance Process at the Teacher and Administration levels.

On June 6, 2024, the District Leadership Team Reviewed the requirements of Ministerial Order 89. Principals and Vice-Principals provided feedback on the language in AP 104 Appendix A and suggested additions to AP 104 Appendix B - Parent Letter. This feedback was incorporated and discussed in a subsequent meeting on June 13, 2024. This meeting also addressed the implementation of the Ministerial Order and established a consensus on handling non-compliance.

Highlights include:

- Appendix B Parent Letter regarding the Ministerial Order was shared with all stakeholders on June 18, 2024; Principals will reference this letter in year-end parent communication.
- A Code of Conduct checklist regarding Personal Digital Devices (PDDs) was provided to principals & Vice Principals to aid in the September implementation.

- A Frequently Asked Question document for teachers and students regarding the process is being developed to address queries about this implementation and will be shared at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Administrators have agreed to follow a process for addressing student misbehaviour, including working with teachers and students to develop individualized plans to address non-compliance.
- Stakeholder consultations will take place in September, and an update on the implementation process and language will be provided to the Board in October 2024.

Questions were asked, and Discussion ensued.

To review the District Code of Conduct and Personal Digital Devices (PDD) Report please refer to the meeting video at [\[8:40 p.m.\]](#)

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. School Generated Funds Committee Report (Vice-Chair C. Sluis & Trustee D. Connelly).

Vice-Chair Sluis provided a report on the School Generated Funds Committee which was struck following an approved Board motion on February 16, 2024; the committee's purpose was to make findings and recommendations that would improve AP 520 Fundraising Activities and Policies that arose through the Committee's work. Recommendations from the committee's report were highlighted.

The School Generated Funds Ad Hoc Committee Report and recommendations will be utilized by staff to revise Administrative Procedure (AP) 520. Staff will take the opportunity review AP 520 and bring back an update in Fall 2024.

Trustee Sluis acknowledged and thanked the following committee members who participated in this work.

Trustee Connelly thanked Trustee Sluis for her leadership on this Committee, and to all the volunteers and parents who supported this project.

Chair Maya acknowledged and thanked Trustees Sluis and Connelly, and committee members and volunteers for their work.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

Nil.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in June. Refer to the meeting video at [\[9:01 p.m.\]](#) for full comments.

11. **QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)**

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the Meeting. Members of the public voiced their concerns to the Board of Education on the following topics: addition requested at Lord Tweedsmuir to support long-term growth, personal device restrictions and cellphone use in schools, and the importance of maintaining green space and services for students as the District enrollment capacity continues to increase.

Refer to the meeting video at [\[9:24 p.m.\]](#) for full Q&A comments.

12. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Tuesday, September 24, 2024: School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (In-person & via Zoom link).

Events

- SD40 Retirement Dinner Event – Tuesday, June 4, 2024.
- National Indigenous People's Day – Thursday, June 27, 2024.
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day – Thursday, June 27, 2024.
- National Indigenous History Month, Pride Month June 2024.

13. **REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING**

- a. Record of the May 28, 2024, In-Camera Meeting.
- b. Record of the June 11, 2024, Special In-Camera Meeting.
- c. Record of the June 17, 2024, Special In-Camera Meeting.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer