

**MINUTES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPERATIONS POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 6:30 PM
In-person & Via Zoom Link**

PRESENT	Danielle Connelly, Chair	Mark Davidson, Superintendent
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Geraldine Lawlor, Associate Superintendent
	Cheryl Sluis, Trustee	Amy Grey, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee	Robert Weston, Executive Director, HR
	Marc Andres, Trustee	Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects
	Elliott Slinn, Trustee	Laura Goodman, Recording Secretary
REGRETS	Kathleen Carlsen, Trustee	
	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer	
	Matt Brito, Director of Facilities & Operations	

Committee Chair Connelly recognized and acknowledged 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.

Trustee Russell acknowledged and paid tribute to former B.C. Premier John Horgan, who passed away earlier today, highlighting his contributions to education and funding initiatives. Trustee Russell recalled John Horgan's visits to New Westminster schools, his support for various educational initiatives, and his authenticity and ability to connect with people.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the November 12, 2024, Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

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

Nil.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Capital Projects Update (D. Crowe)

- Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects, reported on the Queen Elizabeth Elementary project and noted delays due to a labour dispute in the Vancouver ports. The delay is expected to last around a week; the project is still on track, and the release of piles is imminent.
- The relocation of the high-pressure sewer main is progressing, and vibration and noise monitoring plans are in place.
- The NWSS Memorial Park project is moving forward; tender documents for the landscape contractor are being finalized.
- Artist's renderings will be placed on the fencing currently surrounding the site to inform the community about the project in the next few weeks.

b. Operations Update

1. Facilities & Finance Report (A. Grey)

- Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Grey referred to the report provided and noted that the playground enhancement project at Lord Kelvin Elementary School and the New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) cooling project are progressing as expected.
- The Finance team worked through the required Ministry and other reporting requirements over the past month, all of which have been submitted.

2. 2024-25 Estimated Operating Grant Recalculation (A. Grey)

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Grey stated that this was an update to the preliminary operating grant calculations based on the enrolment projections submitted to the Ministry in February 2024.

- *September Enrolment Count:* the 1701 enrolment process has been completed. An increase over the original projections leads to an estimated funding increase for the District of \$955,000 more than the preliminary operating grant calculation. Grey noted that this is an estimate, and the Ministry will confirm the actual recalculation in mid-December. The actual enrolment for K-12 standard schools is about 40 students more than original projections translating to \$358,000 in additional funding.

- *Supplement for unique student needs* is estimated to be \$480,000 higher than original estimates mainly due to an increase in Level 2 students and English Language Learning (ELL) enrolment.
- Further adjustments to the operating grant will result from actual enrolment counts in February and May 2025.

Next Steps:

- The 2024-25 amended budget will reflect the confirmed increase to the operating grant that will be announced by the Ministry in mid-December and will also have a corresponding expense impact for staffing and other known adjustments to support the enrolment growth and student needs.

4. General Announcements

Trustee Connelly acknowledged and thanked the staff and students for creating impactful and meaningful Remembrance Day ceremonies at our schools.

5. New Business

Nil.

6. Old Business

Nil.

7. Question Period (15 Minutes)

Nil.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.