

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

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 7:00 PM
School Board Office
811 Ontario Street, New Westminister**

PRESENT Anita Ansari, Chair
Dee Beattie, Trustee
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Vice-Chair
Mark Gifford, Trustee
Maya Russell, Trustee

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
Guests:
Bruce Cummings, Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Karen Catherwood, Principal, Qayqayt Elementary
Stephen Inniss, District Vice Principal, Pearson Adult Learning Centre
Janaya Fuller Evans, Reporter, New Westminister Record
Sarah Wethered, Teacher Librarian, NWSS

REGRETS Mary Lalji, Trustee

The New Westminister School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nations, 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 of the Board called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

2020-007

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) adopt the agenda for the February 25, 2020 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

i. January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting

2020-008

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) approve the minutes as distributed for the January 28, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. PRESENTATION

a. Qayqayt Elementary School Presentation

Qayqayt Principal Karen Catherwood introduced a video they created to feature their school growth plan.

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

Nil.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received.

Further follow-up was requested regarding the letter of response from Minister Fleming regarding counsellors to student ratio.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, February 11, 2020

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Beattie

Trustee Beattie indicated that the Padlet feedback tool used at the Education meeting was very helpful. It was requested to bring back the questions posed to a future meeting for further discussion.

ii. Approval of the February 11, 2020 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2020-009

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 11, 2020 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, February 11, 2020

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

Trustee Connelly acknowledged the work completed on the new high school.

ii. Approval of the February 11, 2020 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

Amendment: page 2: Motion regarding the \$1M contribution for the Richard McBride seismic replacement project. Trustee Connelly clarified that her preamble regarding her view that the District should not have to set aside funds, should not be reflected as an abstention. The motion was carried unanimously.

2020-010

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as amended from the February 11, 2020 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. 2019-2020 Amended Budget
- 2020-011**
Moved and Seconded
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve that \$1,000,000 of surplus be appropriated and transferred to local capital for the contribution related to the Richard McBride Elementary seismic replacement project.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 2020-012**
Moved and Seconded
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the three readings of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 2020-013**
Moved and Seconded
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the first and second reading of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 2020-014**
Moved and Seconded
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the third reading, reconsideration and final adopt the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- iv. Continuing Education
- Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham will present a detailed report structural surplus/deficit, which will include Continuing Education Analysis at the March 3, 2020 Combined Education and Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting, as such, the Board may wish to postpone their decision until they have had an opportunity to review that information. The report will include data cost analysis for each of the day/afternoon/evening Continuing Education program and reinforces information already shared. A decision regarding the program would be made at the March 10, 2020 Regular Open Board meeting.
- 2020-015**
Moved and Seconded
That the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) submit a letter to the Ministry of Education, requesting that the Ministry increase per student FTE funding for Adult Continuing Education from current \$4,773 (63% of school age FTE funding) to \$6,348 (85% of school age FTE funding) in order to fund and deliver Adult Continuing Education at a sustainable level.
- AND**
Furthermore, that the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) submit a motion to BCSTA for consideration by its membership at its AGM in April 2020.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve to discontinue the day time and late afternoon continuing education program as of the end of the 2019-20 school year and make efforts to optimize the evening program and continue to run the evening program for one year to assess the financial and educational viability with a decision to be made about future steps by February 2021 in time for the 2021-22 budget cycle.

MOTION POSTPONED to March 10, 2020 Regular Open Board Meeting

AND

2020-016

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to continue to investigate and communicate available options for students to transition to an alternate out of district program that best meets their needs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights of his February report:

- Queen Elizabeth Elementary
 - Grade 4 Ambassadors
 - Art project
 - Smurf Room
 - Indigenous Education Assembly
- Herbert Spencer Elementary
 - Story time from space...
 - Bullying Awareness activities are happening year-round
 - Club & Games Day
- Student Symposium 2020
 - Was a very successful day-long event; Student Voice will deliver an overview of the Symposium at the March 3 Combined Education and Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting
- Novel Coronavirus: COVID-19 Update. Please visit the [District website](#) for the latest developments regarding this matter. The risk to British Columbians remains low with recommendations for everyone to follow proper respiratory hygiene etiquette. Students and staff who are ill with respiratory illness symptoms are asked to stay home.

b. Special Education Review February Update

Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings provided highlights of the feedback gathered from the in-person focus groups/interviews as well as a ThoughtExchange survey. This comprehensive process focused on improving practice; guided by research; stakeholder engagement; alignment with district strategic plan. Some early emerging themes include a focus on improving staffing of EAs and LSTs; transitions especially from middle to secondary school; support

for students in extra-curricular activities; relationships – EAs need more resource support (training and help); lack of communication.

Next steps include two consultant meetings - March 3 update at the Combined Education and Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting, including an Equity Scan update; on March 12 a draft report and recommendations will be shared with the Advisory Group; a draft report will be presented at the April 14 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

Chair Ansari and Trustees Beattie and Russell thanked Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings for his work and summarizing the results so succinctly. The Advisory Group was acknowledged for their work on this project.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

The Trustees provided highlights of events they attended in February.

Trustee Connelly provided a quick overview of the February 21-22, 2020 BCSTA Provincial Council meeting. The Board will be asked to participate in upcoming BCSTA surveys.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 3, 2020: Combined Education and Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:00pm - Lord Kelvin Elementary, 1010 Hamilton Street

Tuesday, March 10, 2020: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - School Board Office

Tuesday, April 14, 2020: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:00pm - New Westminster Secondary School, 835 Eighth Street

Reminder

Pink Shirt Day - February 26

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

a. Record of In-Camera January 28, 2020 Board Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer