

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

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 7:00 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Trustee	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Surveen Dhaliwal, Vice Chair	Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
	Mark Gifford, Trustee	Guests:
	Mary Lalji, Trustee	Members of the Public
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminister Record
		Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU
		Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary

The New Westminister 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

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2020-062

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) adopt the agenda for the November 24, 2020 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

i. October 27, 2020 Regular Meeting

Trustee Lalji requested that her comment pertaining to re-evaluating COVID-19 health and safety protocols be inserted under item 7a. Reports from Senior Management. However, it was explained that comments specifically attributed to Trustees are not usually included in the minutes.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) approve the minutes as amended for the October 27, 2020 Regular School Board meeting.

MOTION DEFEATED

2020-063

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) approve the minutes as distributed for the October 27, 2020 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

a. **Outgoing Board Report, Chair Ansari**

Chair Anita Ansari reported out on the accomplishments of the 2019-2020 Board of Education. A copy of the report has been appended to the Minutes.

Chair Ansari thanked the NWTU, CUPE Local 409, Parent Advisory Committees, District staff and looks forward to continuing the great work of the Board and the District in 2021.

b. **Election of Chair**

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham briefly explained the election process, which was adjusted this year so Trustees could vote remotely with Doodle Poll links. She called for nominations for the position of Chair for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Anita Ansari nominated Trustee Gurveen Dhaliwal as Chair for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Dhaliwal accepted the nomination.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board a 2nd and 3rd time.

There being no further nominations **Trustee Dhaliwal was declared Chair** for the 2021 Board of Education (by acclamation).

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham turned the Chair over to newly elected Chair Dhaliwal.

c. **Election of Vice-Chair**

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the Vice-Chair for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Danielle Connelly self-nominated for Vice-Chair for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Maya Russell nominated Trustee Dee Beattie as Vice-Chair for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Beattie accepted the nomination.

Trustee Mary Lalji self-nominated for Vice-Chair for the 2021 Board of Education.

It was asked whether individuals could nominate themselves. Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham requested a brief recess to review the Board Policy to confirm whether that would be possible.

In consideration of time, and so that the election process could continue,

Trustee Maya Russell nominated Trustees Connelly and Lalji for the Vice-Chair for the 2021 Board of Education.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board a 2nd and 3rd time.

Trustees completed a Doodle Poll and **Trustee Beattie was declared Vice-Chair** for the 2021 Board of Education.

d. **Election of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate**

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Maya Russell nominated Trustee Dee Beattie as BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Beattie accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the 2021 Board of Education a 2nd and 3rd time.

There being no further nominations, **Trustee Beattie was declared BCSTA Provincial Delegate** for the 2021 Board of Education (by acclamation).

BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Dee Beattie nominated Trustee Maya Russell for BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Russell accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2021 Board of Education a 2nd and 3rd time.

There being no further nominations, **Trustee Russell was declared BCSTA Provincial Delegate Alternate** for the 2021 Board of Education (by acclamation).

e. **Election of BCPSEA Representative**

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCPSEA Representative for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Anita Ansari nominated Trustee Maya Russell for BCPSEA Representative for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Russell accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative for the 2021 Board of Education a 2nd and 3rd time.

There being no further nominations, **Trustee Russell was declared BCPSEA Representative** for the 2021 Board of Education (by acclamation).

BCPSEA Representative Alternate

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCPSEA Representative Alternate for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Anita Ansari nominated Trustee Mark Gifford for BCPSEA Representative Alternate for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Gifford did not accept the nomination due to conflict of interest.

Trustee Maya Russell nominated Trustee Danielle Connelly for BCPSEA Representative Alternate for the 2021 Board of Education.

Trustee Connelly accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative Alternate for the 2021 Board of Education a 2nd and 3rd time.

There being no further nominations, **Trustee Connelly was declared BCPSEA Representative Alternate** for the 2021 Board of Education (by acclamation).

f. **Motion to Destroy Ballots**

2020-064

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct the Secretary-Treasurer to destroy all ballots.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

A member from the public asked “why throughout the agenda and minutes, all other Trustees are noted for what they bring to the table for discussion but when Trustee Lalji asks for the same notation, she was denied?” Chair Dhaliwal indicated that the Minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting. Trustees’ comments are generally not attributed to a specific Trustee unless required for the minutes.

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, November 17, 2020

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Beattie

Trustee Beattie thanked the Student Voice Trustees for their update on the Child and Youth Liaison Officer survey and the District’s anti-racism work.

ii. Approval of the November 17, 2020 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2020-065

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, November 17, 2020

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

Trustee Connelly thanked staff for their work.

ii. Approval of the November 17, 2020 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2020-066

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. F.W. Howay & Richard McBride Elementary - A Review of Potential Boundary Changes
2020-067
Moved and Seconded
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the F.W. Howay and Richard McBride Elementary Schools' catchment review and public consultation process outline as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- iv. Richard McBride Re-naming Consultation and Timeline
2020-068
Moved and Seconded
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the proposed consultation plan and timeline for the renaming of Richard McBride Elementary.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- v. Living Wage Policy
2020-069
Moved and Seconded
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt a Living Wage Policy, effective April 1, 2021, for employees and direct contract workers employed or engaged by the Board.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- a. Superintendent Update
- Superintendent Hachlaf provided an update:
- COVID-19 current trends were reviewed.
 - NWSS Transition – currently working with City of New Westminster to obtain the occupancy permit. Forthcoming details to students, staff and parents will be communicated regarding transition to the new building; welcoming notices and plans around orientation.
 - 2019-24 Strategic Plan is now live on the [District website](#).
 - K-8 Online Program – upcoming communication to clearly outline process for families considering online registration for 2021 was reviewed. This information will also be posted to the District website.
 - Remembrance Day 2020:
 - Several Learning Team members attended and participated in virtual ceremonies to honour veterans. The District did a terrific job capturing the importance of this day.
 - Grade 11 & 12 Art Exhibition - Keith Randall
 - Barb Paul has been a teacher with the District for 42 years. Recently, she was recognized as the 2020 Outstanding Educator – Elementary by the BC Music Educators' Association. She was congratulated and was awarded a District Certificate of Achievement.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

8. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

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

9. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 15, 2020: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, January 12, 2021: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00pm - Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, January 12, 2021: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:15pm - Via Webex Livestream

10. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

Records of October 27, 2020 and November 5, 2020.

a. Record of the October 27, 2020 In-Camera Meeting

b. Record of the November 5, 2020 Special In-Camera Meeting

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourn at 7:50pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

Chair Report

Anita Ansari

November 2019 to November 2020

I began the Chair role on November 26th of 2019. In the time since, highlights of what we've accomplished, the milestone markers and the big-picture decisions included:

1. Secured funding for a new building to replace current Richard McBride Elementary.
2. Carried out a budget consultation with students, teachers, parents and staff, to understand how to prioritize our needs as a community in support of our strategic vision.
3. Made the difficult decision to reduce our continued education offerings, due to budget limitations.
4. Increased childcare spaces to provide more opportunities to families:
 - Richard McBride – 15 spaces.
 - F.W. Howay – 30 spaces.
 - Connaught Heights – 25 spaces (ages 3-5).
 - Queensborough – 30 new spaces added.
5. Carried out an Inclusive Education review, consulting with students, parents, educators and building a report and a multi-year roadmap for how to build on our success and how to address the gaps we uncovered.
6. Adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Suspended in-person classes.
 - Engaged principals / teachers / CUPE / staff to provide education remotely.
 - Sent out surveys to parents to check-in with their needs and identify Essential Service families; got back 4,000 responses.
 - Opened a number of Child Learning Centres for Essential Service families; supported approximately 55 students in four after-school sites in partnership with our childcare partners, with certified teachers there through regular school hours to support students in their remote learning needs.
 - Upgraded technological capabilities of school district – Microsoft Teams roll-out; training for teachers on using our remote technology.
 - Disbursed community link funding through gift cards for groceries, so our families could cover the meals we used to provide at our sites for our vulnerable students.
 - Loaned out close to 1000 Chromebooks; worked with internet service providers to connect families in our district who did not have Wi-Fi.

- Repatriated 71 International students – 63 of them remained with us.
 - In June, moved to Stage 3 of COVID Education Framework, with in-class and remote learning, density targets, and full time instruction for essential service families.
 - Hosted three days of live, low density graduation ceremonies at the Anvil Centre, with a virtual ceremony of the recorded events shared on what had been the scheduled day for the original ceremony.
 - Worked with BC Housing, the City, Fraser Health and the Lookout Society to set up an Emergency Housing Centre in the Massey gyms.
 - In September, moved to Stage 2 of COVID Education Framework – surveyed families and employees to figure out how to accommodate the needs of people in our school community. Applied provincial funding and federal funding to relieve COVID cost pressures
7. Managed schedule challenges around the build of the new NWSS – in light of a reduction in tradespersons on site and supply chain issues. A delay that should soon be behind us as we look towards opening it soon.
 8. Received permits to start earthworks/excavation at McBride site on March 31st – and kept on building it.
 9. NWSS students won the Game of Apps – current Provincial app-making champions.
 10. Made a formal commitment on behalf of the Board and the District to develop and adopt an anti-racism policy.
 11. Hired a District Vice Principal of Early Education (Tanis Anderson), a District Principal of Equity and Inclusion (Rav Johal, starting in January).
 12. Tackled Climate Action, to see what we could do operationally and educationally.
 13. Engaged staff to start the process of becoming a Living Wage Certified Employer.