

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

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 6:15 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT	<p>Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair Dee Beattie, Vice Chair Anita Ansari, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Mark Gifford, Trustee Mary Lalji, Trustee Maya Russell, Trustee</p>	<p>Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources Guests: Members of the Public Tanis Anderson, District Vice Principal, Early Learning Steven Beasley, CUPE Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record Marcel Marsolais, President, CUPE Local 409 Jennifer Scorda, Principal, Connaught Heights / HLP Sarah Wethered, NWTU Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary</p>
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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.

1. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:16pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the January 12, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentations

a. Seamless Childcare

Marcel Marsolais, President CUPE Local 409, and Steven Beasley, CUPE, provided highlights of the Seamless Childcare program. The Board noted that this initiative will be brought forward to a future meeting for a more in-depth discussion. Associate Superintendent Naser indicated that the District has submitted an expression of interest to be considered for the pilot of this program.

b. Childcare Verbal Update

District Vice Principal, Early Learning Anderson provided a brief update. Currently, there are 80 child care spaces available in Queensborough. A Rapid Renovation Grant application has been submitted to add additional storage space at Connaught Heights Elementary.

3. **Reports from Senior Management**

a. Alternate and Home Learners Program Relocation

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham indicated that two virtual Townhalls have been scheduled for Monday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 20, both at 6:00pm to provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback. The proposed options of the relocation were reviewed and discussed. Please refer to the [Operations Committee meeting video](#) (40.38 minute mark) for the detailed discussion.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval to collect input from both school communities on how best to support the relocation proposed in Option 3A (relocation of Hume Park Home Learners Program to the grounds of Lord Tweedsmuir and relocate RCAP/Power Alternate programs to Hume Park).

An amendment to the original motion was requested, reference to Option 3B was added in the amended motion as follows:

AMENDED MOTION

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval to collect input from both school communities on how best to support the relocation proposed in Option 3A (relocation of Hume Park Home Learners Program to the grounds of Lord Tweedsmuir and relocate RCAP/Power Alternate programs to Hume Park) and Option 3B (utilizing property owned and located at 522 Fader Street and supporting both programs at the expanded Hume Park site).

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

b. Comment & Question Period from Visitors

Many questions and comments from parents regarding the Hume Park Home Learners and Alternate Programs relocation were shared with the Board. Please refer to the [meeting video](#) for the detailed discussion. All questions and comments were transcribed and will be addressed at the respective Townhalls. The Board thanked everyone for their feedback.

c. Capital Projects Update

i. Richard McBride Elementary School

Director of Capital Projects Crowe provided highlights:

- Phase 1 is nearly complete; moving into steel structure Phase 2;
- Sequencing has changed a bit: landscaping was moved up;
- Dashboard is all green, there are no areas of concern – the project is on-schedule and on-time.

ii. New Westminster Secondary School

Director of Capital Projects Crowe was pleased to announce that the new NWSS opened to staff and students on January 11 who were all very excited to move into the new building. This is a huge milestone and achievement for everyone involved in this project (about 3,000 people worked on the site over the past 4-1/2 years). This will be the last NWSS update, the team will now move into the decommissioning of the old school and developing the passive park. Any reports to be brought forward will include updates on those items.

The Board congratulated Director of Capital Projects Crowe on the completion of the project, which has been the largest provincial capital project to date.

A concern was raised pertaining to the traffic congestion at Richard McBride Elementary. Due to City civil works, the roads near the school have experienced congestion. Ongoing construction at Royal Columbian Hospital have also added to the traffic delays, which will continue for at least another month.

NWSS Transition Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided a brief update on the move from the old NWSS to the new building. Another milestone achieved was the move into the new building, which was a huge task. Still transitioning into the new space, which will take a few months such as collaborative work spaces, etc. Further updates on Phase 2 (demolition) will be forthcoming as well as Memorialization Advisory Committee updates at future Committee and Board meetings, as required.

d. Operations Update

i. Facilities Report January 2021

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham indicated that a first draft of PDR regarding the Queen Elizabeth Elementary school expansion has been reviewed by the Ministry of Education, who have provided comments for consideration.

ii. 2020-21 Grant Recalculation and Amended Budget Update

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham reviewed the grant recalculation. The estimated funding has increased by approximately \$250,000, for a total of \$63 million, which aligned with earlier estimates. Additional amended budget information will be forthcoming at the February Board and Committee meetings. Federal COVID-19 funding update, the first half of funding was received in September (\$1.2 million). The 10% holdback was recently released to districts – this has resulted in an additional \$156,810 for New Westminster Schools. Planning is underway for how to best utilize those dollars.

It was asked whether this additional money could be allocated for additional mental health resources to support students. Associate Superintendent Naser confirmed that the District's mental health resources are above by 3.3 FTE of the required provincial staffing ratio. The services being offered at NWSS have been well-received. The District will continue to monitor the needs of its students and will adjust services as necessary.

iii. TIS Verbal Update

Associate Superintendent Naser introduced the new IT Director Curtis Dunn who recently joined the District. IT will focus on the following four areas:

1. Hardware refresh cycle - specifically laptops.
2. NWSS - IT team prepared the school for students and staff. Associate Superintendent Naser thanked everyone involved who worked over the winter holiday to make this happen.
3. Audit of the bandwidth in schools to ensure connectivity for all schools; looking at making future improvements.
4. Xerox multi-functional devices are being refreshed and hope to complete that work later January.

e. COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Hachlaf updated the Board on the COVID-19 notifications. In discussions with Fraser Health and Superintendents from Districts within its health authority, additional changes to COVID-19 reporting to improve streamlining of communications will be forthcoming. Superintendent Hachlaf will provide additional feedback at the January 26 Board meeting. The Ministry of Education has indicated that the FSA and Grade 10 assessments will proceed. The timeline for the administration of these tests will be extended.

f. F.W. Howay & Richard McBride Elementary Catchment Review Update

Superintendent Hachlaf mentioned that additional feedback will be forthcoming to the January 26 Board meeting.

g. Administrative Procedure 300-Student Admissions, Catchment Areas & Placement

Associate Superintendent Naser highlighted an edit in Administrative Procedure 300. Language was added indicating that if the need arises, the Superintendent can deem a school at full capacity (paragraph 4.2.1a) and therefore may not guarantee placement. Currently, there are no schools within the District deemed to be at full capacity.

4. General Announcements

Superintendent Hachlaf announced that Friday, January 15 will be Black Shirt Day, everyone in the District is encouraged to wear black shirts to raise awareness of the civil rights struggle, and help foster solidarity against all forms of racism and hate.

5. New Business

Nil.

6. Old Business

Nil.

7. Question Period (15 Minutes)

Nil.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.