

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

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7:00 PM  
Via Webex Livestream**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<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 Pam Craven, District Vice Principal, Alternate Programs Ravinder Johal, District Principal, Equity &amp; Inclusion 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>
----------------	---	--

***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 7:00pm.

**2021-001**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the January 26, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

i. December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting

**2021-002**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the December 15, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

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

Chair Dhaliwal briefly reviewed the order of the agenda topics and reminded all meeting participants to be respectful during discussions. It was clarified that the motion pertaining to the Alternate and Hume Park Home Learners Relocation included as Item 5b.iii is a direction to staff to gather information only; not to relocate the programs. The chat feature was disabled for this meeting to minimize distractions during the meeting. Participants were asked to use the ‘raise hand’ function to be called upon to speak.

Sarah Wethered, President NWTU, spoke to the Board regarding the proposal to relocate the Alternate and Hume Park Home Learners programs. Please see the meeting [video](#) (starting at 5:16) for her full remarks and those of the speakers noted below.

Jana Buhlmann, Alternate program parent, stated that while the Columbia Square location is not a permanent location, her family’s preference would be to stay, and asked that the security of this location be reviewed to see what can be done to improve it. The Hume Park location is too far for most students, and poses safety issues around commuting to and from the SkyTrain and bus routes.

Marcel Marsolais, President CUPE Local 409, indicated his concern about the proposed move. The Alternate and Hume Park Home Learners (HLP) Programs are valuable programs and a proposed move may damage them. The District should look into moving the Alternate Program onto a District-owned property; HLP should not be moved.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received. The documents pertaining to the proposed City of New Westminster, Aboriginal Land Trust, Sixth Street Housing Project, which will provide much-needed affordable homes for Indigenous and Swahili peoples at 823-841 Sixth Street, were highlighted. The following motion was brought forward in support of this project:

**2021-003**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) formally support the affordable housing project application planned for 823-841 Sixth Street, New Westminster.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, January 12, 2021
  - i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell  
Trustee Russell thanked Student Voice for bringing an update to the meeting regarding the Officer Liaison program.
  - ii. Approval of the January 12, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

**2021-004**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, January 12, 2021
- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly  
Trustee Connelly shared that much of the discussion around agenda items takes place at the Committee level, which then inform staff to take forward action items.
- ii. Approval of the January 12, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

**2021-005**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- iii. Alternate and Home Learners Program Relocation  
It was clarified that the motion passed at the Operations Committee meeting is a direction to staff to gather information only; not instructions to relocate the programs. An amendment to the original motion was proposed:

**AMENDED MOTION**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. (New Westminster) direct staff to assess the relocation of RCAP/Power Alternate programs within the following process:***

- a. Staff directly involved with students and their respective IEPs are fully consulted and have the ability to propose set outcomes for their students and how Trustees can facilitate these measures.***
- b. All parents are given a written document either by email/mail to ask for opinions, insights and options, which would fit best for their children or child.***
- c. Townhall meetings, which include staff, IEP, teachers, counsellors, youth care workers, etc. will happen before any motions are placed on the Board meeting agenda.***
- d. A process must take place where teachers and students have the right and are encouraged to give insight and lead the process in collecting first-hand information pertaining to Programs of Choice their students are involved in. And Option 3B utilizes the portable located behind the School Board Office located at 811 Ontario Street and a full assessment of all viable options for the property located at 522 Fader Street.***

**MOTION NOT SECONDED**

**2021-006**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve staff 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**

## 6. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

### a. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights:

- Central Registration opened on January 11; since then a total 587 registrations (including 400 Kindergarten registrations) have been received. Every family has been contacted regarding their registration. Kudos and thank you to Leslie Nichol and Shannon Milne.
- Lord Tweedsmuir – Congratulations to Grades 4 and 5 students who were one of eight classes selected from across BC to take part in the Young PowerPlay Leaders Online Showcase. Thank you to Vice Principal Isabella Lam, teacher Matt Sol, and Principal Jen Richter for supporting this program.
- Consultations – appreciate the feedback received from the recent Townhalls. Thank you to staff, students and parents for participating; as well as Principals Pam Craven, Jennifer Scorda, Kathleen Chad, and Sarah Phelan, Secretary-Treasurer Bettina Ketcham, Associate Superintendent Maryam Naser, Communications Manager Kristen Keighley-Wight and Executive Assistant Caroline Manders.
- Building Resilience – this month and ongoing support of wellness, the District has hosted two sessions (39 participants and 73 participants respectively); next Parents' Night Out is scheduled for February 4 and will focus on emotional resilience and well-being.
- Fuel Up! Nourishment Program – District Vice Principal of Early Learning Tanis Anderson has followed up with the meal provider regarding some issues around the app who has notified the app developer. The wording around the reasons for needing a subsidy has changed – this question can now be skipped in registering for the program. Chair Dhaliwal asked Superintendent Hachlaf to pass along the Board's thanks to District Vice Principal Anderson for making those changes.

### i. Anti-Racism Policy Work Update

District Principal of Equity & Inclusion Johal provided a brief update. Unfortunately, LevelUp consulting's timelines did not match up with the District's timelines, resulting in the retention of a new consultant, Cicely Blain Consulting. The Anti-Racism Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference were reviewed. The first meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee will take place in early February, and monthly thereafter until June 2021.

### b. F.W. Howay & Richard McBride Elementary - Catchment Review and Proposed Changes

Superintendent Hachlaf indicated that the consultation is now complete. Feedback received is included in the agenda report, however five additional comments were received after the report was completed, which were highlighted. Trustee Ansari thanked staff and parents who participated in this process.

**2021-007**

**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 adjustment as outlined in Scenario 1 (McBride West to Howay) effective March 12, 2021.***

**CARRIED  
1 Opposed**

c. Alternate Programs Relocation

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided highlights of the report, which captures the feedback received since the January 12, 2021 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting. The context of the report involves work done around the District's Strategic Plan:

- Option 1: Stay at current location – Columbia Square
- Option 2: Move to another rental location
- Option 3: Explore another District-owned site
  - Option 3A – move Hume Park Home Learners Program to Lord Tweedsmuir
  - Option 3B – co-location of RCAP/POWER and Home Learners at Hume Park

Please refer to the meeting [video](#) (starting at 43:00) for the detailed discussion.

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to extend the lease at Columbia Square until August 2023 with a request that staff develop a plan for suitable long-term space that meets the needs of Power/RCAP and provide an update to the Board in January 2022.***

The Board confirmed that it does not support the move of Hume Park Home Learners Program to the Lord Tweedsmuir location at this time. The Temporary Use Permit (TUP) process pertaining to 522 Fader Street property will not begin until further consultation/research has been completed. The Board decided to extend the Columbia Square lease (Alternate Programs' location) for one year, with an option to renew for an additional year, should it be required. The motion was amended as follows:

**2021-008**

**AMENDED MOTION**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to extend the lease at Columbia Square until August 2022 with the possibility to extend the lease by one year, and with a request that staff meaningfully engage with RCAP/Power students, staff and families to develop a plan for a suitable long-term space that meets their needs. And provide a bi-annual update to the board and an engagement and consultation report by June 2021.***

**CARRIED  
1 Opposed**

Chair Dhaliwal asked Superintendent Hachlaf to ensure that all school communities involved with the above motion are apprised of the Board's decision.

d. Review of Board Policy Handbook - New Policy Verbal Update

Superintendent Hachlaf informed the Board that the Ministry of Education has notified all Districts that a new policy, and some changes to an existing Administrative Procedure, will be brought forward to the Board at the February 23 meeting.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nil.

8. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- a. Provincial Policy Matters - Direction to Board Representative to BCSTA  
Provincial Council Meeting

Nil.

Trustees shared highlights of activities they participated in January.

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

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

It was asked whether anti-sexism (gender/sexual orientation discrimination) will be included in the anti-racism initiative. District Principal of Equity & Inclusion Johal indicated that anti-racism is a complex topic and may, at times, intersect with the greater discussion pertaining to equity and diversity.

10. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Tuesday, February 9, 2021: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00pm -  
Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, February 9, 2021: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:15pm -  
Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, February 23, 2021: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - Via Webex Livestream

Reminder:

Pink Shirt Day - February 24

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

- a. Record of the December 15, 2020 In-Camera Meeting

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer