

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 7:00 PM

Via Webex Livestream

PRESENT	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Vice Chair	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
	Anita Ansari, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
	Mark Gifford, Trustee	Guests:
	Mary Lalji, Trustee	Members of the Public
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Pam Craven, District Vice Principal, Alternate Programs
		Ravinder Johal, District Principal, Equity & Inclusion
		Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager
		Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminister Record
		Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations
		Will Shelling, Bakau Consulting
	Koshiki Tanaka, Bakau Consulting	
	Sarah Wethered, 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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2021-009

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) adopt the agenda for the February 23, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

i. January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting

2021-010

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) approve the minutes as distributed for the January 26, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. **PRESENTATION**

- a. Koshiki Tanaka and Will Shelling of Bakau Consulting presented highlights of the District's Anti-Racism Framework Proposal:
- Stage 1 - Assessment - background work; what policies need to change, etc.
 - Audit Survey
 - Focus Groups
 - Internal Documents Scan
 - Social Media Scan
 - Communications Scan
 - Report and Plan of Action
 - Stage 2 - Building a Foundation - implementation of anti-racism action plan and curriculum tailored to New Westminster Schools' needs; Train the Trainer model; create a training module which can be taught to other teachers
 - Education
 - Teach the Teacher model
 - Training of select staff members to deliver training to other staff
 - Stage 3 - Ongoing Support - in supporting this initiative
- Next steps: proposal finalization in March; survey review and edits in April; survey roll-out in April.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received.

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

A member of the public asked whether the anti-racism initiative plan is a response to a need within the District or is the District being pro-active? Chair Dhaliwal confirmed that the development of the plan is both being pro-active, as well as reviewing the District's needs.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, February 9, 2021
- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell
- Trustee Russell thanked everyone for preparing and presenting the detailed student assessment information.
- ii. Approval of the February 9, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-011

Moved and Seconded

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40
(New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 9, 2021
Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.***

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, February 9, 2021
 - i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly
Nil.
 - ii. Approval of the February 9, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-012

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 9, 2021 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- a. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights:

- Capital Projects webpage has been launched on the District website, which provides the public with an opportunity to review information pertaining to all the District's capital projects.
- Professional Development - February 16 - a wide-range of learning opportunities were offered; shorter virtual sessions were engaging and interactive; writing strategies; ELL supports; technology workshops; social-emotional learning; IEP writing; inclusion, etc.
- School Visits:
 - Connaught Heights Elementary
 - Lord Kelvin Elementary
 - Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary
 - FW Howay Elementary
 - Fraser River Middle School
 - Glenbrook Middle School
 - K-8 assembly for Pink Shirt Day, February 24
- Focus on Success - 2021-22 planning
 - Secondary scheduling
 - Online learning
 - Enrolment numbers
- i. Black History Month
District Principal of Inclusion & Equity Johal provided highlights of the District's Black History Month initiatives, which included learning about the early Black settlement in Canada; Black achievement in sports, entertainment, business. The Anti-Racism Committee held its first meeting at the end of January and will meet again on February 24 with Bakau Consulting in attendance. Terms of Reference for this committee were included in the [January 26, 2021 Regular Open Meeting Agenda](#) package (page 33).

b. Alternate Programs Relocation Update

Associate Superintendent Naser provided an overview. This process started several months ago, staff, parents and students have taken part in consultations. Staff feels, that although there may be a loss of a central location, a location change would be preferred and would benefit the program. District Vice Principal, Alternate Programs Craven engaged several families in this discussion. The majority would like to retain the central location, however, they do not like the current location (Columbia Square). Many parents appreciated that the District is not rushing through this process. Students have indicated that they would continue to attend the program should there be a location change, and would be appreciative of the District providing transportation assistance should it be required. In summary, the consultation process has been thorough to the extent that there is a good understanding of staff, parents' and students' feelings about a location change.

Superintendent Hachlaf indicated that ideally, the District would like a long-term facility that would not require a move in 10 years; a central location with the right space requirements and room for future growth. The Columbia Square lease has been extended for one year to provide an opportunity to find a more suitable long-term location.

c. Wellness Initiatives in New Westminster Schools' Update

Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovations McRae-Stanger presented highlights:

- Impact of COVID-19 on wellness for both students and adults.
- Ministry of Education has created a document on [mental health](#) and how schools can apply it to guide districts in creating supports around mental health and wellness.
- Mental health is imbedded in all aspects of the education system.
- Three elements of the MHis Strategy:
 - Compassionate Systems Leadership
 - Capacity Building
 - Mental Health in the Classroom
- Supporting the Strategy - mental health grant:
 - Additional staffing 0.3 FTE - counselling
 - Resources - books, professional development
 - Grant next year is to be confirmed

The Board indicated their support for the District's wellness program and hopes that the Ministry will continue to support mental health initiatives, especially during these challenging times.

d. New Board Policy 24 re Child Care & Amended Administrative Procedures (AP) 225 & 550

Associate Superintendent Naser explained the requirement for school districts to adopt a Child Care Policy. BCSTA provided the template for districts to adapt as required. As a result of the new policy, edits have also been made to AP 225 and 550. The current District's child care provider has been involved in providing feedback on the new policy and the proposed edits to the APs.

2021-013
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the new Board Policy 24 Child Care, effective immediately.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. 2020-2021 Amended Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham summarized the detailed information provided at the February 9 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting:

- 2021 Amended Budget: \$85,154,398 consists of the Operating Budget (\$68M) along with capital assets, Special Purpose Funds and Capital Funds.
- Surplus Reserves have allowed to eliminate the vast balance of the current year deficit.
- Small deficit of \$115K; anticipated to have \$3.8M Accumulated Surplus by end of June 2021.
 - Districts should keep a balance of 2-3% of operating revenues be held in accumulated surplus reserves to take care of unforeseen circumstances, this amount is approximately \$2M for New Westminster Schools.

2021-014
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 2020/2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-015
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve FIRST and SECOND reading of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2020/2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-016
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the THIRD reading, reconsideration and FINAL adoption of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2020/2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. District Calendar 2021-2022

Associate Superintendent Naser confirmed that the District Calendar was posted in January on the District website for feedback, none was received.

2021-017
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2021-2022 District Calendar as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- g. Report on Committees - SD40 Staff Representative
Superintendent Hachlaf updated the Board on the District staff's roles on Civic Committees.

8. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees shared highlights of activities they participated in February.

9. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

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

10. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 9, 2021: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, April 13, 2021: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00pm -
Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, April 13, 2021: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:15pm -
Via Webex Livestream

Reminder:

Pink Shirt Day, February 24

11. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the January 26, 2021 In-Camera Meeting

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourn at 9:10pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer