

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

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 7:00 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 Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction-Learning Services Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record 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 7:01pm.

2021-018

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the March 9, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

i. February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting

2021-019

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the February 23, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

Nil.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received. Trustee Connelly thanked HUB Cycling for their work to support alternate modes of transportation. Chair Dhaliwal indicated that the Board and the District look forward to supporting Bike to Work / School week, May 31 to June 4.

5. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights:

- Visited the newly installed Outdoor Learning Centres at Qayqayt and Queen Elizabeth Elementary Schools, made possible with the COVID-19 Federal Funding.
- NWSS – this visit highlighted how the students and staff have settled successfully into the new school
- Planning for 2021-22 School Year: Associate Superintendent Naser provided highlights:
 - She acknowledged the work of Principals Pam Craven and Jen Scorda, who assisted in developing a pilot Grade 2-9 online education program.
 - The pilot program will be launched under the umbrella of the Hume Park Home Learners program.
 - Parents will be an integral part of this online learning program, which is not similar to the K-8 online learning program.
 - The success of the program is contingent on enrolment, which will inform the staffing requirements.
 - A parent information will be held March 31 and details will also be posted on the District website.
 - Applications will be accepted the first week of April.
 - K-1 students are welcome to apply to the Hume Park Home Learners program.

i. COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided an update.

- There has been an increase of transmission rates in schools, which mirror the community transmission rates.
- First case of COVID-19 variant has been identified at NWSS.
- Self-isolation letters: leading up to Christmas Break there was only one self-isolation; now there have been six, Fraser Health changed the self-isolation to include groups and/or individuals.
- Since March 4, there has been one additional school notification for Queensborough Middle School, which included a self-monitor and self-isolation for 7 individuals, which was sent on March 5.

ii. Revised 2021-22 Budget Process

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided an update on the revised 2021-22 budget process, which will include the following virtual meetings:

- April 20: stakeholder meeting with CUPE, NWTU and PVPA representatives.
- April 21: Student Symposium (date selected by students and teacher mentor).

- April 22: Parents (DPAC) and student groups (including Student Voice).

Ministry Funding Announcement is scheduled for March 13, which will inform the discussion at the stakeholder meetings. Additional budget discussion will take place at the April 13 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

2021-020

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Revised 2021-22 Budget Development Process and Timelines, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Inclusive Education Review March Update

Director of Instruction-Learning Services Cunnings provided highlights:

- Phase 1: Phased implementation of 9 recommendations. Phase 1 implementation will be complete and will move into Phase 2 later this year.
- [Inclusive Education Review Final Report](#) is now available on the District website.
- The next update will be at the June 22 Regular Open Board meeting.

The Board thanked Director of Instruction-Learning Service Cunnings and the Inclusive Education team for their work.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

7. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees shared highlights of activities they participated in March.

8. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

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

A parent of a student with diverse learning needs shared that the K-8 online learning program has worked very well for their family. It was asked why the Grade 2-9 online learning program would be asynchronous. Associate Superintendent Naser explained that the online learning will move to an asynchronous model rather than synchronous model, due to enrolment levels and the ability for the District to staff such a program. Parents will be integral to ensuring the success of the new Grade 2-9 online learning program.

It was asked whether the chat function could be enabled during Question Period. Chair Dhaliwal indicated that this would be possible.

9. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm – Via Webex Livestream

Reminders:

District Volunteer Recognition - April 18-24, 2021

National Day of Mourning, April 28

10. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

a. Record of the February 23, 2021 In-Camera Meeting

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer