

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

**Tuesday, April 27, 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 & Media Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair Katherine Galloway, Student Voice Trustee Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager Ken Millard, New Westminster Principals and Vice Principals Association Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record Marcel Marsolais, President CUPE Local 409 Sarah Wethered, NWTU Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary</p>
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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 7:00 pm.

Added to Agenda: Item 7b.ii. District Parent Council Budget Submission

2021-021

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda as amended for the April 27, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:
 - i. March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting

2021-022

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the March 9, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Andii Stephens, New Westminster & District Labour Council, National Day of Mourning

Andii Stephens of the New Westminster & District Labour Council read a statement in commemoration of the National Day of Mourning. For the full statement, please click refer to the meeting [video](#) [15.01 mark].

- b. Marcel Marsolais, President CUPE Local 409, National Day of Mourning

Marcel Marsolais, President CUPE Local 409 read out the Statement of Mourning. For the full remarks, please click here for the meeting [video](#) [21.02 mark].

Chair Dhaliwal thanked both speakers for their presentations. The Board observed one minute of silence to commemorate those who lost their lives while at work.

Chair Dhaliwal indicated that the chat function would be turned on for Comment & Question Period.

- c. NWSS Video Presentation

Superintendent Hachlaf introduced the NWSS video. This video will greatly assist in highlighting the District and will be used as a recruitment tool. Communications Manager Keighley-Wight provided a brief overview of the construction of the building and all the people involved in building the school.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received.

5. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

Members of the public were invited to speak. Please check the meeting [video](#) here at [29.20 mark] for complete comments regarding the Child and Youth Liaison Officer Program.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, April 13, 2021

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell

Trustee Russell provided a brief overview of the meeting.

- ii. Approval of the April 13, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-023

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. School Liaison Officer Program

Chair Dhaliwal provided an amendment to the original motion, which was brought forward from the April 13, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting. For the full discussion, please refer to the meeting [video](#) [25.37 mark].

ORIGINAL MOTION

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) discontinue the Child and Youth Liaison Officer Program in our schools and re-design the relationship with the New Westminster Police Department; AND direct staff to report back at the June 8, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting, on those plans including data collection on race-based data and incident management.

MOTION NOT VOTED ON

Trustee Lalji read a statement, please refer to meeting [video](#) [1.04 mark] for full remarks. She brought forward the following motion:

AMENDED MOTION

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) further consult with our student body, specifically addressing the challenges and concerns raised in the student survey with respect to the Child and Youth Liaison Officers (CYLO); furthermore there should be an open dialogue with a member of the senior school staff, a representative from NWPD, and two Trustees – one who supports retaining the CYLO program and one who is opposed. The aim of this dialogue is to offer solutions on improving or modifying the CYLO program and report back to the June 22, 2021 Board meeting when the Board will make a determination of the CYLO program and the presence of the liaison officers in our schools.

MOTION NOT SECONDED

AMENDED MOTION

2021-024

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) discontinue the Child and Youth Liaison Officer Program in our schools, effective immediately, and direct staff to collaborate with the NWPD in the re-design of our relationship as it specifically relates to our protocols and training for emergency procedures in schools including critical incidents, lockdowns and Violent Threat Assessments (VTRA); AND direct staff to report back at the June 8, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting, on those transition plans.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, April 13, 2021
 - i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly
Trustee Connelly thanked the Secretary-Treasurer for her work.
 - ii. Approval of the April 13, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-025
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. Board and Committee Meeting Calendar - September 2021 to June 2022

2021-026
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Board and Committee Meeting Calendar 2021-2022 as presented with the amended change.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iv. School Site Acquisition Charges

2021-027
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) send a letter of support to the BCSTA Capital Working Group and their nine recommendations made regarding School Site Acquisition Charges.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-028
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) advocate to the Ministry of Education (The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside) and other ministries involved in administering the School Site Acquisition Charge legislation to review and amend the maximum allowable school site acquisition charges established in the legislation to reflect current property values and acquisition costs as per the BCSTA Capital Working Group.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ORIGINAL MOTION
Not Moved and Not Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) advocate to the Ministry of Education (The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside) and other ministries involved in municipal legislation to request legislative and regulatory changes be introduced requiring municipal governments to include the cost of off-site servicing of new schools in their municipal development cost charges and to include schools in the list of developments for which Development Cost Charges (DCCs) may be waived or reduced in the Local Government Act.

AMENDED MOTION

2021-029

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) advocate to the Ministry of Education (The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside) and other ministries involved in municipal legislation to request legislative and regulatory changes be introduced requiring municipal governments to waive the cost of off-site servicing and all development fees.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-030

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to write a letter to the City of New Westminster requesting that Development Cost Charges (DCCs) be waived or reduced in the Local Government Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

v. COVID-19 Funding

2021-031

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) write a letter thanking BCSTA for their work to create a report based on feedback from member Boards of Education; and that School District No. 40 write a letter to the Minister of Education (The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside) advocating for adequate and secure funding and resources to support these priorities as part of the pandemic recovery plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights:

- Student Symposium: thanked students and staff for their participation in this successful event.
- 2021-22 Online Grade 2-8 Update:
 - The initial online program that was offered with the financial support of the provincial and federal funding, which is not continuing.
 - 52 student families have expressed an interest in continuing with the online program. The financial impact to the District would be two full-time teachers, one full-time Educational Assistant, one part-time learning and one part-time clerical support. The District would still need to supplement the program at \$75K, with a Structural Deficit, the District is not able to do everything, and Superintendent Hachlaf recommended to the Board that the District cannot unfortunately continue to offer the Grade 2-8 online program.

Discussion followed. Superintendent Hachlaf indicated that there will be follow-up with all the families to ensure they are provided with assistance in determining

the best program/support for their children. Grade 9-12 students will continue to have access to online learning.

Chair Dhaliwal asked that Superintendent Hachlaf provide an update at the May 11, 2021 Operations Committee meeting with regard to how the meetings went with the student families.

- Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights of his school visits in April.
- Professional Development opportunities in April included:
 - Teaching to Diversity - Part 2 - Universal Design for Learning with Jennifer Katz
 - Truth and Reconciliation with Kevin Lamoreux

i. Equity & Inclusion Update

District Principal of Equity and Inclusion Johal highlighted Sikh Heritage Month, and Ramadan for Muslim families. Art Classes at NWSS, which capture images from the Black community. Indigenous Events Committee featured Deni Paquette. Anti-Racism update, the committee will meet on April 28. The intent is to have focus groups on specific initiatives and report back the results.

b. 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget

- i. 2021-22 Preliminary Budget Stakeholder Presentations. Please refer to the meeting [video](#) [1.59 mark] for the presentations.

Student Voice:

Student Voice Trustee Katherine Galloway provided an overview of the Student Symposium:

Mental Health & Supports:

- Too much glass in the new NWSS, which make some students uncomfortable; especially when students are meeting with counsellors and the glass walls do not provide much privacy.
- Teachers should have mental health training; alternative methods of teaching.
- Parent Night specific to mental health training.
- Sexual health education - outside of physical education

Climate Action:

- Compostable garbage.
- School garden.
- Served (cafeteria) - all plates; utensils should be compostable; add vegan options to the menu.
- Water bottles to fill at stations.
- Bike to School; challenges how to save energy

Inclusive Education & Anti-Racism:

- More education around jokes that are not appropriate.
- Learn from different cultural groups.
- More language classes, including sign language be offered.
- Discussions around racism, also include LGBTQ.
- Support groups for those who experience racism.

ii. District Parent Council

DPAC representative Cyrus Sy and Chair Carlsen provided the following highlights:

- Thanked and acknowledged the work of staff, especially Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham and her team.
- Priorities outlined in five-year Strategic Plan are the right priorities for the District, however, DPAC would like to share the following:
 - There should be no compromise on students and staff safety.
 - Parent survey (800 responses) over the coming year focus on the following:
 - Health and Safety:
 - Maintaining daytime custodian.
 - Air circulation.
 - Educational Assistants' staffing - 1-on-1 support and minimize movement between cohorts.
 - Mental Health Supports:
 - Funding additional counsellors; speech therapists; one full-time counsellor in every school.
 - Online Learning:
 - Programs of Choice be added.
 - Music and Arts.
 - Continued support for the trades.
- Asked the Board to join DPAC in advocating with the Ministry to support the District's initiatives and increase the per-student funding; BC is one of the lowest-funded provinces in Canada.

iii. Canadian Union of Public Employees - Marcel Marsolais,
President CUPE Local 409

- Cleanliness of the schools – restore day custodians, which would allow for cleaning throughout the day.
- Clerical staff workloads – need more hours.
- Restore Aboriginal Education support staffing and Educational Assistants hours of work.
- Early childhood and education pilot project for affordable childcare. Include Educational Assistants in working in childcare centres.
- Technical support – restructure department; replace aged equipment.
- Increase maintenance staffing levels by targeting provincial-designated funding and ensuring that all capital project revenue is preserved to fund additional staff in order for the District to continue to realize the savings achieved.
- Skilled trades' positions need to be increased. Look at annual facility grants to support these positions.
- Health and safety.
- Inclusive education – anti-racism initiative.
- Climate action.

- iv. New Westminster Teachers' Union - Sarah Wethered, President
 - Collaborative relationship with the school board.
 - Classroom Needs:
 - Comprehensive list of standard classroom supplies.
 - Student laptops - Chromebooks have been purchased, but more should be purchased; 1 device per student pair. More technology being used in classrooms.
 - More textbooks for students.
 - School Needs:
 - Laminator - small laminators are not as functional.
 - Staffing Needs
 - Continuation of day custodians.
 - More classroom teachers; more resource teachers.
 - Counsellors - continue a full complement especially dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic
 - Mentorship continue next year.
- v. New Westminster Principals' & Vice Principals' Association - Ken Millard
 - Recommend daytime custodians, at least for short-term (through Christmas 2021, or when things are safe).
 - Inclusive Education - very happy with the work that went into that review; recommend that Educational Assistants' staff receive additional training. Support the anti-racism initiatives.
 - Climate Action - continue the work begun.
 - Teacher Mentorship and Collaboration.
 - Mental Health and Wellness - support the continued increase in counsellors.
 - Technology - there has been significant growth and development in this area over the past couple of years; refresh of devices.
 - Replacing aged equipment - desks and chairs specifically.
 - Staff recruitment and retention - the additional complement has worked out very well, hope that this continues to ensure there enough casuals and TTOCs.
 - Respectfully request that Principals and Vice Principals' salaries keep pace with market.

Chair Dhaliwal thanked all the speakers for their presentations and participation in the budget consultation process.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

The Trustees provided highlights of events they attended in April.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

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

Sue Kenny shared a personal story to support online learning and the positive impact it has had on her child's life.

Anne Whitmore and Kathleen Carlsen shared their support for the K-8 online program; they did not support discontinuing the Child and Youth Liaison Officer program.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 11, 2021: Education Policy & Planning Committee, 5:00pm -

Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, May 11, 2021: Operations Policy & Planning Committee, 6:30pm -

Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, May 11, 2021: Special Open Board Meeting, 8:45pm - Via Webex Livestream

Tuesday, May 25, 2021: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - Via Webex Livestream

Reminder:

National Day of Mourning, April 28

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

a. Record of the March 9, 2021 In-Camera Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer