

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

Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 5:00 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
Mary Lalji, Trustee	Dave Crowe, Director, Capital Projects
Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Kristen Keighley-White, Communications Manager
Mark Gifford, Trustee	Jen Harrison, Principal, FRMS
Maya Russell, Trustee	Lee Laufer, Aboriginal Youth Care Worker
	Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary
	Guests:
	Members of the Public
	Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record
	Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair
	Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU

Committee Chair Russell 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. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the September 14, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentations

a. Fraser River Middle School

Principal Harrison and Aboriginal Youth Care Worker, Lee Laufer shared a video. Principle Harrison affirmed that Reconciliation has become a powerful process, improving collaboration between NWTU, CUPE and SD40. She noted the interest and uptake for Orange shirts has been incredible.

Trustee Ansari shared thanks, positive comments and gratitude for the work being done.

3. **Comment and Question Period**

Nil

4. **Student Voice**

Committee Chair Russell confirmed recruitment is occurring for this academic year and students will actively participate in October.

5. **Reports from Senior Management**

- a. 2021-22 Board Annual Workplan - Board Policy 2 - Appendix A (K. Hachlaf & M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser provided a brief summary of what the Board can expect in the upcoming school year.

Questions and discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Education Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to adopt the School District No. 40 (New Westminster) Board Policy 2 - Appendix A: Board Annual Workplan for 2021-2022 as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Preliminary Enrolment Update (Written) (M.Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser presented her report, prefacing that it is typically received in October. She shared at present, due to movement between schools, enrollment is looking to be higher, notably in the bricks and mortars schools. She clarified the difference between the metrics of head count verses the number of student bodies and explained the numbers will be misleading until the 1701 process is complete. Two (2) new divisions were added (one at Howie and one at Tweedsmuir) to accommodate the new families that arrived. She also noted that changes arose from the pandemic as families moved out of Hume Park to their neighbourhood schools. A full report can be expected in October around ratio driven staffing levels and the like.

Discussion followed.

6. **New Business**

- a. School Trustee Assignments (G. Dhaliwal)

Board Chair Dhaliwal presented the 2021-22 School Liaison Assignment list. It was agreed the list would be uploaded to the website inclusive of Trustees contact information.

7. **General Announcements**

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - September 30

National Custodian Appreciation Day - October 2

Year of COVID-19 has really highlighted the important work custodians do. This extends beyond sanitizing and includes important engagement with students

World Teachers' Day - October 5

Education happens in relationships - teachers cannot be replaced by an online model

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer