

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

**Tuesday, September 28, 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 Maya Russell, Trustee Mary Lalji, 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 Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record Peter Leblanc, Massey Board Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager Sarah Wethered, President NWTU Dave Crowe, Director - Capital Projects Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair Leanne Sojka, 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

Trustee Connelly added an item and motion under New Business – extending mask mandate to include K to Grade 3 students. Trustee Dhaliwal noted it would be added as agenda item 8b.

2021-057

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the September 28, 2021 Regular School Board meeting as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

1. June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting

2021-058

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the June 22, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC: Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair thanked the Board for allowing them to speak at the standing meetings. She also thanked Superintendent Hachlaf for attending the last DPAC meeting and answering many questions that provided clarity. Requests were made at the last DPAC for: K-3 mask mandate; measurement of ventilation through weekly testing and published results; immediately instating daytime custodians; essential that volunteers and guests be fully vaccinated to enter any school; confirmed vaccination for staff and vaccination be available to those students who are unvaccinated. It was also DPAC's view that factual information from the District verses information shared via social media would alleviate confusion.

CUPE: Nil

NWTU: Sarah Wethered, NWTU President complimented the atmosphere at New West Schools. She confirmed she will advocate for full time custodians, K-3 mask mandate and portable ventilation.

Members of the public also shared their experiences and concerns.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, September 14, 2021

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell

Trustee Russell commended the Orange shirt design from Fraser River Middle School.

- ii. Approval of the September 14, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

Trustee Lalji voiced her concerns over not being selected for any school Trustee Liaison assignments. Board members shared that a call of interest had been requested of them and Trustee Lalji had not provided a response to any school Trustee Liaison assignments.

2021-059

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the September 14, 2021 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. 2021-22 Board Annual Workplan - Board Policy 2 - Appendix A

2021-060
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the School District No. 40 (New Westminster) revised Board Policy 2 - Appendix A: Board Annual Workplan for 2021-2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, September 14, 2021

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

Trustee Connelly thanked Secretary Treasurer Ketcham for her work and walking them through the year-end process.

ii. Approval of the September 14, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-061
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the September 14, 2021 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. 2020 - 2021 Year End Financial Statements

2021-062
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the internal restrictions as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-063
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2020-21 Financial Statements as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iv. 5 Year Capital Plan - Minor Capital Projects

2021-064

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2022-23 Minor Capital Plan as presented for submission to the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights:

- Attended DPAC virtually and engaged with parents
- Recognition of Orange Shirt week
- Moose Hyde Campaign - grassroots campaign against violence towards women and children
- Attended first assembly in a year and a half -Connaught Heights
- Official NWSS opening October 14 with a celebration and video in the Grand Commons

b. Massey Theatre Transfer (B. Ketcham)

Chair Dhaliwal on behalf of the Board extended thanks to Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham through all the work and negotiations.

The full bylaw was read.

2021-065

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve THIRD, reconsideration and final reading of the Disposal of Real Property bylaw No. 21-01.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. 5 Year Capital Plan - Major Capital Projects Amendment (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided her thanks to Director - Capital Projects Crowe, Superintendent Hachlaf and the entire team on the Massey Theatre transfer – it was a team effort. Highlights were provided on the major capital plan amendments:

- Work done over the summer shared at the October in-service
- Collaboration with the City of New Westminster and Ministry of Education has been extensive to communicate the needs of the District
- Long Range Facilities Plan of 2019 required updating due to the City's execution of its Official Community Plan Rate of development in the

city is bringing more students in to the district and necessitates looking closely at capacity pressures within the schools.

- FRMS zone plan – elementary and middle school are priority project
- Queensborough middle school - the LRFP supports acquisition of land
- Conversations have been happening with the Ministry who understand the submission request of 222M dollars
- Long Range facilities plan to be reviewed in detail at the next Operations meeting.

2021-066

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2022-23 Major Capital Plan Submission as amended for submission to the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- d. 2021-22 Eligible School Site Proposal (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham shared the report outlining schools for land acquisition needs has been passed forward in draft form to City of New Westminster staff with intent to ensure both entities move forward together.

2021-067

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approves the 2021-22 Eligible School Site Proposal (ESSP) through adoption of the 2021-22 ESSP Resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- e. Student Withdrawal Report (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser provided highlights of the report.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Meeting Format (G. Dhaliwal)

Benefits and challenges of in-person, on-line and a hybrid model was discussed in length.

2021-068

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) keep committee and Board meetings virtual and re-evaluate at the earlier of January 18 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting or the move of the province to Stage 4 reopening plan.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

b. Mask Mandate K - 3 (Trustee Connelly)

Superintendent Hachlaf shared that mask wearing is not the highest measure with respect to prevention - daily health checks, cleaning and hand hygiene remain paramount. When looking at the Communicable Disease Plan, a regional approach may be required.

Trustees shared the New Westminster community is one of the most highly vaccinated, and that there was no interest in undermining the Provincial Health Officer orders given the Board of Education are not the health or epidemiology experts. Advocacy discussions occurred.

2021-069

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) extend the current grade 4 to 12 mask mandate to include kindergarten – grade 3 students.

Vice-Chair Beattie brought forward an amendment to the motion.

2021-069

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) extend the current grade 4 to 12 mask mandate to include kindergarten – grade 3 students. write a letter to the Ministry of Education, Provincial Health Officer and Fraser Health indicating our support for a review provincially of a mask mandate for K-3 students.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-069

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) write a letter to the Ministry of Education, Provincial Health Officer and Fraser Health indicating our support for a review provincially of a mask mandate for K-3 students.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided highlights regarding ventilation from the DPAC meeting:

- Increase of air intake at schools
- Ongoing automated systems are in use
- Protocols and communication of same on the website
- Merv filtration system in portables (doesn't allow for automation)
- Option to open the windows is a natural measure to increase airflow
- Custodial piece - the district has gone above and beyond what the Ministry requires (once a day thorough cleaning in the evening) by hiring part-time 6 custodians through to December 2021 to clean high touch areas during the day.

Questions and discussion followed.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees provided highlights of events they attended in September.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting. Please refer to the meeting video for full comments.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 12, 2021: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00pm – Via Webex

Tuesday, October 12, 2021: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:30pm – Via Webex

Tuesday, October 26, 2021: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm – Via Webex

Reminders:

September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October 2: National Custodian Appreciation Day

October 5: World Teachers' Day

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the June 22, 2021 In-Camera Meeting
- b. Record of the July 15, 2021 Special In-Camera Meeting
- c. Record of the August 5, 2021 Special In-Camera Meeting
- d. Record of the September 1, 2021 Special In-Camera Meeting
- e. Record of the September 7, 2021 Special In-Camera Meeting
- f. Record of the September 22, 2021 Special In-Camera Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer