

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

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 6:30 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT	<p>Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair Anita Ansari, Trustee Mary Lalji, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Mark Gifford, Trustee Maya Russell, Trustee</p>	<p>Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent Robert Weston, Executive Director – Human Resources Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary Guests: Members of the Public Dave Crowe, Director, Capital Projects Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU</p>
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Committee Chair Connelly 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 6:29 pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the October 12, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

Nil.

3. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Enrollment and Staffing Report (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser provided highlights of the Enrollment and Staffing Report:

- General increase from the 2020-21 to the 2021-22 school year
- Much higher FTE in the 2019-20 school year; the 2020-21 school year was similar
- Due to an enrollment audit, the continuing education program reflects numbers that aren't comparable as we have changed how we claim the FTE.

- In February it will be evident which students have entered the adult program in September
- Special education numbers are up considerably every year - a result of both learning designation diagnosis and new students into the District

Executive Director – Human Resources Weston provided clarity on the report indicating they are working through recruitment and selection where gaps exist in staffing to student ratios and confirmed there are no recruitment challenges with custodial staff.

b. Long Range Facilities Plan (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided highlights by means of a condensed presentation of the much more comprehensive Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP).

- Background: capacity pressures on all school sites. Every eighteen months, an update will be completed on the LRFP due to the high growth in the District. Shared green space between the District and the City of New Westminster will continue as a means to alleviate lack of available land
- Definition of LRFP: a comprehensive tool that guides the Board's current and potential current future inventory of capital assets; intended to span at least a 10-year time frame and is based on most currently available data showing preferred plans and not necessarily plans that will be executed
- Projected School Aged Population: graph showing historical and projected school aged populations, increase due to growth and development within the City. Will feel capacity pressures over the next 5 years
- Area Standard and Site Size Analysis: acreage shortfall - compensate with City play areas near schools
- LRFP Recommendations: - provided highlights of Queensborough Community, Fraser River Community and Glenbrook Community, which are included in Chapter 7. The priority project is Fraser River Community with the need of a 500 capacity elementary school which if awarded would be completed in 2025-2026. The second priority project is a 500 capacity middle school and if supported by March 2022, the anticipated completion would be 2026 - 2027 at a projected cost of 83M
- New Westminster Secondary School: projected at capacity by 2024. A number of viable options are available in the plan; expansion next to the existing school, modified lunch times and other opportunities for short or long term plans.
- Alternative Education Programs: The Board is wanting to find purposeful space for these learners.

Questions and discussion ensued.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of the 2021 Long Range Facilities Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Mandated Vaccinations (R. Weston)

Executive Director - Human Resources Weston shared the update from the Ministry of Education and follow-up guidance from the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) who strongly advise waiting for a mandated vaccination template. Members of the public shared their opinions. Chair Connelly shared concern over the timeline of the current motion, Chair Dhaliwal suggested an amendment to the original motion and Trustee Russell provided the amended wording.

ORIGINAL MOTION

Not Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee postpone the motion from the October 1st Special Board meeting to seek out a legal opinion on mandatory staff vaccinations and request staff provide an update in regard to the Provincial Advisory Committee guidelines and operational framework at its November 9th Operations Committee meeting.

MOTION NOT VOTED ON

PROPOSED MOTION

Moved and seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee postpone the motion from the October 1st Special Board meeting to seek out a legal opinion on mandatory staff vaccinations and request staff provide an update in regard to the Provincial Advisory Committee guidelines and operational framework at its November 9th Operations Committee meeting or sooner as it is available.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AMENDED MOTION

Moved and seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee postpone the motion from the October 1st Special Board meeting to seek out a legal opinion on mandatory staff vaccinations and request staff provide an update in regard to the Provincial Advisory Committee guidelines and operational framework at its November 9th Operations Committee meeting or sooner as it is available.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Ansari shared concern over amplification of misinformation from a member of the public within the meeting video. This was discussed further under New Business.

d. COVID-19 Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided interpretation of the update slides. Masks are required for staff and students unless they meet exceptions and assured the Board that parents are doing an excellent job at looking at other safety measures that can be implemented. Decisions will not be stigmatizing, students who are exempt will not be prevented from participating at school. An exploration of all opportunities will be examined all year. Masks are one measure but on the higher order of the priority are daily health checks, not coming to school when not feeling well, hand hygiene and respecting space.

4. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Represent Board at BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting - October 22 - 23, 2021

Indigenous Focused Professional Development

Canada School Library Day - October 25, 2021

Represent Board at BCPSEA Symposium - November 4 - 5, 2021

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Ansari brought forward a motion on a disclaimer of public views.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to add a disclaimer to posted video meetings that opinions, views and information shared by public participants in certain sections of the meetings may not be reflective of the views of either the Board of Education or of New Westminster Schools.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

7. **QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)**

Members of the public provided thanks, opinions and posed questions. Discussion ensued.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm