

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

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 7:00 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair
Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair
Anita Ansari, Trustee
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Mark Gifford, Trustee
Maya Russell, Trustee
Mary Lalji, Trustee

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
Sarah Wethered, President NWTU
Dave Crowe, Director - Capital Projects
Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair
Cyrus Sy, DPAC
Janet Kinneard, CUPE
Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary

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

2021-074

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the October 26, 2021 Regular School Board meeting as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

- i. September 27, 2021 Special Open Meeting
- ii. September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting
- iii. October 1, 2021 Special Open Meeting

2021-075

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the September 27, 2021 Special Open Meeting, the September 28, 2021 Regular

School Board meeting and the October 1, 2021 Special Open Meeting.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC: Cyrus Sy shared a thank you from DPAC to the Board and the District for its continued efforts towards COVID-19 health and safety measures to keep students safe and schools open. They await the District and Board to approve and implement its own vaccine policy. While they are disappointed the staff vaccination was not provincially mandated, they are pleased to see that daytime custodians are in place until the end of the school year Cyrus reported that their members passed two separate motions related to bus transportation for high-school students in Queensborough and indicated their support for the 2022-23 District Capital Plan by writing a letter to the Ministry.

CUPE: Janet Kinneard shared that last year, custodial staff were working during the day but this year only touch-points are currently cleaned in the afternoon and they feel that it is not enough; they are glad to be a part of the pilot program for seamless Childcare - before and after school care for primary level students at Qayqayt; they are supporting policies but not mandates around vaccination and suggested more personal protective equipment, plexi-glass, alternate work settings, leave without pay, location changes and other measures for COVID-19 health and safety.

NWTU: Sarah Wethered, President NWTU shared that she met with the music educators who have some concerns which will be shared via a letter that highlights what those concerns are. She also shared that they will conduct an equity audit later this year of their local after they do some training from the BCTF and look forward to working with the District on their equity and inclusion initiatives.

Parents shared their perspectives and concerns. Please refer to the meeting video for full comments.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, October 12, 2021
 - i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell

Trustee Russell shared that encouraging work around literacy is occurring in the District.

- ii. Approval of the October 12, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-076
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the October 12, 2021 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, October 12, 2021

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

Trustee Connelly shared that information was provided on school builds and how worthwhile it was having student voice return to the meetings.

- ii. Approval of the October 12, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-077
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the October 12, 2021 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. Long Range Facilities Plan (B. Ketcham)

2021-078
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2021 Long Range Facilities Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iv. Disclaimer of Public Views

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham confirmed that below each video link, not specifically noted within each video, a disclaimer would be visible.

2021-079
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. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf shared a number of highlights from/for staff development days:

- A shift from ‘fixing’ the student to ‘fixing’ the curriculum
- Principals and vice-principals had their professional development. Thought provoking questions around equity and inclusion were encouraged by keynote speaker Nouman Ashraf, Professor at Rotman School of Management who did an excellent job providing a safe environment for these dialogues to occur
- Kevin Lamoureux “Education is central to our work. Where schools were once used as places of weapons against children, our schools can be places of healing” will be welcomed back on November 12, 2021 District professional development day
- Provincial Seamless Day Kindergarten pilot will include two (2) early childcare educators to support the program and the teacher. The program utilizes existing classrooms outside of school hours
- Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) Superintendent Hachlaf appreciated the opportunity to read to an elementary class
- New Westminster Senior Secondary (NWSS) official opening celebration was a great success
- The District remains committed to their work around surveys and focus groups and indicated they are actively working with Bakau to finalize the equity report. Due to scheduling conflicts, Bakau could not present today but may present the report at the November 23, 2021 meeting.

b. Review Strategic Direction (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf conveyed that the strategic direction is no accident and encouraged folks to review the stories: [Good things are happening: 2020-21 in review.](#)

Highlights of the Strategic Plan Review were provided:

- Strategic Priorities:
 - Transform the student
 - Build meaningful relationships
 - Ensure full participation in learning
 - Lead into our future

- Strategic Goals (stemming from Strategic Priorities):
 - Student Success
 - Students, staff and families are connected in a welcoming and inclusive learning community
 - Focus on people
 - Commitment to truth and reconciliation
 - Adapt to the growing needs of our district
- Learning Team: Transforming the student experience to ensure full participation in learning while building relationships which aims for students to thrive emotionally, socially and academically. Superintendent Hachlaf reiterated that the work being completed was manifested from the strategic lens and confirmed the financial resources are available to successfully complete the work design: an alignment that applies at all levels with a clear return on student investment.
- Measuring student success – reviewing and analyzing student data collected for all the students in New Westminster Schools, including Indigenous students, children in care and students with disabilities or diverse abilities.
- Iceberg model – a reminder that success is above hard work and other contributing factors.

Trustee Russell commended Superintendent Hachlaf's leadership.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

The Trustees provided highlights of events they attended in October.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting. Each Speaker was provided 2 minutes to make a comment or ask a question. Please refer to the meeting video for full comments.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 9, 2021: Education Policy & Planning Committee, 5:00pm - via Webex

Tuesday, November 9, 2021: Operations Policy & Planning Committee, 6:30pm - via Webex

Tuesday, November 23, 2021: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - via Webex

Reminders:

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

Remembrance Day, November 11

Indigenous Focused Professional Development - November 12, 2021

12. **REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING**

a. Record of the September 28, 2021 In-Camera Meeting

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourn at 8:15 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer