

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

**Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 7:00 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
 Danielle Connelly, Trustee Robert Weston, Executive Director – Human Resources
 Mark Gifford, Trustee Guests:
 Maya Russell, Trustee Members of the Public
 Mary Lalji, Trustee Will Shelling, Bakau
 Dave Crowe, Director - Capital Projects
 Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction-Learning Services
 Iain Lancaster, District Vice Principal-Programs & Planning
 Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director of Instruction-Learning &
 Innovations
 Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager
 Susana Quan, Vice Principal, NWSS
 Stacy Brine, Teacher, NWSS
 Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record
 Dave Bollen, Vice President – CUPE 409
 Kathleen Chad, Principal, Skwo:wech
 Sarah Wethered, President NWTU
 Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair
 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

2021-080

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the November 23, 2021 Regular School Board meeting as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

October 26, 2021 Regular Open Meeting

2021-081
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the October 26, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes
Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Bakau

Superintendent Hachlaf provided a brief introduction to Bakau Consulting.

Will Shelling of Bakau Consulting is an Equity Strategist who provided his academic background before leading into the presentation prepared for New Westminster Schools on: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion - Gap Analysis Report. The presentation report provided the District with “gap” areas of opportunities to examine and develop. Suggestions on approach with respect to both the report and staff were provided as well as final recommendations. Of significant importance, he noted that District staff overwhelmingly responded with a clear-cut desire to engage with Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) work.

Questions and discussion followed the presentation.

4. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- a. Outgoing Board Report, Chair Dhaliwal

Chair Dhaliwal shared that she is proud and honoured to have served as Chair and support the work that has been accomplished. She thanked the Board for trusting her and listed various decisions and accomplishments:

- Opening of NWSS in January; grand opening in October
- Completed renaming review process for Richard McBride to Skwo:wech Elementary School
- Replacing Skwo:wech Elementary School
- Funding approval for a 13-classroom expansion at Queen Elizabeth Elementary
- Opening of the Welcome Centre and central registration system
- Looking forward to the opening of the Wellness Centre
- Successful negotiation on the completion and transfer of Massey Theatre to the City of New Westminster
- Increasing Childcare spaces for families (90 new spaces plus an additional 12 coming in January through Seamless Childcare)

- Updated and approved the revised Long Rang Facilities Plan
- Budget consultations revision, prioritized in support of the Strategic Vision
- Received final report and recommendations from the Inclusive Education Review
- Supported food security issues in school where 250 students were fully or partially subsidized
- BC Dairy Partnership Program that offered 6,000, free dairy or non-dairy alternatives to supplement meals for those students who received partial or full subsidies
- Greater Vancouver Food Bank partnership that distributed \$28,000 in grocery store gift cards to families in school communities
- COVID-19 Pandemic that engaged staff to adapt to the changing recommendations and guidance on mask rules, activities and technological upgrades and training
- Hosted a second year of combined in-person virtual graduation events
- Working along-side Fraser Health
- Supported the educational, emotional and social needs of students with additional counselling
- COVID-19 funding for outdoor play structures
- Engaged in important work on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in schools

Trustees extended thanks for all her work this year.

b. Election of Chair

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham called for nominations for the position of Chair for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Beattie nominated Trustee Dhaliwal as Chair for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Dhaliwal accepted the nomination.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board a 2nd time.

Trustee Lalji nominated herself as Chair for the 2022 Board of Education.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board a 3rd time.

There being no further nominations a vote proceeded. **Trustee Dhaliwal was declared Chair** for the 2022 Board of Education.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham turned the Chair over to re-elected Chair Dhaliwal.

c. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the Vice-Chair for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Ansari nominated Trustee Beattie as Vice-Chair for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Beattie accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for the 2022 Board of Education a 2nd time.

Trustee Lalji nominated herself as Vice-Chair for the 2022 Board of Education.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board a 3rd time.

Trustee Connelly nominated herself as Vice-Chair for the 2022 Board of Education

There being no further nominations a vote proceeded. **Trustee Beattie was declared Vice-Chair** for the 2022 Board of Education.

d. **Election of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate**

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the Board of Education.

Chair Dhaliwal nominated Vice-Chair Beattie for BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the 2022 Board of Education.

Vice-Chair Beattie accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the 2022 Board of Education a 2nd time.

Trustee Lalji nominated herself for BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the 2022 Board of Education.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate for the 2022 Board of Education a 3rd time.

There being no further nominations a vote proceeded. **Vice-Chair Beattie was declared BCSTA Provincial Delegate** for the 2020 Board of Education.

BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2022 Board of Education.

Vice-Chair Beattie nominated Trustee Russell for BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Russell accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2022 Board of Education a 2nd time.

Trustee Lalji nominated herself for BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2022 Board of Education.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Delegate Alternate for the 2022 Board of Education a 3rd time.

There being no further nominations, a vote proceeded. Trustee Russell withdrew her nomination acceptance. **Trustee Ansari was declared BCSTA Provincial Delegate Alternate** for the 2022 Board of Education.

e. **BCPSEA Representative**

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCPSEA Representative for the 2022 Board of Education.

Vice-Chair Beattie nominated Trustee Russell for BCPSEA Representative for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Russell accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of **BCPSEA Representative** for the 2022 Board of Education a 2nd time.

Trustee Lalji nominated herself for BCPSEA Representative for the 2022 Board of Education.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of **BCPSEA Representative** for the 2022 Board of Education a 3rd time.

There being no further nominations, a vote proceeded. **Trustee Russell was declared BCSTA Provincial Delegate Alternate** for the 2022 Board of Education

BCPSEA Representative Alternate

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the BCPSEA Representative Alternate for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Russell nominated Trustee Lalji for BCPSEA Representative Alternate for the 2022 Board of Education.

Trustee Lalji accepted the nomination.

Chair Dhaliwal called for nominations for the position of **BCPSEA Representative Alternate** for the 2022 Board of Education a 2nd and 3rd time.

There being no further nominations, **Trustee Lalji was declared BCPSEA Representative Alternate** for the 2022 Board of Education (by acclamation).

f. **Motion to Destroy Ballots**

2021-082

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct the Secretary-Treasurer to destroy all ballots.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC – Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair reiterated the value of working in partnership. They are awaiting replies on the letters sent to Richmond Queensborough MLA urging him to act on his 2020 election promise to fund dedicated bus transportation from Queensborough to New Westminster Secondary School and to the Ministry of Education and MLA urging them to accept the 2022-23 District Capital Plan. A letter will be forthcoming to Trustees, Ministry of Education and the MCFD Minister requesting information on how the needs-based model supporting child and youth with special needs will impact both the support for students and the designation for students. She shared ongoing concerns of parents with respect to vaccination, vaccination status and building ventilation upgrades.

CUPE: Dave Bollen, Vice President shared they are entering provincial and local bargaining as well as identified issues pertaining to health and safety plans, violence in schools and the number of members taking mental health days.

NWTU: Sarah Wethered, President, shared elections had occurred and that their work building equity and inclusion in classrooms and community will lead to an equity audit in January 2022. They are hearing from members regarding the chronic TOC and teacher shortages and noted that their mentorship program is growing.

Members of the public were invited to speak. Please refer to the meeting video for complete comments.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, November 9, 2021

1. i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell

Trustee Russell shared the November meeting was excellent with students and administration working together around safety and security with a particular focus on work to address homophobia and transphobia. International Education shared a video that showcased several students that brought the program to light.

2. ii. Approval of the November 9, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-083
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the November 9, 2021 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, November 9, 2021

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

Trustee Connelly thanked everybody who provided their reports.

ii. Approval of the November 9, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2021-084
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the November 9, 2021 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. Appeals Review

Superintendent Hachlaf highlighted a modification on page two (2) of a timely response, "within 48 hours".

2021-085
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the revised Appeals Bylaw (Policy 13) as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Receive Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided background that in order for the Board and District to discharge their duties, they are required to present and post to the website, their Statement of Financial Position Report. She identified the first part of the component reporting was Financial Statements which the Board had approved before the end of September and was submitted to the Ministry. The

second financial reporting relates to schedule of remuneration and expenses, specifically earnings for those employees earning over \$75,000 as well as a listing of expenses of suppliers that received over \$25,000.

Questions and discussion ensued.

**2021-086
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education School District No. 40 (New Westminster) acknowledge receipt of the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Skwo:wech Capital Update (Verbal) (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf noted recent floods in the Fraser Valley further contributed to supply chain delays, halting a winter break move. A revised move date will be forthcoming which will include two remote learning days.

c. Superintendent Report (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights:

- District Professional development day on November 12, 2021 was a huge success that received a lot of positive feedback from staff. Supporting truth and reconciliation speaks directly to work around “Calls to Action”
- Virtual employee recognition – 20 years of service (51 employees) and 30 years of service (16 employees)
- Honoured in-person and virtual Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Moving to the second stage of Truth and Reconciliation following the Bakau report in order to implement recommendations and look forward to highlighting those status updates in the New Year.

d. Replacement Staffing Update (R. Weston & B. Ketcham)

Executive Director – Human Resources provided highlights of the Replacement Staffing Strategies noting that data is still being collected. Items within the long-term strategy are:

- A dedicated "replacement" team including teachers and education assistants
- Creating greater outreach not just within the metro regions but other areas of the province and beyond
- Increase emphasis in colleges and universities to graduates
- Become even more flexible and creative with non-traditional work hours for teachers and education assistants to support work-life balance.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham emphasized that the long-term strategy will require prioritizing of dollars and reiterated the language of the recommendation of "up to \$500,000.

Questions and discussion ensued.

Chair Dhaliwal put forth a motion:

2021-087

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) extend the Regular Open Board meeting of November 23, 2021 past 9:30 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-088

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) allocate up to \$500,000 for priority replacement staffing to address urgent staff replacement challenges that are impacting staff, students and families.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

- e. 2022-2023 Board Authority / Authorized (BAA) Courses (M. McRae-Stanger)

Director of Instruction-Learning & Innovations, McRae-Stanger provided background and process information on Board Authority/Authorized (BAA) courses before identifying this years' course for approval:

- ELL Cultural Identities 11: The aim of the course is to have students learn English by telling their own stories and comparing their experiences to other cultures including Canadian culture and Indigenous cultures, thereby developing their abilities in receptive and expressive language.

2021-089

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the following Board Authority/Authorized Courses for the 2022/2023 school year.

BAA English Language Learning– Cultural Identities 11

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- f. Inclusive Education Review Update (B. Cunnings)

Director of Instruction-Learning Services, Cunnings highlighted the Inclusive Education Review, in particular, the Phase 2 Recommendations. Further updates will be provided in February 2022.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

9. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

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

Trustee Lalji put forward a motion:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the cost to place the blinds in all classrooms in our NWSS new school as per the plea of the students for their safety and their preferred learning environment to provide a distraction free environment.

MOTION NOT SECONDED

10. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 14, 2021: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - via Webex

Tuesday, January 18, 2022: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00pm - via Webex

Tuesday, January 18, 2022: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:30pm - via Webex

Reminders:

BCSTA Trustee Academy - December 3 - 4, 2021

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6, 2021

11. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the October 26, 2021 In-Camera Meeting
- b. Record of the November 9, 2021 Special In-Camera Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer