



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

Tuesday, December 14, 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	Guests:
	Mark Gifford, Trustee	Members of the Public
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Dave Crowe, Director - Capital Projects
	Mary Lalji, Trustee	Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager
		Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record
		Kathleen Chad, Principal, Skwo:wech
		Sarah Wethered, President NWTU
		Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair
		Laura Kwong, DPAC
		Jennifer Scorda, Principal, Connaught Heights
		Pam Craven, District Principal, Sigma/RCAP/Power/Virtual
REGRETS	Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources	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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2021-090

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the December 14, 2021 Regular School Board meeting as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

November 23, 2021 Regular Open Meeting

2021-091

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the November 23, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC – Laura Kwong asked for clarity on whether the November 30, 2021 incident that involved officers from the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers at Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary was in violation of the Sanctuary Schools Policy and whether the Board has looked into take-home testing kits at schools following the winter break for those individuals who become sick at school.

Laura shared that DPAC is awaiting responses on COVID-19 measures. She also highlighted a concern over the quality of transparent information that is received from COVID-19 exposure notices. Laura added that Mayor Coté and a representative from Translink will be in attendance at their January 20, 2022 meeting to answer questions and hear concerns regarding reliable transportation for students.

Chair Dhaliwal confirmed the incident on November 30, 2021 did not violate the Sanctuary Schools Policy given where the arrest occurred, a letter on behalf of the District and Board of Education was directed to the CBSA, the family is continuing to receive support. Superintendent Hachlaf confirmed that every school in the District has COVID-19 test kits on site and provided assurance that he will share the DPAC's concerns of Fraser Health's lack of details with them.

CUPE -There was no representative in attendance.

NWTU – President, Sarah Wethered provided the following updates: training on Equity and Inclusion occurred that will be followed up on January 11, 2022 with an Equity Audit workshop of their local; a grant was received from BCTF to replace a partial officer into the office on January 1, 2022; interviews for mentorship positions at NWSS have concluded for the second semester; local bargaining began which should conclude by March. Sarah identified the main concerns of their member are the chronic TTOC shortages.

Trustee Gifford joined the meeting at 7:20 pm

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Petition Letter - Vaccine Mandate for Staff
- b. DPAC Chair - Classroom Blinds

Chair Dhaliwal flagged the letters and responses which were available for public consumption.

5. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided context to the progress that has occurred following the completion of the second year of the Strategic Plan.

i. School Learning Plans (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent, Naser shared a presentation on School Learning Plans that identified key components that directly correlate to the Board Strategic Plan and highlighted individual goals that a number of schools have adopted.

ii. Connaught Heights Presentation (J. Scorda)

Connaught Heights Principal, Jennifer Scorda shared a presentation on their School Learning Plan that highlighted their “Story Stones Collaborative Project” which encouraged oral storytelling in a creative and engaging manner. A video followed the presentation.

iii. COVID-19 Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided a brief COVID-19 update for the time period of November 4 to December 1, 2021.

b. 2022-23 Budget Development Process and Timelines (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham reviewed the 2022-23 Budget Process. She said this schedule is consistent to the 2021-22 schedule which was well received by both the Board and stakeholders. Prior to Spring Break there is an opportunity for the District to submit enrollment projections to the Ministry of Education which drives funding.

Following an inquiry by Trustee Russell, Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham affirmed that time will be time set aside for a more detailed schedule for all the stakeholder groups including the Indigenous Education Committee and will be extremely mindful on how to best collect that feedback.

2021-092 Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2022-23 Budget Development Process and Timelines, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Student Withdrawal & New Registration Report (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser provided highlights of the report:

- September – November 2021: 129 students left the District; of those, 101 students moved out of the District; 191 students entered the District; 412

students enrolled in the District December 2020 to November 2021; the same pattern of withdrawal and new registration for K to 12 students continues.

d. Administrative Procedures (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-treasurer Ketcham provided highlights of Administrative Procedures:

- AP550 - District Facility Use of Schools and Grounds: the Facilities team and herself undertook a widescale review and the District facility use and the rates allocated to community partners and the community as a whole. The new system is working well and has been well received
- The Administrative Procedure AP550 was revised to reflect the new system and the living document that now resides on a dedicated area of the District website providing helpful information such as Terms & Conditions and images of rental spaces. As such, the Administrative Procedure was paired down, most noticeably, the Appendices which effectively remove the Terms & Conditions
- AP501 – revisions were made in order to align with current practices by encouraging schools to utilize their budgets in the year allocated. Previously, budget carry-over was 30% but will now be 10%.

d. Distributed Learning Update (Verbal) (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser shared there will be a detailed Distributed Learning Plan Update presented in January 2022. Current updates include:

The MOE funding review process contains a goal of “per student funding” which includes plans for Distributed Learning which has recently been revised to Online Learning. The ministry is moving to a provincial approach to deliver online learning where there will be provincial online learning schools that each district can opt to offer students in their own district as a provincial provider. The District submitted an expression of interest to be considered a Provincial On-Line School (POLS). There will be a period of discovery in January 2022 with a final decision to be made at the end of February 2022. Questions and comments ensued.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

7. TRUSTEE REPORTS

a. Trustee Appointments to Committees (G. Dhaliwal)

Trustees shared highlights of activities they participated in during November and December.

Chair Dhaliwal shared the new committee appointees of Trustees. Trustee Connelly will continue to be Chair of the Operations Policy and Planning Committee and Trustee Beattie will take over for Trustee Russell as Chair of the Education Policy and Planning Committee.

8. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting.

9. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, January 25, 2022: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - via Webex

Reminders:

Discover New Westminster Schools 2022 - January 10 -14, 2022

Black Shirt Day - January 15, 2022

BCPSEA Annual General Meeting - January 27 - 28, 2022

Black History Month - February

BCSTA Provincial Council, Morris J. Work Centre for Dialogue, Vancouver - February 11 - 12, 2022

10. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

a. Record of the November 23, 2021 In-Camera Meeting

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer