



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

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 7:00 PM

Via Webex Livestream

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|----------------|----------------------------|--|
| PRESENT | Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair | Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent |
| | Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair | Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer |
| | Anita Ansari, Trustee | Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent |
| | Mary Lalji, Trustee | Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources |
| | Danielle Connelly, Trustee | Guests: |
| | Mark Gifford, Trustee | Members of the Public |
| | Maya Russell, Trustee | Dave Crowe, Director Capital Projects |
| | | Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminister Record |
| | | Dave Bollen, President CUPE |
| | | Sarah Wethered, President NWTU |
| | | Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair |
| | | Laura Kwong, DPAC |
| REGRETS | | Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary |

The New Westminister 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 7:00 pm.

2022-001

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) adopt the agenda for the January 25, 2022 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

i. December 14, 2021 Regular Open Meeting

2022-002

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) approve the minutes as distributed for the December 14, 2021 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. **COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS**

DPAC: Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair extended appreciation to the COVID-19 questions Superintendent Hachlaf fielded at the January 13, 2022 Q & A meeting where 150 caregivers and parents were in attendance. She shared concerns about the lack of gargle tests being offered to symptomatic students and inquired if the District could provide a timeline when access to the counsellors and mental health will be available to elementary and middle school students. Mayor Cotè and Translink representative Mr. Kyle Rosenke attended the last January 20, 2022 DPAC meeting and heard of the concerns and challenges that District families face getting students to school safely utilizing public transit. It was noted that Translink requires three months' notice to adjust bus scheduling to revised bell schedules. DPAC continues to field questions on ventilation.

Chair Dhaliwal confirmed all schools have a limited supply of gargle tests and reiterated questions pertaining to their use should be directed to school principals. Some services have started for students at the Wellness Centre although a community launch will occur in February or March. A calendar of events and service providers will be forthcoming. She thanked the Associate Superintendent for the work done to date. Chair Dhaliwal confirms the Districts' Transportation Manager will be coordinating schedules with Translink. She shared that 40 HEPA air filters were deployed to all existing portables today and the remaining 24 units will be delivered within the first week of February. These units will be placed at school sites that have less than the Ministry recommended MERV 13 air filters. She thanked Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham and her staff for procuring and installing the air filters so quickly.

Superintendent Hachlaf shared that he had provided a recent reminder to all principals to include in each schools' newsletters, the availability of gargle tests.

CUPE: Dave Bollen, CUPE 409 President shared that on February 7, 2022, CUPE will start provincial bargaining which will be followed by local bargaining. He thanked Occupational Health & Safety Advisor Moore, and the Human Resources team for the COVID-19 work that was completed following the winter break to ensure staff safety. He shared a more thorough cleaning of desks and classrooms by daytime custodians could be completed when students are in the building and transitioning to other classes. It has been one year that CUPE employees do not have appropriate space at NWSS to place their personal belongings.

Superintendent Hachlaf shared that staff have been engaged with CUPE in adapting to space provided to ensure a proper working environment for all staff. Associate Superintendent Naser shared that five new prep stations are being installed in each staff prep room. In addition, Vice Principal Patton has been working with Education Assistants to assign banks of lockers that are more conveniently located for personal belongings. Twenty new fully functioning workstations will be available at the start of semester two.

NWTU: Sarah Wethered, NWTU President shared that the Equity Audit Workshop that was slated for January 11, 2022 was postponed due to the TTOC shortage. Local bargaining is in progress. She and her two local representatives will be attending the BCTF Representative Assembly January 28, 2022. Darryl Schelp, Teacher, has been

appointed as an interim second Vice-President. Recruitment of more delegates for the BCTF AGM has proved challenging. Vitacore Industries Inc. donated 100,000 N95 masks to the BCTF - approximately 1,100 were delivered and distributed within the District today. She echoed teachers remain supportive of daytime custodians.

Trustee Lalji put forward a motion:

Moved

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to have a written document where all five issues from DPAC presented tonight are addressed and presented at the February 8, 2022 Operations meeting.

MOTION NOT SECONDED

Trustee Lalji put forward a motion:

Moved

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) after hearing the needs of the CUPE President with daytime custodial staff to move back into the daytime hours as previously in our schools.

MOTION NOT SECONDED

Discussion on how to thoughtfully and effectively address issues and concerns occurred and suggestions to bring this dialogue with an appropriate backgrounder be prepared for an Operations meeting. Please refer to the meeting video for complete comments.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. CUPE BC Petition - Before and After School Care

Chair Dhaliwal shared she is proud of the work that District Vice Principal Anderson is doing on before and after school childcare and feels confident the CUPE BC Petition for Before and After School Care aligns with the values of the Board and the Strategic Plan.

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, January 18, 2022

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Vice-Chair Beattie

Education Policy & Planning Committee Chair Beattie communicated thanks to staff who presented on Hume Park Home Learners, Distributed Learning and the District Nourishment Program Update.

- ii. Approval of the January 18, 2022 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

2022-003

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the January 18, 2022 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, January 18, 2022
- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly
- ii. Approval of the January 18, 2022 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes
- 2022-004**
Moved and Seconded
- THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the January 18, 2022 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.***
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- iii. Annual Trustee Remuneration Review
- Trustees provided their rationale to why they are in favour or opposed to an Annual Trustee Remuneration.
- 2022-005**
Moved and Seconded
- THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Trustee Stipend increase by the five-year rolling CPI average of 2.08% effective July 1, 2022 for the positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Trustee.***
- CARRIED**
1 Opposed
- iv. Policy 19 Revisions
- 2022-006**
Moved and Seconded
- THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve Policy 19 - Financial Reserves as presented.***
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- v. Board Member Parental Leave Policy
- 2022-007**
Moved and Seconded
- THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve Policy 7 – Board Operations as presented.***
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- vi. Advocacy Letter to Ministry of Education Supporting Hume Park
- 2022-008**
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) craft an advocacy letter highlighting and supporting the uniqueness of Hume Park especially as it currently exists in a gap created by policy revision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf shared highlights of the Discover New Westminster Schools event of January 10 – 14, 2022 in which approximately 650 parents, students and caregivers participated. The various recorded meeting links may be accessed [here](#). He applauded the great work occurring throughout the District. Upcoming events and highlights include:

- Celebrating Black History month in February
- Mentorship program which includes 75 mentors and mentees
- Literacy and Numeracy Frameworks
- Wellness Handbook and Mental Health in New Westminster School Strategy
- Enhanced Student Learning: student success results will be shared at the February 8, 2022 Education Committee meeting
- Professional Development Day – February 22, 2022

Executive Director, Human Resources Weston provided absenteeism data and confirmed that classrooms were covered, and instruction uninterrupted as a result of staff cooperation, recent TTOC hiring and pre-scheduling prior to staff absences.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

8. TRUSTEE REPORTS

a. Provincial Policy Matters - Direction to Board Representative to BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

Vice-Chair Beattie confirmed there was just the one submission to review that is noted below.

b. Policy Positions - Review for Submission to BCSTA Annual General Meeting

i. Access to Education for All Students (Trustee Russell)

Trustee Russell shared the motion that calls to remove barriers to registration for students with precarious or no immigration status in their Districts. She confirmed that the District remains the only district in the Province with a Policy even though it is a requirement under the School Act.

Chair Dhaliwal put forward a motion:

2022-009

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) accept the Access to Education for All Students Submission to the BCSTA AGM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustees shared their brief highlights of events they attended in December 2021 and January 2022.

9. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

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

10. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 8, 2022: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm - via Webex

Tuesday, February 8, 2022: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm - via Webex

Tuesday, February 22, 2022: School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm - via Webex

Reminders:

BCPSEA Annual General Meeting - January 27 - 28

Black History Month - February

BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting - February 12

Family Day - February 21

Pink Shirt Day - February 23

11. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

a. Record of the December 14, 2021 Special In-Camera Meeting

b. Record of the December 14, 2021 In-Camera Meeting

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer