

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

**Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:00 PM
Via Webex Livestream**

PRESENT	<p>Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair Anita Ansari, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Mark Gifford, Trustee Mary Lalji, Trustee</p>	<p>Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources Guests: Members of the Public Members of NWSS Environmental Club Dave Bollen, President, CUPE 409 Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair Dave Crowe, Director - Capital Projects Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction and Learning Amy Grey, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager Laura Kwong, DPAC Iain Lancaster, District Vice Principal of Programs & Planning Connie Swan, District Vice Principal Indigenous Education Sarah Wethered, President NWTU Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary</p>
REGRETS	<p>Maya Russell, Trustee Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent</p>	

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 7:00 pm.

2022-010

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the February 22, 2022 Regular School Board meeting as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:
 - i. January 25, 2022 Regular Meeting

2022-011
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the January 25, 2022 Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

a. Climate Action Update (B. Ketcham & I. Lancaster)

i. 2022 Climate Action

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided an introduction to the 2022 Climate Action presentation, noting that education has largely been the focus. She and District Vice Principal, Programs & Planning Lancaster shared updates and highlights:

Updates from the 2020 presentation:

- Skwo:wech and New Westminster Secondary schools - completion and decommissioning
- Energy conservation upgrades at various schools
- Waste reduction
- Water conservation
- School grounds and transportation

Board approved Climate Action Strategy:

- 0.4 FTE reallocation from District staff portfolio to support climate action in schools:
 - SharePoint on District portal which provides teachers with resources to embed climate action into their daily activities
 - Resources going to schools by developing available resources for teachers (tied to curricular framework; UDL framework; Units of Inquiry; Engaging Activities)
 - Edwin classroom app
 - New books/resources for loan at Media Services
- Climate Action Grants:

Reprioritization of \$10,000 in grants to schools to support Green Teams. Twelve grants were received for various projects:

 - Starting or expanding school gardens; two schools are focusing on pollinator populations

- Field trips from Indigenous perspectives (Talking Trees Tour & Qayqayt and Musqueam Nations environmental stewardship walks)
- Blackberry culling
- Waste reduction programs
- District events include:
 - Turn Down the HEAT!
 - Professional development activities
 - Climate Action Symposium

ii. 2020 Climate Action

The 2020 Climate Action presentation was attached for reference only.

b. NWSS Environmental Club (Verbal)

Student representatives from the New Westminster Secondary School Environmental Club, provided a verbal presentation on how the climate crisis is taught in schools and shared three main areas of concern:

- The climate crisis is not really discussed in schools
- The climate crisis is not discussed as a 'crisis'
- Communication is presented as an overall focus on individual actions and not discussed as a broader, systemic issue

Student representatives posed questions, provided their individual experiences, and shared suggestions. Please refer to the [meeting video](#) (starting at 32:15) for the full presentation and detailed discussion.

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC: Laura Kwong shared the four resolutions that will be brought to the 2022 BCCPAC AGM:

- Restrict the sale of single use bottled water in schools except in districts where access to safe water from municipal sources does not exist
- Access to safe drinking water in public schools
- Change to the Ministry of Education Area of Standards documents:
 - Not for profit licensed out of school childcare programs separate from space from educational programming
 - Require space allocations to reflect increase space requirements resulting from class size and composition
 - provide districts greater autonomy and power to determine space capacity needs based on projected growth in their district
 - change to provincial school bus finding model

CUPE: Dave Bollen, President shared CUPE is in provincial bargaining and noted he is sitting on the Bargaining Committee. He shared the two sessions that included discussions on Job Evaluation and Health & Safety went well. He provided thanks and shared that he has heard positive comments regarding Seamless Childcare spaces in

the District. The Spirit Bear book was donated to all locals from CUPE BC, part of an initiative for Truth and Reconciliation. The book was so impactful that CUPE local 409 and Dave will donate one copy to each school library in the District.

NWTU: Sarah Wethered, President shared office incumbent updates and the recent induction of 15 new members into the BCTF. She added that included in the BCTF membership is free membership into a provincial specialist association. Several teachers in the District sit on special associations. Sarah confirmed local bargaining was completed and shared thanks to Executive Director Human Resources Weston. The diversity audit has been rescheduled to the end of April 2022. It was decided that the small diversity and inclusion budget will be directed towards a draw for teachers to receive one of 10 or 15 classroom resources and the balance will be used to encourage teachers to take one of three courses.

There were no comments or questions received from visitors.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, February 8, 2022

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Beattie

Trustee Beattie recapped the presentations from the February 8 meeting.

ii. Approval of the February 8, 2022 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2022-012

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 8, 2022 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, February 8, 2022

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

Trustee Connelly referenced the District's Living Wage certification and thanked Trustee Gifford for initiating the motion and Executive Director Human Resources Weston for the work completed.

ii. Approval of the February 8, 2022 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2022-013

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 8, 2022 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

i. Black History Month

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights of his visit to Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary. He presented a Caribou Math Certificate of Achievement to Glenbrook student, Terry Wang and shared Terry's exemplary achievements which includes scoring first in the world out of 9,888 students from 23 countries. The District has received a \$45,000 grant from the Vancouver Sun 'Adopt a School Foundation', the entirety to be allocated to the Fuel Up program. He thanked District Vice Principal Anderson for submitting the grant application and the Vancouver Sun Children's Fund Society.

Individual school highlights included:

- Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary: Staffed worked with students to learn more about influential Black Canadians. Individuals were highlighted, supplemental materials supplied, and artistic poster material was created by students.
- Skwo:wech Elementary: Families and cultures were studied. After reading 'the Colours of Us', students mixed paint colours to create a self portrait to honour the colour of their skin. Students discussed the impact that Martin Luther King Jr. had on social justice and civil rights. Following a viewing of his 'I had a dream' speech, students incorporated powerful representative words into their individual art pieces.
- Fraser River Middle: Several books were purchased and one book, 'Little Leaders' was read over the daily announcements. Students created presentations on key Black leaders and the presentations are exhibited on school monitors. A Human Rights student club has been created.
- Queen Elizabeth Elementary: Classes participated in reading stories about Black Canadians and Americans and students discussed their significant contributions.

Questions and discussion followed.

b. Report on Committees - SD40 Staff Representative (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided brief highlights. Mandates and summaries from each Committee Appointee was shared in the report.

c. Inclusive Education Review (B. Cunnings & C. Swan)

Director of Instruction-Learning Services Cunnings and District Vice Principal Indigenous Education Swan provided highlights of the Inclusive Education Review - Phase Two (2021 – 2022):

- High quality professional learning: Training and development for IEP relevant staff that includes a recommendation and actions. Details of the February 22, 2022 Professional Development Day were shared.
- Effective student transition supports that includes key areas of growth in the District
- Effective academic student supports that includes a recommendation and actions
- Effective Indigenous student supports that includes a recommendation and actions
- Home school partnerships that includes a recommendation and actions

d. 2021-2022 Amended Budget (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided highlights:

- 2022 Amended Budget: \$91,219,771 consists of the Operating Budget (\$72M) along with capital assets, Special Purpose Funds and Capital Funds
- The revised anticipating annual deficit by June 30, 2022 has been amended from \$2.1M to \$1.7M. The District has seen an increase of international revenues and an increase in regular student enrolment which have increased revenues by over \$600K
- Long Range Facilities Plan points to the need to acquire land and build new buildings to address student population growth over the next decade. It is not an uncommon practice and a cost sharing expectation to prioritize land acquisition. While there are savings in some categories, the recommendation is to set aside \$250K to capitalize on future land acquisition opportunities.

Chair Dhaliwal put forward a motion:

2022-014

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the extension of tonight's meeting to 10:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2022-015

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the three readings of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2021/2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2022-016
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve FIRST and SECOND reading of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2021/2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2022-017
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the THIRD reading, reconsideration and FINAL adoption of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2021/2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended over the past month.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

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

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 8, 2022: School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm - via Webex

Tuesday, April 12, 2022: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm - via Webex

Tuesday, April 12, 2022: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm - via Webex

Reminder:

Black History Month - February

Pink Shirt Day - February 23

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

a. Record of the January 25, 2022 In-Camera Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer