



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

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 7:00 PM  
Via Webex Livestream**

- PRESENT**
- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair    | Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent                               |
| Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair    | Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent                      |
| Anita Ansari, Trustee      | Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources          |
| Mary Lalji, Trustee        | Rick Bloudell, Manager of Community Projects & Partnerships |
| Danielle Connelly, Trustee | Dave Crowe, Director - Capital Projects                     |
| Mark Gifford, Trustee      | Kristen Keighley-Wight, Communications Manager              |
| Maya Russell, Trustee      | Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminister Record          |
|                            | Sarah Wethered, President NWTU                              |
|                            | Laura Kwong, DPAC   |
|                            | Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary                           |
- REGRETS** Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer

*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 7:01 pm.

**2022-018**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) adopt the agenda for the March 8, 2022 Regular School Board meeting as amended.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:

February 22, 2022 Regular Open Meeting

**2022-019**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) approve the minutes as distributed for the February 22, 2022 Regular School Board meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes  
Nil.

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

**DPAC:** Laura Kwong shared a brief update that DPAC has been working to submit their resolutions into BCCPAC for presentation at the May AGM. Of the four resolutions submitted, comments have been received back on one resolution.

**NWTU:** Sara Wethered, President shared that she and the leadership team will be attending the BCTF AGM March 19 - 22. Mentorship is growing and the funding that was allocated towards a mentorship facilitator position at New West Secondary School has been well used for the two blocks in Humanities and Science and Math. The Executive voted to donate \$500 to the Canadian Red Cross Ukrainian humanitarian crisis. Sarah confirmed NWSS will be hosting the BC Teacher Librarian Conference October 21 - 22 where they expect 300 to 400 attendees on the first day and 50 – 75 on the second day, noting it will be a great opportunity to showcase the community and new school. She confirms that she, Kristie Oxley and Lisa Seddon were selected to present one of only ten workshops at the New Teacher Conference in May. Elections have been finalized and will open the first week of May. Sarah shared that after 19 years she will not be running for President NWTU in favour of returning to a teaching position at NWSS in September.

**4. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

- a. Skwo:wech Project Update (D. Crowe)

Director Capital Projects Crowe confirmed the Skwo:wech move from the old school building into the new school building will be completed over spring break. Tours have been scheduled for teaching staff.

A significant amount of work after demolition will proceed through the summer. Upcoming major milestones are:

- Completion of the building systems training for SD40 personnel
- Completion of the Integrated Testing to meet BCBC requirements
- Completion of the landscaping
- Installation of exterior lighting
- City Occupancy Inspection
- Move-in
- Receipt of Demolition Permit

Discussion on landscaping and basketball courts occurred. Thanks was extended to Director Capital Projects Crowe on the project success amidst a pandemic.

- b. Wellness Centre Update (Verbal) (M. Naser)

Assistant Superintendent Naser provided an update on the Wellness Centre and introduced, Manager Community Projects & Partnerships Bloudell. Furniture has arrived with the last pieces expected to arrive mid-April. All community partners are occupying space with the exception of Fraser Health who will solicit needs assessment engagement by means of a student survey before bringing a nurse

practitioner into the space. Additional community partners are being examined to support counselling needs.

To Wellness Centre webpage with detailed support and calendar of events, may be [viewed here](#). In short, the Wellness Centre is a “hub” that has three main areas of focus:

- Mental health support for students and their families
- Prevention and health promotion to support various issues like gender identity, physical well-being, mindfulness, nutrition, etc.
- Community health and primary care

Manager of Community Programs & Partnerships Bloudell shared that promotional material will be dispersed prior to the Wellness Centre opening celebration on May 14. Students conveyed they would like to see more work on sexual health, gender identity and mental health literacy being integrated into the school curriculum. He is striving to connect with all students to complete a survey on what services they are interested in accessing as well as how to receive these services. To date, 95 respondents have completed the survey and this feedback will drive what is offered in this space.

Associate Superintendent shared next steps include the creation of Terms of Reference for an advisory committee to facilitate more robust engagement in the 2022-23 school year. Through wellness initiatives in conjunction with Fraser Health, staff well-being will be surveyed and promoted.

Questions and discussion occurred.

c. 2022 - 2023 District Calendar (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser shared that no feedback was received on the 2022-2023 District calendar. Discussion occurred on aligning all non-instructional days between every school in the District. She suggested approving the calendar in terms of professional development days, opening and closing days and the number of non-instructional days for Ministry submission and reviewing the factors that are impacting the misalignment of the November 1 and 18 non-instructional days before presenting the calendar back to the Board for approval.

**2022- 020**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2022-2023 District Calendar as presented.***

Chair Dhaliwal brought forward amendment to the motion:

**2022- 020**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Ministry submission of the District non-instruction days and go to the more specifics at a later date. 2022-2023 District Calendar as presented.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2022- 020**  
**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Ministry submission of the District non-instruction days and go to the more specifics at a later date.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion on Kindergarten gradual entry occurred.

d. Student Withdrawal Report (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser shared that in comparison to the 2020-21 school year, registration in the District is trending upwards. More student registrations occurred during November and December than those moving out of the District, typically due to family moves.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

Nil.

**6. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustees shared highlights of activities they participated in during the past month and recognized International Women's Day by sharing comments.

**7. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)**

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

**8. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

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

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

Tuesday, April 26, 2022: School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm - TBD

Reminders:

International Women's Day - March 8

World Autism Day - April 2

Earth Day - April 22

BCSTA Provincial Council & AGM - April 21 – 24

District Volunteer Recognition - April 24 – 30

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

a. Record of the February 22, 2022 In-Camera Meeting

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer