



**MINUTES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPERATIONS POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 6:30 PM

Via Webex Livestream

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

Committee Chair Connelly recognized and acknowledged 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 meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the June 7, 2022, Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

Nil.

3. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Capital Projects Update (Verbal) (D. Crowe)

i. NWSS and Skwo:wech Decommissioning Projects

Director Capital Projects Crowe shared fencing is being erected around the old NWSS site as decommissioning work begins. Sections of parking around the site has been temporarily closed but every step is being taken to minimize disruption to the various stakeholders who utilize it. Demolition of the old Skwo:wech school is complete and the larger job of materials separation and recycling will begin.

ii. Queen Elizabeth Expansion Project

Director Capital Projects Crowe provided an update that the schematic design of the site has proved to be challenging and confirmed, like past projects, the public will have an opportunity to share their concerns and ideas regarding the school design.

b. Operations Update

i. Operations Report June 2022 (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham indicated that much of the minor capital project work by the Facilities team will be executed over summer break when school is not in session. The Finance team is preparing for the year-end audit. The annual rotation of internal school audits has been completed at four schools.

2022-2023 Annual Funding Grant Expenditure Plan

Secretary Treasurer Ketcham provided highlights of the 2022-23 Annual Funding Grant (AFG) Expenditure Plan. Of the \$1.19M that was allocated to the District, \$470K will be dedicated to Queensborough Middle School roofing. This represents one half of the replacement cost, the balance to be undertaken next year.

ii. Audit Planning Report (A. Grey)

Assistant Secretary Treasurer Grey highlighted some of the key findings and shared that overall, there are no significant changes from last year. Materiality has increased \$100K, a result of revenue increase from which it is based off. She noted the auditor's posting threshold of items is \$100K. Auditors completed interim work in May and will present an audit findings report and opinion in September.

c. 2023-24 Five-Year Capital Plan (Major Projects) (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham confirmed the submission document remains current. The District is looking to put forward a submission of \$213M. The concept plan for the Fraser River Zone elementary school will be submitted to the Ministry for consideration by the end of June resulting in new school cost reduction from \$110M to \$65M. She noted capacity pressure will be most severe in the Fraser River Zone, with five of the eight, over capacity. Over the course of the summer, District staff will begin to review and prepare a short term capacity strategy for purposes of managing the surge in enrolment growth being experienced through reviewing catchments, programs and choice and the best placement for childcare demands.

Following a Trustee question, Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham shared alternatives and tools to rising land costs as it related to the identified \$60M request for site acquisition.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of the

2023-24 Major Capital Plan for submission to the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Trustee Elections Bylaw (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham shared commentary from her discussion with the City's Chief Election Officer regarding randomizing Trustee candidate names on the 2022 elections ballot from an alphabetized listing. The Chief Election Officer suggested meeting to discuss a mirrored process of candidate names between the City and the District for the 2026 civic election.

Discussion followed with all Trustees present agreeing that the ordering on ballots should wait until after the current election and further discussed with City Council.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of first and second reading of Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 2022-TE-SD40-01.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Board Annual Work Plan (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham highlighted the alignment of the Education and Operations Policy & Planning Committee meetings to the various timely reports due within the 2022-23 Board Annual Workplan.

Discussion followed.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham brought forward the following motion:

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of the Board Annual Workplan for the 2022-23 school year.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

f. Human Resources & Staffing Update (Verbal) (R. Weston)

Executive Director Human Resources Weston shared high absenteeism has been managed, dispatching between 25 and 35 teachers on-call and 15 and 25 education assistants daily. To date, 100 teaching positions have been posted for September vacancies and it is anticipated that 30 to 35 CUPE positions will be posted before summer break. A successful agreement has been reached with NWTU allowing qualified applicants who wish to self-identify as Indigenous to be given preferential consideration. He confirms the Human Rights Commission has approved this hiring practice without discrimination. Both he and Trustee Gifford received a plaque as a Living Wage Employer. Stickers of the same will be placed at various locations around the District.

4. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Healthy School Food Funding (Trustee Connelly)

Trustee Connelly briefly highlighted the value of healthy food programs in the District's schools, citing the possibility of future sustainability within the province or country and noted the recommendation wording came from the Coalition of Healthy School Food.

Trustees thanked Trustee Connelly for bringing the recommendation forward.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to write letters to our local MLA, Minister Jennifer Whiteside and the Minister of Finance, Honourable Selina Robinson, to support the BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food's recommendations to the Government of British Columbia urging that they build on existing commitments and allocate funding and resources to create more local school meal programs for K-12 students in BC by:

- 1. Committing to securing \$50 million/year for three years, to design, implement and evaluate research-based school program pilots in a minimum of six school districts across the province;***
- 2. Allocating an additional \$3 million in funding so that every school district in BC can hire a dedicated School Meal Program Coordinator, to build capacity for school food programs, and;***
- 3. Assembling an internal and external provincial school food task forces to advise and support the development of universal, healthy school meal programs for all BC students.***

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to write a letter to our local MP, the Honourable Peter Julian urging that he support the Coalition for Healthy School Food's call for the federal government to begin to implement a universal, cost-shared, healthy school food program for all K-12 students in the country.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy & Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to become an endorser of The Coalition for Healthy School Food and their call for the development of a universal, cost-shared healthy school food program for Canada.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. OLD BUSINESS

Nil.

7. QUESTION PERIOD (15 MINUTES)

A question regarding noon-hour staffing was posed and Executive Director Human Resources Weston provided a response.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm