

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

**Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 7:00 PM  
Via Zoom Link**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair Maya Russell, Vice-Chair Dee Beattie, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Maryam Naser, Assistant Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources
	Marc Andres, Trustee Cheryl Sluis, Trustee	Dave Crowe, Director Capital Projects Guests Members of the Public DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair CUPE 409: Dave Bollen, President NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President Laura Goodman, Recording Secretary
<b>REGRETS</b>	Elliott Slinn, Trustee	

*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.

**2023-001  
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster)  
adopt the agenda for the January 31, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:  
i. December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**2023-002  
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster)  
approve the minutes as distributed for December 13, 2022, Regular School  
Board meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes  
Nil.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

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

- Chair Dhaliwal provided clarity on the large amount of correspondence that the Board had received regarding the motion to return to in-person meetings. The motion on the table was amended at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, and sent back to staff to determine what exactly virtual engagement would look like. She further stated that she hopes this clarity will reduce any fears that members of the public may have had with returning to in-person meetings without options for virtual participation which is not the case.
- Chair Dhaliwal clarified that the proposed policy changes submitted by Superintendent Hachlaf and presented in the Board package are not intended to be final policies. The Board has not had the opportunity to weigh in on these policy revisions. There is no recommendation to approve it until further discussions are had.

**DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair**

- At DPACs January meeting members passed four motions; three were to write letters of advocacy, and one was to speak as a delegate at the City Council meeting on February 13, 2023, (e.g., advocacy for greater inclusion of school facilities planning and OCP, and the consideration of schools as community hubs in the OCP).
- Secured special guests for our February 2023 DPAC meeting 1) Nancy Brennan, consultant completing our Program of Choice review for the district, and 2) MLA Aman Singh, Queensborough-Richmond. The February DPAC meeting will be held in-person at Queensborough elementary.

**CUPE 409: Dave Bollen, President**

- Dave stated that they are in support of free transit for youth as well, and will be writing a letter to TransLink on behalf of DPAC.
- CUPE 409 has reached a labour settlement agreement with the District, and CUPE president Bollen stated that it is one of the best agreements he has seen.
- Bollen thanked the CUPE bargaining committee for their hard work and long hours into making this an agreement a successful one.

**NWTU: Kristie Oxley**

- Kristie thanked the HR department for their ongoing effort to recruit and hire TTOC's, and is grateful that these efforts continue.
- NWTU met with Nancy Brennan, consultant engaged to run the Programs of Choice review, and is pleased to report that consultations with various staff around the district are taking place so they can provide their input on programs of choice in this district.

- Teachers at NWSS are looking at teaching English First Peoples due to the Indigenous graduate requirement that has been rolled out. There is a level of excitement with the teachers in rolling out these courses.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting. Please refer to the meeting video for full comments.

Members of the public voiced concerns regarding discussions by the Board of Education regarding recommendations re: Policy #7 - Board Operations, advocacy for hybrid meetings, child care and the downtown core, and school lotteries for student registration.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Dhaliwal acknowledged the receipt of the letters from members of the public, the majority of which centered around the debate to return to either in-person, virtual and/or hybrid school board meetings. Chair Dhaliwal clarified that item 5.(g) and 5.(h) were advocating for hybrid meetings, and not for in-person meetings as previously stated.

## **6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. The next EPPC & OPPC Meetings will be held on February 7, 2023.

## **7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

- a. Approve Budget Development Process & Timelines 2023-2024 (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer presented the draft proposal for the budget process for the 2023-24 school year which is consistent with that of the year prior. The first and second reading being completed by May 9<sup>th</sup>, and the third and final reading to be considered on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ketcham stated that meeting sessions will be done virtually as they have been done in the past and will encompass various stakeholder groups, principals, vice-principals, unions, student voice, indigenous advisory committee, etc. There will be a 2-week online survey to collect feedback on the budget which will also include a specific email address for budget commentary.

**2022-003**

**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Budget Development & Timeline for 2023-2024 as presented***

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

- b. Annual Trustee Remuneration Review (B. Ketcham)
  - Trustees provided their rationale to why they are in favour or opposed to an Annual Trustee Remuneration.

**2023-004**  
**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) apply an increase of 3.06% to existing Trustee remuneration effective July 1, 2023.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

c. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided an update on the following activities.

- Discover NW Schools was held at NWSS Grand Commons on January 10, 2023, with a new attendance record of over 1,100 people. This event highlighted our partner groups, courses, programs, and services.
- Black Excellence Day: Superintendent Hachlaf highlighted the work of our District VP Ken Headley who took the lead, in leading this event with Burnaby Schools on January 13, 2023. This event was committed to racial equity, and had over 32,000 students participate virtually; over nineteen school districts joined in the celebration. Ken will present a more detailed report around this work and the recently released K-12 anti-racism action plan that the province just released at our next Open Board meeting on February 21, 2023.
- Survey Says: an ongoing commitment to public consultation. Our 'Programs of Choice is underway.' Stakeholder interviews are finishing, but still ongoing and will be completed shortly. Based on our timeline we will be moving towards our focus groups and surveys in the near future. The associate superintendent will be providing a full report to the Board next week at our Education meeting on February 7th.
- Fuel Up Lunch Program: a survey was sent out to our community with questions re: experiences around food quality, food choice, expense, and general communication with our provider. Manager of community programs will be delivering a more comprehensive update at the February 7<sup>th</sup> operations meeting.
- The communications manager will be sending out a District survey around the middle of February. An opportunity to collect input from our community on how we can continue to improve our District communication with our public overall.
- January 28<sup>th</sup> SD40 hosted the English first people's training for Teachers within the metro region at NWSS - 80 educators across different regions engaged for the entire day with the lead facilitator Joe Corona - A fantastic event.

ii. Board Work Plan

Superintendent Hachlaf provided a verbal update re: the following edits that are recommended to the Board Work Plan (for the Board and the General Public). The context of making these changes to the Board Work Plan is to schedule the opportunity for trustee representatives to report on our Board Committees.

Current Board Committees include: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), Memorialization Advisory Committee (MAC), Sanctuary Schools, Indigenous Advisory, CUPE labour management, Canadian Parents for French, and DPAC where we have 1-2 Trustees who serve as representatives. The following edits are recommended to the Board Work Plan, and have been brought forward to the Board for Approval.

### **October**

Education Agenda Items

- Indigenous Education Report
- Inclusive Education Review Update
- Indigenous Advisory Trustee Report  
(Report to be kept within the EPPC meeting).

### **March**

Regular Board Meeting Agenda Items

- Approve District Calendar
- Memorialization Advisory Committee Trustee Report
- CUPE Labour Management Trustee Report  
(Labour focussed item which is presented in-camera).

### **April**

Education Agenda Items

- Review Career Programs Report
- Review Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) report
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Trustee report
- Review Health and Wellbeing report
- Review School fees

### **May**

Education Agenda Item

- Review Sanctuary Schools Report
- Sanctuary Schools Trustee Report
- Review International Program Report
- Distributed Learning & Continuing Education Report
- Inclusive Education Review Update

**Others** (to be noted under heading 'as required').

- DPAC and CPF (Canadian Parents for French).
- Superintendent Hachlaf will provide the language and Trustee reports regarding Board representation on DPAC, CPF; other external organizations would be listed under 'as required.'

Questions were asked, and discussion ensued.

*Superintendent Hachlaf clarified that the Board would vote on the full verbal update of what he reviewed at tonight's meeting.*

Chair Dhaliwal clarified that this current Board Work Plan will be in effect until the end of the School Year – June 2023. A new plan for 2023-24 will be reviewed and approved by the Board.

**2023-005**  
**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) amend the board work plan as presented.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Transit for Teens Advocacy and Endorsement (Trustee Connelly).

Trustee Connelly stated that Vivica Ellis created an amazing presentation and backgrounder report, and encouraged all present to review her case study which contains information on how one can access 'free transit' for youth. Providing young youth and teenagers with free access to public transportation can give one a life - a freedom and opportunity to actively participate in activities that they would otherwise be unable to do.

Chair Dhaliwal, Vice-Chair Russell, and Trustees Connelly and Andres thanked Vivica for bringing this important piece of work forward, and that access to transportation and education is critical.

**2023-006**  
**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) endorse the Single Mothers' Alliance Transit for Teens Campaign; and in doing so, write a letter to the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, the board of directors of BC Transit, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Office of the Premier, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth to work with the provincial government to finalize and secure funding, and develop a plan that will provide free public transit for teens aged 13 to 18 in B.C.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Board and Committee meeting format: move all meetings to in-person. Motions 2022-089 and 2022-091 were tabled at the December 13, 2023, Open Board Meeting.

These two motions were tabled as per the Boards request for staff to consider a hybrid meeting format for its 'Operations Committee meeting, and/or the Open Board meetings; to clarify on how to best achieve this goal and report back. The Board did ask staff to provide innovative options to allow the Trustees to meet in person and to provide options for members of the public to view meetings live and to also provide an opportunity to engage with the Board during our comment and question period. This

direction aligns with the correspondence received and noted earlier in the meeting for the ability to participate remotely.

Superintendent Hachlaf presented a backgrounder report and an Appendix which provides a snapshot of other districts meeting structure, if they livestream their meetings, and if they offer any kind of hybrid format, and how they manage their question period and Board correspondence. Hachlaf clarified that this Appendix is not to suggest that we mirror another district, but only as a means to offer a broader context within the region. Hachlaf provided an overview of his findings to the Board.

The Chair opened up the floor to comments and questions, and discuss ensued.

**2023-007**

**Motion Amended**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move Operations Policy and Planning Committee to in-person for all meetings starting February 2023, including a livestream broadcast or virtual platform with an opportunity for members of the public to participate remotely and that the meeting start at 6 pm.***

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move Board meetings to in-person for all meetings starting January 2023.***

b. Board and Committee Meeting Structure

***Moved and Seconded***

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move the Operations Policy and Planning Committee to the hybrid option as presented in this report starting April 2023, including a livestream broadcast with an opportunity for members of the public to participate remotely and that the meeting start at 6:00 pm.***

Trustee Connelly put forth an **amendment to the motion** that the meeting start at 6:30pm.

***Moved and Seconded***

**2023-008**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move the Operations Policy and Planning Committee to the hybrid option as presented in this report starting April 2023, including a livestream broadcast with an opportunity for members of the public to participate remotely and that the meeting start at 6:30 pm.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Moved and Seconded  
2023-009**

**THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move its Board of Education meetings to the hybrid option as presented in this report starting April 2023, including a livestream broadcast with an opportunity for members of the public to participate remotely and that the meeting start at 6:30 pm.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Moved and Seconded**

**THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move its Board of Education meetings to the hybrid option as presented in this report starting April 2023, including a livestream broadcast with an opportunity for members of the public to participate remotely and that the meeting start at 7pm.**

*Trustee Beattie put forth an amendment to the motion that the meeting state April 2023, or earlier.*

**Moved and Seconded  
2023-010**

**THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move its Board of Education meetings to the hybrid option as presented in this report starting April 2023, or earlier including a livestream broadcast with an opportunity for members of the public to participate remotely and that the meeting start at 7pm.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Moved and Seconded  
2023-011**

**THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) move its Board of Education meetings to the hybrid option as presented in this report starting April 2023, or earlier including a livestream broadcast with an opportunity for members of the public to participate remotely and that the meeting start at 7 pm.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Chair Dhaliwal stated and clarified that the two corresponding Motions stated below are not related to the policy changes that are presented later on, and that they are just to incorporate meeting format into the policy*

**Moved and Seconded  
2023-012**

**THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) make the necessary changes to Policy 7 (Board Operations) to align with its meeting practices.**



*Trustee Beattie and Vice-Chair Russell put forth the motion that the Board would like to see the language and policy changes at a subsequent meeting before the Board votes on these changes.*

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) see the language and policy changes at a subsequent meeting before the Board votes on these changes.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Moved and Seconded  
2023-013***

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) make the necessary changes to Policy 8 (Board Committees) to align with its meeting practices.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Superintendent Hachlaf provided clarity re: the recommended changes to Policy #7 - Board Operations to alleviate concern and address some of the public comments that were made earlier at the start of the meeting.*

Hachlaf stated that the goal of the BOE is not to mirror other districts, but do what it takes to meet the needs of our public.

\*The goal in front of the BOE is not to approve this complex policy, but rather a first attempt to garner further input and direction that one would want to achieve within their policy and the goal from there would be to take the comments, reflect on this input and come back to the Board for another review, and therefore move closer to a final product. We are at the beginning of this process, and this policy is a complex one as it relates explicitly to how the Board does its business.

Superintendent Hachlaf stated that he has reviewed other districts, and in some cases included particular language for the Board's review to get a better sense of what may or may not resonate, and not to rubber stamp what is in the package.

The draft is far from a final version, and the goal is not to enter an in-depth editing process. but to acquire the broad feedback and direction to make those relevant changes and to come back for discussion. The recommendation is to 'delay any recommendation' for this evening to begin this process.

**2023-014  
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) extend our meeting to 10:00 pm***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Superintendent Hachlaf stated that he will review the draft revisions that are indicative of Board input and direction, and also review the video material to ensure that all input has been incorporated. If there is no concern he will complete the editing process, and bring the first review for consumption with the chair and vice-chair to ensure that everything has been covered; then bring it back to the next Board meeting and/or Operations meeting for further review.*

Chair Dhaliwal stated if anyone had any comments and/or questions to email their feedback to Superintendent Hachlaf.

## **9. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

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

Trustee Sluis stated that she did not have anything to report on at this time re: Provincial Council matters as the next Provincial Council meeting will be held after our February meeting.

*Chair Dhaliwal tabled this item, which is to be brought back to the next Open Board meeting on February 21, 2023.*

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

*Chair Dhaliwal stated that she did not receive any items, and that there is no policy submission that the Board would like to submit at this time.*

- c. Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in January.

- d. Trustee Sluis requested to bring forward a motion that was initially brought forward by the previous Board to the 2020 AGM. BCSTA informed us that they have an update. The motion that we provided to them - that BCSTA develop a template to help Boards of Education remove barriers to registration for students with precarious or no immigration status in their Districts, and that the BCSTA call on the BC Ministry of Education and Childcare to remove barriers for students with precarious or no immigration status. They wanted to inform us that there have been a few drafts which have been reviewed, both by the Board of Directors and Legal Counsel. More discussions are required, but they wanted to ensure us that the work is continuing to move forward.

## **10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)**

Chair Dhaliwal stated that the purpose of the second Question and Answer period at the end of our meeting is to provide an opportunity to obtain clarification concerning the meetings proceedings.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting. Please refer to the meeting video for full comments.

**11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Tuesday, February 7, 2023: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting -  
3:30 pm - Power Alternate Elementary

Tuesday, February 7, 2023: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting -  
6:30 pm - via Zoom Link

Tuesday, February 21, 2023: Open Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - via Zoom Link

Events:

- Discover New Westminster Schools 2023 – January
- Black Shirt Day - January 15, 2023
- Represent Board at BCPSEA AGM - January 26 - 27, 2023
- Black History Month February
- Family Day - February 20
- Pink Shirt Day February 22
- Represent Board at BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting - February 24 - 25, 2023

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

- a. Record of the December 13, 2022, In-Camera Meeting
- b. Record of the January 9, 2023, Special In-Camera Meeting
- c. Record of the January 23, 2023, Special In-Camera Meeting

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer