

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

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 7:00 PM  
Via Zoom Link**

**PRESENT**      Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair  
                  Maya Russell, Vice-Chair  
                  Dee Beattie, Trustee  
                  Danielle Connelly, Trustee  
                  Elliott Slinn, Trustee  
                  Marc Andres, Trustee  
                  Cheryl Sluis, Trustee

                  Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent  
                  Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent  
                  Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer  
                  Robert Weston, Executive Director Human Resources  
                  Amy Grey, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
                  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

*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.

**2023-015  
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster)  
adopt the agenda for the February 21, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:  
i. January 31, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**2023-016  
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster)  
approve the minutes as distributed for January 31, 2023, Regular School Board  
meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes  
Nil.

### 3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Delegation Presentation - DPAC Chair Laura Kwong presented her report on ‘Schools as Community Hubs in the New West Official Community Plan.’
- *Topics of Discussion:* OCPs and Long-Term School Facilities Planning, What the OCP says on working with SD40 – Relationship with Other Agencies, What the OCP says on working with SD40 (e.g., social and physical accessibility to civic amenities, infrastructure, and services), What the OCP says on working with SD40 (e.g., the City must continue to review population projections), What’s not in the OCP (e.g., co-governance – codifying the terms of reference and recognition of schools as community hubs), and Advocacy Ask from the Board of Education.

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

#### **DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair**

- DPAC hosted two special guest speakers at their meeting last week, MLA Aman Singh and consultant Nancy Brennan who is completing the District’s ‘Programs of Choice’ review.

#### **NWTU: Kristie Oxley**

- Lord Kelvin Elementary School: Kristie participated in a fantastic workshop put on by Serena Mani, and Lauren Carter, educator, and author of the book ‘Nice Spot’ – a book about outdoor learning.
- NWSS: the First Peoples Course – an indigenous grad component is being run this semester. Many teachers at the school would like to see an indigenous facilitator be hired to help with indigenizing the curriculum for this course.
- Teachers support the addition of frosted glass and/or blinds to mitigate the glass and uncovered walls.

#### **CUPE 409: Dave Bollen, President**

- President Bollen and Vice-President Janet Kinneard have been elected back into these positions. Erica Bigland will serve as the new CUPE secretary.
- CUPE AGM will be held on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Bollen stated that he has visited three different schools in the last two weeks with the goal of finding different ways to help create a safe work environment.
- Collective Agreements have been ratified, and are waiting for the retro pay adjustment.

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 recommendations re: the Programs of Choice review, Montessori survey, and NWSS safety concerns.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Chair Dhaliwal acknowledged the receipt of Krista Macaulay’s letter re: hybrid meeting support.

**6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, February 7, 2023.  
i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Marc Andres

Trustee Andres stated that he is always amazed by the thoughtfulness of these young leaders that serve as Student Voice representatives and greatly appreciate their contributions to the process of governance. Trustee Andres noted several highlights of the meeting.

- ii. Approval of the February 7, 2023, Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

**2023-017**  
**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 7, 2023, Education Policy, and Planning Committee meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, February 7, 2023.  
i. Comments from the Committee Chair.

Trustee Russell provided brief highlights of the meeting which include:

- Update on Capital Projects.
- AP Policy & Procedure updates as they relate to surveillance, student accidents, medical protocol, and transportation were brought forward to the Board for information purposes.

- ii. Approval of the February 7, 2023, Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**2023-018**  
**Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 7, 2023, Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

### a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

School Learning Plans: Superintendent Hachlaf continues to participate in 'school learning plan visits,' and provided an update on the following activities.

- NWSS: Principal Murray McLeod toured Hachlaf through several classes including the Sigma program, and the Welcome and Wellness Centres. Hachlaf stated that Shrek the Musical is still taking place, and he looks forward to attending.
- Home Learner's Program, Ecole Herbert Spencer, QayQayt & Connaught Heights: Superintendent Hachlaf acknowledged and thanked all the students that led him on their school wide tours.
  - Other updates include Continuing Education Adult Programs: District Vice-Principal Stephen Innes, noted that our enrolment increased by almost 100 from last quarter, taking us to approximately to 450 students.
  - District wide survey: a District-wide survey has been sent out and focuses on looking at continual enhancements, seeking community input on what is working well and where there is need for improvement. Survey will close next Sunday.
  - Ministry Peer Review: The team will be coming to visit on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team will consist of Ministry staff, a representative from the BC School Trustees Association, Superintendents Association, Métis Nation of BC, and BC Principles and Vice-Principles. These are the focus areas that our team are engaged in and will be reviewing, and the stories and initiatives that frame our work. Hachlaf will report back on the findings and recommendations from the Ministry team.
  - District Professional Development: April 24, 2023, with a particular focus on Indigenous education.

### i. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (K. Headley)

Vice-Principal Kenneth Headley provided a presentation on Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism. Developing a Strategy for Systems Change through Healing, Hope and Joy. Highlights of discussion included the following:

- The Ministry's K-12 Anti-racism Action Plan is a multi-year framework.
- Youth Engagement in our District has included a number of different presentations including, BC Lions for anti-racism, an all grade 8 presentation for anti-racism and equity on January Collaboration Day, Black History Month presentation for K-5 (Love and Resistance of Steelplan Music), Get Real inclusivity presentation for all middle schools, Black Excellence Day Kick off in October 2022.
- Things that are happening: Inclusive calendars have been created and shared with our administrative teams; a newsletter with learning opportunities for diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism; a parent website with learning resources; youth engagement; staff website with learning resources, and supporting administration and teachers in dealing with racist incidents at schools and much more.
- Next Steps: to work more closely with schools to develop staff learning and confidence in antiracism practices, to develop an antiracism district committee, and continue to work with our district learning team to align our resources to focus on this work to name a few.

Vice-Principal Headley lost connection to the meeting at 7:53 pm.

ii. Safe Schools Update (M. Smith)

Vice-Principal Melanie Smith provided a Safe Schools Update:

- Code of Conduct Reviews started at our schools in September 2022.
- Risk Assessment: the District completed violence risk assessment with Kevin Cameron in the fall of 2022. There have been some updates to this program which we will now begin to implement within our own processes and protocols.
- Collaboration with community support is ongoing with child and youth mental health.
- NWSS Safety Update: currently reviewing options for surveillance cameras, and frosting of the windows. Noon hour supervisors training is ongoing and was part of their review process last fall. NWSS has also implemented a student referral form that teachers can use if they have student conduct concerns and/or mental health concerns. Next Steps: Revising our administrative procedures related to reporting and conduct concerns to ensure they are clear, to formalize tracking of school safety incidents and to use this data to determine the impact of interventions, and to formalize protocols on District communications with external agencies. Smith noted that there have been conduct concerns in the community that spill into our schools, and we are currently looking at formalizing regular standing meetings with the middle school principals and the secondary administrators to ensure that we know what is happening in the community, and how this impacts our school sites.

Vice-Principal Headley returned to the meeting at 8:06 pm.

b. Approve Amended Budget for Current Fiscal Year (B. Ketcham)

- i. Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided highlights on the 2022-2023 amended budget:
  - 2023 Amended budget: \$ \$98,174,705 consists of the Operating Budget (\$78M) along with capital assets, special purpose funds and capital funds.
  - The revised anticipating annual deficit by June 30, 2023, is \$564,436, a reduction of approximately \$640K from the preliminary budget passed in May 2022. The District has seen an increase of regular student enrolment which have increased revenues by over \$400K.

**2022-019**  
**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 2022/2023.***

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**2022-020**  
**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 2022/2023.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2022-021  
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 2022/2023.***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Official Community Plan Advocacy (Chair Dhaliwal).

In response to the DPAC delegation presentation this this evening, the work that the Board of Education is doing with City staff, and for future opportunities for policy to reflect practice, Chair Dhaliwal put forward the following motion.

**2022-022  
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) write a letter to New Westminster Mayor and Council requesting that OCP amendments regarding schools be considered as part of the next revision and that further discussion be had at a future joint working group meeting.***

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Provincial Policy Matters - Direction to Board Representatives to BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting.
- Trustee Sluis stated that she will be attending the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting this weekend to represent New Westminster schools. The two motions that are being presented:
    - *THAT the BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Childcare continue the student and family affordability fund as an annual targeted fund provided to school districts beyond June 30, 2023.*
    - *THAT the BCSTA request that the Provincial government fully fund exempt staff compensation based on the new salary grids published by BCPC.*
  - Trustee Sluis stated that with the support of the Trustees she will be voting in favour of these two motions as presented. Chair Dhaliwal confirmed that there is no opposition to Trustee Sluis voting on these two motions.
  - There will be a bi-election for the role of BCSTA Vice-President, and the Interim VP.

- Trustee Sluis attended the BCSTA Metro meeting last week, and noted that there were elections for executive positions which included Trustee Danielle Connelly being acclaimed to the position of Vice-President. Both Trustee Sluis and Chair Dhaliwal congratulated Trustee Connelly on this accomplishment

**10. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in February.

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

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.

**12. 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

**13. 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

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer