

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

**Tuesday, March 7, 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

 Members of the Public
 DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair
 NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President
 Laura Goodman, Recording Secretary

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 7:00 pm.

**2023-023
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister)
adopt the agenda for the March 7, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.***

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

i. February 21, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**2023-024
Moved and Seconded**

***THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister)
approve the minutes as distributed for February 21, 2023, Regular School Board
meeting.***

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair

- The last DPAC meeting was held in February 2023.
- A letter of advocacy has been sent out to ICBC re: a letter of support for a funding request for the pedestrian safety pilot being run by the New West and Burnaby Walkers' Caucus. A letter of advocacy to MLA Aman Singh re: transportation for Queensborough students attending NWSS is in progress.
- DPAC has also helped to write 6 special resolutions for submission to BC CPAC for inclusion in our 2023 AGM which will be held in May. The resolutions address bylaws and policies regarding increased transparency, communication between BC CPAC and members DPAC and PACs in defining key position roles within the BC CPAC governance structure.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley

- Kristie provided a brief overview of the NWSS bathroom fire incident that occurred on February 24th. She also noted that additional bathrooms had been blocked off due to vandalism. Consultation has been completed, and video cameras will be installed over spring break. Phones have also been added to classrooms to improve the safety for students and teachers, and will provide additional ability for teachers to communicate directly with the office/administration if there is an issue. The phones will go live after spring break.
- Kristie noted other highlights including an opportunity to meet with a number of Teacher Librarians re: the work taking place to create Kits to go with the Districts Goal of numeracy this year. These kits which are full of materials (e.g., manipulatives) will be distributed to the elementary schools.

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.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Chair Dhaliwal acknowledged the Ltr from Mayor Johnstone re: Child Care Protocol, and stated that it will be discussed further down on the Agenda.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. The next EPPC & OPPC Meetings will be held on April 11, 2023.

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf reported that he continues to participate in his 'school learning plan visits.' On February 7th & 8th he participated in a 2-day in-service with Equitas training as part of the District's commitment to anti-racist training. Hachlaf stated that he will report back on both items at our next Open Board meeting which will be held on April 25th.

i. Report on Civic Committees – SD40 Staff Representative (K. Hachlaf)

- Superintendent Hachlaf provided an updated list on the Civic Committees which is part of our workplan, and the annual report that is governed by the City. The report contains the District's Staff Representatives, Mandates, and Summaries.
- Trustee Sluis inquired as to why the District does not currently have representation on two other Civic Committees which are the Advisory Planning Commission, and the Arts Advisory Committee. She further stated that these two Committees could potentially have some crossover and collaboration with the Board and District. Superintendent Hachlaf stated that he would seek clarification to see if there is an opportunity for the Board and District to be part of these two committees and will report back.

b. Budget to Actual Financial Results (B. Ketcham)

- Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided a brief overview of the budget actual reports for the end of 2023; in follow-up to the amended budget approval that the Board had made at the Open Board meeting on February 21, 2023.
- Things are tracking as anticipated and all is looking well.

c. 2023-2024 District Calendar (M. Naser)

Associate Superintendent Naser shared that no feedback was received in the timeline allotted for the 2022-2023 District Calendar. She noted that she had received one response today, in which a parent put forth the request to consider putting non-instructional days and/or professional days always on Fridays. Naser stated that this is part of the Collective Agreement of the NWTU in which there is a voting procedure for professional day dates.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-025**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2023-24 District Calendar as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Child Care Protocol (Chair Dhaliwal).

- Chair Dhaliwal stated that the renewed Child Care Protocol is in reference to the letter that Mayor Johnstone wrote, and recent conversations that the District has had with the City in regard to improving and collaborating their working relationship in terms of how the District tackles the Child Care crisis in the City.

2023-026

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) accept the invitation to create a renewed childcare protocol between the District and City of New Westminster and that an update be provided to the Board of Education no later than the scheduled June 2023 open board meeting.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Nil.

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in March.

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.

- Kathleen Carlsen: thanked all the staff, students, and volunteers affiliated with 'Shrek the Musical' for putting on such a wonderful performance. She also thanked NWTUs Kristie Oxley for continuing to bring the concerns of NWSS staff re: requests for coverings for the glass windows to the Board.
- James Plett: he was grateful to see the Child Care proposal pass, and stated that it is an important first step in a long journey that began in October 2022. He appreciates the collaborative work of the Board of Education and City Council, and hopes that something purposeful comes from this collaboration.
- Laura Kwong: Laura queried the Board as to how many classrooms at NWSS have blinds, and how many do not. Laura also queried when these blinds would be installed. Superintendent Hachlaf provided a brief overview of the number of classrooms that currently have blinds, and that we currently have 11% of the students' recognizing concerns for additional blinds. Hachlaf stated that he will report back to the Board after the consultation is complete with a plan via the superintendent recommendation to the Board' after the March spring break. The Board will pass the final budget in May 2023.

12. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 11, 2022: Education Policy & Planning Committee – 3:30 pm – In-person.

Tuesday, April 11, 2022: Operations Policy & Planning Committee – (Hybrid)
(SBO/Virtual)

Tuesday, April 25, 2023: School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm – SBO

Reminders:

International Women’s Day – Wednesday, March 8th

World Autism Day – Sunday, April 2nd

Earth Day – Saturday, April 22

BCSTA Provincial Council & AMG – April 27-30

District Volunteer Recognition – Thursday, April 20th

13. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the February 21, 2023, In-Camera Meeting

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer