

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

**Tuesday, April 25, 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
 CUPE: 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 7:00 pm.

**2023-027
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the April 25, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

i. March 7, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**2023-028
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for March 7, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Sarah Weathered & Erica Bigland (CUPE 409) – National Day of Mourning.

On behalf of the New Westminster District Labour Council, Sarah and Erica read a statement in commemoration of the National Day of Mourning. For the full statement, please refer to meeting [video](#) at [7:02 pm]

- b. 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget Stakeholder Presentations.
To view the presentations please refer to the meeting [video](#) at [7:10 pm].

- i. Laura Kwong, Chair - District Parent Advisor Council (DPAC).

DPAC priority areas were identified via survey feedback from parents and caregivers. A request for funding initiatives and support was noted for areas that had alignment with Board strategic priorities.

- ii. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Dave Bollen, President CUPE 409 shared the Local's priorities.

- iii. New Westminster Teachers Union (NWTU).

Kristie Oxley, NWTU President highlighted the results that were delivered to their members and identified NWTU priorities.

- iv. Indigenous Advisory Committee, Connie Swan, District Vice-Principal Indigenous Education.

Chair Dhaliwal acknowledged the submission of the Indigenous Education Department Budget priorities for 2023-24 in Connie's absence. To review this submission please refer to pages 23-28 of this evening's *Agenda*.

- v. Principal Ken Millard, Lord Kelvin, spoke on behalf of the NWPVPs and requested the funding initiatives and support for NWPVP priorities.

- vi. Student Voice - Stacy Brine

Secretary-Treasurer, Bettina Ketcham shared the Student Voice budget priorities for 2023-24 in Stacy's absence. Highlights of the feedback was received from the Student Symposium held on March 23, 2023.

Chair Dhaliwal thanked the stakeholder groups for joining tonight's Board meeting, and for their participation in the budget consultations that were held last week. They look forward to considering all the options presented. The Superintendent recommendations will be shared at the next OPPC held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. *The 3rd and final recommendation to pass the Budget will be presented at our next Open Board on May 23, 2023.*

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

- DPAC Chair Laura Kwong highlighted the priorities she initially spoke to under the 2023-24 preliminary budget stakeholder presentation, and questions still outstanding regarding increased FTE hours for EAs and custodians, increased access to mental health and wellness for students, student safety including full frosting on all windows at NWSS, follow-up and consequences for assault, harassment and violent behaviour that is happening in our schools, and safe & reliable transportation options for students.
- Policy #7 - 11.1.2 - a request for clarification re: proposed changes.
- New West Schools website - a request to the Communications staff to update the site by the removal of the PNO group as it no longer exists.
- BC DPAC AGM will be held from May 6th to 8th.

Chair Dhaliwal spoke to DPACs request re: clarification to Policy #7 - 11.1.2. The change to Policy #7 was proposed by Superintendent Hachlaf as the change is consistent with a number of other school districts and general public organizations, including municipalities. Incoming correspondence is not necessarily publicized if it does not relate to the agenda. *The purpose of correspondence is to reach the Board, and the Board does receive and acknowledge all correspondence.*

CUPE 409 President Dave Bollen shared the Local 409 priorities. Currently preparing for the Annual CUPE BC Convention where they will lobby the government for changes to certain policies such as lift time, more time for EAs, trade market adjustments, violence in the workplace, and the right to refuse unsafe work.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President NWTU echoes and supports the priority brought forward by DPAC and Student Voice which is the importance of having the frosted glass installed at NWSS to provide student and staff with a feeling of safety, and eliminate the need to display blinds in the unfortunate case of a lockdown.

- Programs of Choice Review: the focus groups are moving ahead soon, and Associate Superintendent Naser has emailed the dates to all required groups. Kristie stated that she has contacted NWTU members, and they are looking forward for the opportunity to have smaller groups give 'their voice' for this review.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting. Members of the public voiced concerns regarding discussions by the Board of Education regarding proposed changes to Board Operations Policy #7; the comment & question period time limit; 2023-24 budget and online survey; for SD40 to make more of an effort towards climate change; for the time limits to speak for DPAC, CUPE, and NWTU be increased from 3 minutes to 5 minutes. Please refer to the meeting [video](#) for full comments at [7:50 pm]

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Chair Dhaliwal noted that she appreciates being able to allow for public participation virtually as well, and believes that SD40 Schoolboard is the only Board currently running Hybrid meetings to support public participation, and keeping to comment / question periods. They do a stellar job at keeping tabs with our public and our community, and we bring this to the decisions that we make. Thank you to the Board and to the Superintendent for the suggestions that he has offered.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, April 11, 2023.

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.

Trustee Andres provided highlights, and thanked the students of the three middle schools for their leadership which makes their schools better, and a more inclusive and welcoming space with their admin and teachers.

ii. Approval of the April 11, 2023 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-029**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the April 11, 2023, Education Policy & Planning Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, April 11, 2023.

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell.

ii. Approval of the April 11, 2023 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-030**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the April 11, 2023, Operations Policy & Planning Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. Board and Committee Meeting Calendar (B. Ketcham).

Secretary-Treasurer, Bettina Ketcham presented the Board and Committee Meeting calendar for September 2023 to June 2024. *Questions and discussion ensued.*

**Moved and Seconded
2023-031**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Board and Committee Meeting Calendar 2023-2024 as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iv. Policy 7 Board Operations (Chair Dhaliwal).

Superintendent Hachlaf provided a brief update regarding Policy 7 Board Operations.

Questions and discussion ensued.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-032**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the proposed revisions and updates to Policy 7 Board Operations as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- a. Trevor Gee, Program Manager presented on the International Education Annual Report for April 2023. Highlights: 2022-2023 began with the largest intake of students in the 36-year history of the international program; the launch of their new logo and brochure is available in nine languages; 2022-23 saw a return to the countries whose students make up the majority of their one year and graduating students. They continue to actively market their programs in other countries, and this year they had the opportunity to visit Italy, China, Vietnam, Korea, Japan and Thailand. *To review the full presentation, refer to the meeting [video](#) at 8:27 pm.* Questions and discussion ensued.
- b. 2023-24 Budget Consultation & Survey Results (B. Ketcham)
 - Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham reviewed the graph results of the 963 responses received for the 2023-2024 Budget Survey. The survey was guided from the 2019-2024 strategic plan. The survey was open for two weeks and closed on April 25th which revealed that 83% support the overall direction of the District.
- b. Capital Plan Response Bylaw: Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham stated that unanimous consent is required for all three readings for the Capital Bylaw to be approved.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-033**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) complete all three readings of Capital Bylaw No. 2023/24 - CPSD40-01.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Moved and Seconded
2023-034**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve first and second reading of Capital Bylaw No. 2023/24 - CPSD40-01.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Moved and Seconded
2023-035**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve third reading, reconsideration and final adoption of Capital Bylaw No. 2023/24 - CPSD40-01.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided an update on the following activities:

- District Professional Day (April 25th): celebrated at NWSS Grand Commons with a Welcome and Land Acknowledgement with Chief Rhonda Larrabee and Connie Swan, prayer and drumming with Glen Williams, opening remarks with Superintendent Hachlaf, two Keynote speakers: Dr. Gwen Point; and the Honourable Steven Point; and a fashion show.
- Anti-Racism: Resource Guide & Training - Hachlaf stated that this topic will become a standing item within his Superintendent updates. Online modules will be released shortly, and a 'Resource Guide to Racial Justice with a 'human rights-based approach' will also become available. Their Principals and Vice-Principals have also participated in administrative training on this topic.
- Racial Equity Summit for Black Youth: Ken Headley, and Beth Applewhite cohosted this event at Byrne Creek Secondary School on Thursday, March 30th.
- Ministry Peer Review: In 2022, the District was selected to be part of the external peer review team. They are impressed on how the District analyses their data and how they are using this data to inform their practice, consult with their community, and how this drives their budget process. The Ministry has asked SD40 to present & be a role model to other districts at the May session.
- Douglas College Success Report: celebrating our students and their success at other academic environments. Academic success with 69 students on the honour roll, 22 students on the Dean's list, 56 students applied for graduation, and NWSS received scholarships and awards totalling: \$75K.

i. Communication Survey Results (K. Keighley-Wight)

- Communications Manager Keighley-Wight provided a brief overview of the survey results. The goal of the survey was to assess the tools and the content that the District currently uses to communicate with parents and families within the community (e.g., what is working and what isn't). *Consensus*: Parents prefer clear and concise mobile friendly correspondence. *Next steps*: to slowly improve the tools we have in place.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Policy 8 Board Operations (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided an update re: the proposed revisions to Policy 8 Board Operations, which were made in conjunction with Policy #7.

Discussion ensued.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-036**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the proposed revisions and updates to Policy 8 Board operations as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. OLD BUSINESS

Nil.

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in April.

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](#) at [9:50 pm] for full comments.

12. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- Tuesday, May 2, 2023 Education Policy & Planning Committee, 3:30 pm at NWSS.
- Tuesday, May 2, 2023 Operations Policy & Planning Committee, 6:30 pm (Hybrid) (Virtual/SBO)
- Tuesday, May 23, 2023 School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm - (Hybrid) (Virtual/SBO)

Events:

- Admin Professionals' Day- April 26, 2023
- Attend and participate in BCSTA Provincial Council & AGM - April 27th to April 30, 2023
- National Day of Mourning - April 28, 2023
- Asian Heritage Month - May 2023
- BC Child Care Month - May 2023
- Principals and Vice-Principals Appreciation Day - May 2023
- Red Dress Day and the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls - May 5, 2023
- International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia - May 17, 2023

13. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the March 7, 2023 In-Camera Meeting.
- b. Record of the April 11, 2023 Special In-Camera Meeting.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer