

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

**Tuesday, May 23, 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: Janet Kinneard, Vice-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.

**2023-039
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the May 23, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

 i. April 25, 2023.

**2023-040
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for April 25, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- ii. May 2, 2023, Special Open Board Meeting

2023-041

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for May 2, 2023, Special Open School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Scott Rains (NWSS Sr. Student) - May Day Youth Committee.

Scott Rains, New Westminster May Day Youth Committee lead, provided a comprehensive overview of the history, tradition, and celebration of the May Day event. The 153rd May Day Celebration will be held this Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 3:00 pm at Queen's Park Stadium in New Westminster. *To view the full presentation, please refer to the meeting [video](#) at the [44 second mark].*

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

DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair

- DPAC attended the BCCPACs Parent Education Conference & AGM. DPAC held its AGM last week.
- DPAC Chair stated that there is a need for school districts and the Ministry to collaboratively and quickly develop comprehensive extreme heat and air quality management plans.

CUPE 409: Janet Kinneard, Vice-President

- CUPE 409 participated in the recent CLC convention in Montreal and the CUPE BC convention in Victoria.
- CUPE is currently waiting on a draft copy of their ratified collective agreement.
- CUPE shared feedback about superintendent recommendations.
- CUPE urges the school board to act quickly on practical solutions to cooling schools.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

- Kristie thanked the Trustees and the School Board for their prompt response to the three letters they received from NWTU last week.
- She also spoke to the current heat issues in many of the district schools including NWSS, Skwo:wech and the portables.
- A parent voiced a concern which was redirected to Superintendent Hachlaf who stated that he will follow-up with the parent directly to acquire the details of the incidents, and will support her through the District's process.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting with staff responding where appropriate. *To view the full comment and question period, please refer to the meeting [video](#) at the [14 minute mark].*

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, May 2, 2023.

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.
Trustee Andres provided highlights and stated that the last EPPC meeting was eventful and positive. He thanked long-time teacher and coordinator Stacy Brine for her positive impact and incredible service with both the students and within the community; she will leaving her current role.
- ii. Approval of the May 2, 2023 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-042**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the May 2, 2023, Education Policy & Planning Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, May 2, 2023.

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell.

Trustee Russell provided highlights and stated that she appreciated the number of reports that were presented. The updated forecast for the current fiscal year predicted an original deficit of \$564K, which will be reduced by half.
- ii. Approval of the April May 2, 2023 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-043**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the May 2, 2023, Operations Policy & Planning Meeting.

TABLED

Trustee Connelly stated that she had received notice from the DPAC Chair with some concern about how her position on the child care options were conveyed in the Operation Policy & Planning Minutes of May 2, 2023. *Questions and discussion ensued.*

Chair Dhaliwal put forth the motion to table the above noted concern, and requested that the recording secretary review the recording of the minutes, and report back at the next Board meeting.

7. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Summer Temperatures:

Hachlaf thanked the public for their correspondence relating to the heat, and reported on the short-term measures they are currently applying. He confirmed that their team has met with Ministry staff, and they are working together to determine available cooling options. Hachlaf will provide future updates as they relate to conversations with the Ministry.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham, stated that she is working with Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects, and Matt Brito, Director of Facilities, to mitigate the extreme heat situation in their school district classrooms. Last week at Skwo:wech they were able to successfully recalibrate the air source heat pump which provided some relief from the hot building temperatures. Based on calibrations and hard work with their engineers they were able to lower the temperature to 24-25 degrees. Ketcham stated they will continue to monitor conditions and report back.

Administrative Procedures (K. Hachlaf)

Hachlaf stated that the administrative procedures re: weather protocols are deficient as they focus on winter weather, and not on the extreme heat temperatures that we are currently experiencing. Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham is currently working with her team to revise the Districts weather protocols so they align with the new emerging weather conditions of extreme heat.

2023-24 Administrative Assignments

- An internal memo was sent out last week which welcomed new and returning administrative and exempt staff.
- Upcoming District Event:
 - QayQayt Honoring and Rite of Passage Ceremony: May 30th
 - Annual Retirement Recognition Dinner: June 13th

b. 2023-24 Budget Update (Verbal) (B. Ketcham)

Ketcham stated that superintendent recommendations were presented on May 2, 2023. To date they have not heard back from the Ministry of Education re: any additional funding announcements for the principal, vice-principal, and exempt staff funding. The preliminary budgets are not due to be submitted to the Ministry of Education until June 30th.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-044**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) Postpone 3rd and final reading of the 2023-24 budget bylaw no later than June 20, 2023 to allow further funding information from the Ministry to be announced and budget updated accordingly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. NWSS Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf noted that there were a number of questions that were posed during the Superintendent recommendations as it relates to NWSS and the frosting of the glass for privacy. Hachlaf confirmed that the partial frosting of the interior facing glass classroom walls that overlook common spaces will be covered from the ground to 5-1/2 feet high; students will not be able to see the hallway traffic from a sitting position. The frosting of the glass will be completed over the summer months.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nil

9. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in May.

10. **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 [1 hr - 25 minute mark] for full comments.

11. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Tuesday, June 6, 2023: Education Policy & Planning Committee, 3:30 pm - Hybrid (SBO & Zoom Link).

Tuesday, June 6, 2023: Operations Policy & Planning Committee, 6:30 pm - Hybrid (SBO & Zoom Link).

Tuesday, June 20, 2023: School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm - Hybrid (SBO & Zoom Link).

Reminder

- Asian Heritage Month – May
- BC Child Care Month - May International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17, 2023.
- National Indigenous History Month – June.
- Pride Month - June Annual Retirement Dinner, Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 5:30 pm New Westminster Quay.
- National Indigenous People's Day - June 21, 2023.

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

- a. Record of the April 25, 2023 In-Camera Meeting.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer