

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

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 7:00 PM
Via Zoom Link**

PRESENT Maya Russell, Chair
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee
Danielle Connelly, Trustee
Elliott Slinn, Trustee
Cheryl Sluis, Trustee
Marc Andres, 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
Laura Goodman, Recording Secretary

REGRETS Dee Beattie, Trustee

Members of the Public
DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair
CUPE: Dave Bollen, President
NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

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.

2023-047

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the June 20, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Russell made a short statement to the Board and Members of the Public regarding Trustee Dee Beattie. To view the full statement, please refer to the meeting video at [7:01 pm].

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

i. May 23, 2023 Open Board Meeting

2023-048

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for May 23, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- ii. June 6, 2023 Special Open Board Meeting

2023-049

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for June 6, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Decolonizing the School Library Learning Commons at NWSS.

Sarah Wethered, Lisa Seddon, & Jenny Chang presented their report on Decolonizing School Library Learning Commons to the Board of Education.

Highlights: the three presenters spoke to the history and the purpose of the New Westminster Schools library catalogues, and the reasons behind 'Decolonizing their library catalogues from the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) to a modified version of the Brian Dee Classification. *To view the full presentation, please refer to the meeting video at [7:04 pm].*

- b. Rick Bloudell, Manager of Community Projects & Partnerships – New West Schools.

Bloudell presented an update on the Fuel Up! Project, and noted that this lunch program has more than doubled over the last three years; in particular with subsidized meals. The growth in this program has made it crucial for the New West Schools to continue to evaluate this program to ensure the needs of students and families continue to be met. *To view the full presentation, please refer to the meeting video at [7:25 pm].*

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

Chair Russell read a statement regarding meeting protocols and expectations for participant decorum.

DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair

- Laura shared a statement from DPAC to the Board which was prepared in response to the situation regarding Trustee Dee Beattie. For the complete statement and response please refer to the [video](#) at [7:38 pm].

CUPE 409: Dave Bollen, President

- Bollen stated that CUPE 409 does not condone the actions of Trustee Beattie.
- Bollen stated that CUPE 409 expressed concern over no dedicated space at NWSS for the Child and Youth Care workers in September 2023. Superintendent Hachlaf stated that the Board has made an investment in the Child and Youth Care workers; in particular at NWSS by increasing this valuable support. Hachlaf also noted that there will be upcoming meetings and opportunities to connect, and speak to these scenarios and options further before the end of the school year.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

- Kristie stated that NWTU was disturbed to hear about the actions of Trustee Dee Beattie.
- Kristie also expressed concerns over Child and Youth Care Workers time allocations across the District.

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 [7:36 pm].*

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, June 6, 2023.

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.

Trustee Andres provided highlights and stated that there were amazing presentations by the Monkey Rebel Club and teacher Angela Jurgensen from Glenbrook Middle School. They presented Make New Westminster a 15-minute City. The Club will be presenting this motion to New Westminster City Council on Monday, June 12, 2023.

ii. Approval of the June 6, 2023 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

Moved and Seconded

2023-050

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the June 6, 2023, Education Policy & Planning Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. Inclusive Education (M. Andres)

Moved and Seconded

2023-051

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.40 (New Westminster) direct staff to present an action plan on the continuation of the Inclusive Education Plan, including a parent survey to assess District progress towards key themes and objectives at the January 2024 meeting of the Education Policy and Planning Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. Advocacy Assessment Wait Times (D. Connelly)

Trustee Connelly noted that the Advocacy Assessment was brought forward from the BC Schools Trustee Association (BCSTA) and AGM to the Board to amplify the voices calling for the assessment wait times; thereby having these wait times shortened dramatically.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-052**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster), advocate to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Child and Family Development, and Ministry of Education and Childcare to reduce wait times for students who have been identified as requiring educational assessments.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, June 6, 2023.

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Russell.
- ii. Approval of the May 2, 2023 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-053**

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. Approval of the June 6, 2023 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-054**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the June 6, 2023, Operations Policy & Planning Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iv. 2023-24 Board Annual Work Plan (B. Ketcham)

**Moved and Seconded
2023-055**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Board Annual Workplan for the 2023-24 school year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Good things are happening... year in review. Superintendent Hachlaf highlighted the Districts successes from the 2022-2023 school year.

- EGMS Monkey Rebels completed their presentation at Council on June 2nd regarding their advocacy for 15-Minute Cities.
- Vaisakhi Celebration at Queensborough Middle School.
- Discovery NWSS event held mid-year which highlighted the diverse range of programs from K-12; over 1,300 individuals were in attendance.
- Kwantlen First Nation Elinor Atkins is currently working on designing the new Skwo:wech logo. Elinor also created the murals at Skwo:wech Elementary and the Wellness Centre.
- Indigenous professional day and fashion show.
- Anti-racism committee has been reinitiated.
- Program of Choice review report will be brought back to the Board in the fall.
- NWSS deconstruction of the old secondary school site – an end of an era.
- Successful Inclusion of ALL students: the 3-year inclusive education work and review has been completed.
- Graduates: congratulations to all the students who are graduating this year; a good opportunity to celebrate their young adults.
- Summer programs are in full force with high registration enrollment.

Trustee Sluis stated that more consideration is required in the planning of future events across the School District to avoid date and time conflicts for families who have more than one child in a New Westminster school.

b. Childcare Guiding Principles Work with the City of New West (I. Neilson)

Manager of Early Learning and Childcare Neilson spoke to the Guiding Principals for Child Care between the District, and the City of New Westminster. She has worked collaboratively with City staff to prepare a new draft of Childcare Guiding Principles that was presented and shared with Trustees. Next steps are to collect any feedback from Trustees and City Councillors. Based on this feedback the document will be revised and updated accordingly for endorsement by the Board and Council in September 2023.

c. 2024-25 Five Year Capital Plan (Major Projects) (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham walked through the major capital plan in detail. The plan looks to request over \$300M in major capital projects.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-056**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2024-25 Major Capital Plan for submission to the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- d. Eligible School Site Proposal (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided a brief overview of the ‘Eligible School Site Proposal’ (ESSP), and noted that provincial legislation requires that an ESSP resolution be passed annually by the District, if the school district plans to acquire future school sites. This information is shared with their City partners to inform them of their future land acquisition plans.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-057**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2023-24 Eligible School Site Proposal (ESSP) through adoption of the 2023-24 ESSP Resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- e. AP 132 Extreme Weather and Other Hazards (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided a brief overview of the revised Administrative Procedure AP 132.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Nil

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- a. Sanctuary Schools Report (C. Sluis)

Trustee Cheryl Sluis provided a Sanctuary Schools report to the Board of Education. Highlights:

- A great deal of work has been completed in recent years to refine the implementation of this policy, and to align it with the opening and the development of their welcome centre at NWSS. A new process is in place which allows them to track and monitor how many students and families are being supported by this policy.
- All students registered under the ‘Sanctuary Schools Policy’ before September 29th of a school year are eligible to claim for Ministry funding; all students registered after September 29th are eligible for funding in the following year.

To view the full presentation, please refer to the meeting [video](#) at the [9:16 pm].

- b. Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in June. Please refer to the meeting [video](#) at [9:22 pm] for full comments.

At 9:30 pm Chair Russell put forward the motion to extend the meeting to 10:00 pm.

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 [9:33 pm] for full comments.

12. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 26, 2023: School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (Hybrid).

Reminder:

- National Indigenous History Month – June
- Pride Month – June
- National Indigenous People’s Day – June 21
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day – June 27
- Orange Shirt Day – September 30

13. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the May 23, 2023 In-Camera Meeting.
- b. Record of the May 25, 2023 Special In-Camera Meeting.
- c. Record of the June 5, 2023 Special In-Camera Meeting.
- d. Record of June 19, 2023 Special In-Camera Meeting

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer