

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

**Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 7:00 PM
Via Zoom Link**

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

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

Members of the Public
Krista Macaulay, DPAC Treasurer
Kristie Oxley, NWTU 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 7:02 pm.

2023-066

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the October 24, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

i. September 26, 2023, Open Board Meeting

2023-067

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for September 26, 2023, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

4. COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS

DPAC: Krista Macaulay, DPAC Treasurer shared highlights of their recent meeting.

- At DPACs October meeting members passed two motions; one was to write a letter of advocacy re: parent communication procedures during safety incidents, and one was to write a letter re: issues with the District's hot lunch provider.
- Parents shared their value in participating in the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) information sessions.
- DPAC is pleased to learn that the District has referenced the Individual Education Plan (IEP) framework for engagement.
- DPAC would like to add their voice to parent Naomi Perks request this evening, which is for greater visibility re: the district's commitment to supporting SOGI in their schools.
- DPAC shares their excitement in the District's announcement of the Queensborough bus pilot project.
- Parents at FRMS and West End were disappointed to learn that FRMS was not selected as a pilot school for the walking school bus.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

- Kristie thanked the HR Department for their ongoing effort to recruit and hire teachers, and were pleased to learn that a couple of classes at Lord Tweedsmuir that were initially filled by redeployed facilitators has now been filled with teachers. NWTU appreciate the advocacy of their Board to continue to review this issue and express the need for additional teachers.
- NWTU will meet later this week at NWSS to discuss timetable changes, and will provide future updates.
- NWTU stated they were surprised to learn of another resignation within the District's senior administration team and are eager to see who will fill these District positions.

Superintendent Hachlaf noted that Rhonda Jones is the successful candidate for Director of Instruction for Inclusive Education, and will be starting in her new role in early November. The Director of Instruction for Learning and Innovation interview process has begun; and the Associate Superintendent position has just been posted. More updates to follow.

New Westminster Parent, Naomi Perks

Naomi spoke to current concerns within the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

- Naomi stated that last week she had the privilege of addressing City Council to urge them to make New Westminster the most inclusive 2SLGBTQ+ community in Canada; and stated that she has come to the Board this evening with the following two requests: 1) That the District raise a progressive Pride flag at each school district facility, and 2) That the District provide Trans competency training at least once a year to staff, teachers, administrators, TTOCs, and students. Naomi noted that they are at a critical juncture where the District must be proactive in demonstrating their commitment to

inclusion and diversity, as doing so has the potential to make a profound impact on their schools, and most importantly, the lives of their students.

Trustee Sluis acknowledged Naomi's contributions and continued advocacy for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Sluis also spoke about pride month being an opportunity to celebrate the love, diversity, and connection to 2SLGBTQ+ people in their community. Education is a key component to ensuring that homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination ends. It is incumbent upon their schools and their District to lead this work. The need to ensure that students know that their schools are safe places which is clear when they arrive at any of their schools, they know they belong, and that they are in a place that can celebrate who they love, and be who they are. Offering support during pride month is not enough, and the District needs to renew their commitment to fight against fear and violence, for security equality, and for freedom from discrimination. Trustee Sluis requested that her fellow trustees support the following recommendation.

**Moved and Seconded
2023-068**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) reiterate its ongoing and unequivocal commitment to safe and welcoming learning and working environments for 2SLGBTQ+ students, staff and families, and

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to explore options for increasing visibility of the District support for our 2SLGBTQ+ community at and in our schools and offices, and

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to ensure that 2SLGBTQ+ and gender inclusive training for educators and support staff at district-run professional development days is prioritized.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Kathleen Carlsen, Member of the public.

- Kathleen spoke to the recent New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) incident and calls for improved school communication.

The public was given the opportunity to the public to provide comments on items directly related to the agenda with staff responding where appropriate. To view the first full comment and question period, please refer to the meeting [video](#) at [7:03 pm].

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, October 10, 2023.
- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.

Trustee Andres provided brief highlights of the meeting which included:

- NWSS update re: capacity issues: A public town hall will be held on Wednesday, October 25th and Andres encouraged everyone to participate. An update will be provided at the next EPPC meeting on November 14th, followed with a proposal being presented to the Board at the Open Board meeting on December 12th; at which time the Board will decide the best course of action.
 - Andres was pleased to introduce a new member of their team, Amy Laidlaw, Coordinator of Indigenous Curriculum and Transitions. Amy's focus will be on improving Indigenous graduation outcomes for their students, and decolonizing the Curriculum.
- ii. Approval of the October 10, 2023 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

2023-069

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the Education Policy and Planning Committee held on October 10, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, October 10, 2023.
- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly.

Trustee Connelly provided brief highlights of the meeting, and recommended that individuals review the October 10th agenda package, if they are interested in learning what the District is doing to manage capacity issues. Connelly noted that it contains a lot of the information that was covered at the two Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) Information sessions held on October 3rd and 5th, 2023 which she was able to participate in.

- ii. Approval of the October 10, 2023 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2023-070

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the Operations Policy and Planning Committee held on October 10, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- iii. Approval of the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP)

Chair Russell provided an overview of the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) process, and noted that the Board of Education held an intensive LRFP workshop on the plan, followed by a Board discussion at the Operations Policy and Planning meeting held on October 10, 2023. The District also held two information sessions; October 3rd at NWSS (in-person), and October 5th (virtual) to ensure their community understands the direction they are taking with this plan. Russell noted that this item was brought forward to the Board this evening for a final adoption of the updated plan which comes with a commitment to update and / or to refresh the LRFP every 18 months to 2 years.

2023-071

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2023 Long Range Facilities plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

Superintendent Hachlaf provided an update on the following activities:

- Acknowledgement of September 30th as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and Orange Shirt Week which encompassed activities at all schools within their District.
- Superintendent Hachlaf, and the Board of Education acknowledged World Teachers Day which was held on October 5th. Hachlaf noted that it was a pleasure for him to visit different school classrooms over the last six weeks, and wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude to the teachers, staff, and educators within their school district for their continued support with our students.
- October Staff Learning Events: District wide event in which many of their staff participated in an array of professional development opportunities which are tied to the Districts initiatives and strategic directions more explicitly.
- Pro-D Day on November 14th: The focus for all staff is towards, diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism. Part of the District's commitment to building meaningful and critical learning opportunities for staff. Hachlaf stated that he will provide an update re: these learning experiences at the next Open Board meeting on November 28, 2023.

b. Bank Signing Authority (B. Ketcham) 8:00 PM

Moved and Seconded

2023-072

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster)'s bank signing authorities Trustee Maya Russell and Trustee Cheryl Sluis, Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent; and Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer be approved;

AND FURTHER that effective immediately, bank signing authority Gurveen Dhaliwal former Chair, be removed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Queensborough Bussing (Verbal) (B. Ketcham)

- Secretary-Treasurer noted that on October 26, 2023, the Province announced up to \$1.6 million for dedicated school bus funding for Queensborough resident students to NWSS. It is a pilot project; the grant will be provided in January 2024 for service to commence at this time.

Funding Requirements for this bus service will include the need to charge families \$30 per student/per month. Registration for this program is currently open to students, and will remain open until November 3rd; to date approximately 160 students have registered. The District would like to communicate all the necessary information to families before winter break so they can make their plans prior to the start of January.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Trustee By-Election (M. Russell)

**Moved and Seconded
2023-073**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) provide notice per section 36(3) of the School Act to advise the City of New Westminster of the resignation of Trustee Dee Beattie from her position which will necessitate a by-election.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Trustee School Assignments (M. Russell)

Chair Russell spoke to the updated Trustee Committee Assignments presented for October 24, 2023; a result of the District's latest elections and include all of the committees where Trustees are representing the Board. Chair Russell noted that the Trustee Assignment list will be sent out to all their organizations and school principals.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in October.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting. Members of the public voiced their concerns to the Board of Education on the following topics; By-election costs, Queensborough bussing, and government grant applications. Please refer to the meeting [video](#) at the [8:00 pm] for full comments.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting at 3:30 pm. Location: Lord Kelvin Elementary.
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm – In-person & Virtual
- Tuesday, November 28, 2023 – Board Meetings (Open Board) 7:00 pm – In-person.

Events:

- National Custodian Appreciation Day – Monday, October 2, 2023.
- Recognize World Teachers' Day – Thursday, October 5, 2023.

- World Mental Health Day – Tuesday, October 10, 2023 Represent Board at the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council Meeting – Friday, October 20 – Saturday, October 21, 2023.
- Indigenous focused professional development • Canada School Library Day – Monday, October 23, 2023.

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of the September 26, 2023 In-Camera Meeting.
- b. Record of the October 5, 2023 Special In-Camera Meeting.
- c. Record of the October 10, 2023 Special In-Camera Meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer