

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

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 7:00 PM
In-Person and Via Zoom Link

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

Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
Julie Pearce, Interim Associate Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Weston, Executive Director, HR
Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects
Amy Grey, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Laura Goodman, Recording Secretary

Members of the Public
Laura Kwong, DPAC Chair
Dave Bollen, CUPE 409 President
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.

2024-001

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the January 30, 2024, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

i. Open Board Meeting held Tuesday, December 12, 2024.

Trustee Connelly put forward the following Amendments to the Minutes of meeting.

1. That the following words 'Extracurricular Business Audit' be changed to read 'Extracurricular Athletics Audit' (p.8).
2. That the following comments from DPAC Chair, Laura Kwong (p.2) do not include the name of the funding party. "Walking School Bus Pilot: DPAC noted that they were surprised to learn that this project was funded from September to December 2023 only by the City of New Westminister, and not the entire school year."

Secretary-Treasurer, Bettina Ketcham, clarified that the school bus funding for the months January to June 2024 will be a shared cost between the City of New Westminster and the District.

2024-002

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for Tuesday, December 12, 2024, Regular School Board meeting.

Chair Russell put forward the Motion to adopt the meeting minutes as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes0.
Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Delegation Presentation - Musical Theatre Program & Administrative Procedure 520 (Verbal) (J. Campbell & J. Vander Zalm).
- The delegation provided a comprehensive overview to the Board regarding the New Westminster Secondary Musical Theatre Program, which included its history, leadership, fundraising activities, and student educational opportunities. Concerns regarding recent updates to Administrative Procedure 520 were brought forward to the Board for consultation with the following requests: That the consultation process, and all updates to AP 520 be clearly documented, and presented, in addition to, DPAC, PAC's, and other stakeholder groups which include music auxiliary, sport groups and/or any other groups who fundraise, collect sponsors and/or donations.
 - *Chair Russell did clarify that the process around AP 520 did originate in Board feedback when they reviewed their budget financial statements. On Tuesday, January 30th the Board of Education distributed correspondence to all those concerned regarding a set timeline for consultation and feedback.*
 - *Chair Russell acknowledged and thanked teachers, staff, students, and volunteers for their incredible hard work. She further stated that the Board holds the NWSS musical theatre program in very high esteem, and they are incredibly proud of both the musical theatre program and the music program, and all of the District's art education programs. The Board is open to ways in which they can provide more tangible support for these programs.*

Questions, and discussion ensued.

To view the full presentation, please refer to the meeting video at [\[7:06 p.m.\]](#).

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

DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair

- Trustee By-Election: DPAC thanked NWSS Student Voice volunteers for their support in planning and executing their all candidates debate for the Trustee By-Election.
- Administrative Procedures: Kwong was pleased to report that she had been notified earlier today that engagement with PACs is now planned regarding revisions to AP 520. DPAC requests that the Board of Education direct staff to review the misalignment between the stated intent of these AP changes and their potential actual impacts. They also encourage all PACs to provide feedback to the Secretary-Treasurer.
- IAP2 Spectrum: DPAC requested notification of how many District staff and Trustees have completed or are in the process of completing IAP2 Spectrum training.
- Cell Phone Restriction by September 2024: DPAC requests that consultative engagement with DPAC, PACs, and families occur prior to the District formulating a Policy, restricting the use of cell phones in New Westminster Schools.

CUPE 409 Dave Bollen, President

- Dave reiterated the Board's condolences to Chief Rhonda Larrabee and family members.
- CUPE 409 delegates will participate in this year's CUPE BC Convention in April.
- CUPE 409 has signed and distributed the Collective Agreement from 2022-2025.
- CUPE 409 has passed new bylaws re: adding an Indigenous seat to their executive.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

- Kristie reiterated the importance of the Musical Theatre Program and endorsed the points brought forward by the delegation.
- Cell Phone Restrictions: Kristie spoke to the possible impact on the number of student devices that the District may have to provide as a result of the new cell phone restrictions at New Westminster Schools in the fall.
- NWTU appreciates that the Board has extended the AP 520 consultation, and for their Advocacy plan that will be brought forward and discussed at a later date.
- NWTU reiterated the Board's condolences to Chief Rhonda Larrabee and family.

Discussion ensued and questions were answered by Chair Russell, and Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham.

Chair Russell put forth the request to the Board at 8:09 p.m., if they would like to continue with the Q&A, as there were members of the public who wished to speak and had not had the opportunity to do so. The Board agreed to continue to hear two more speakers.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on items related to the agenda with staff responding where appropriate. To view the full comment and question period, please refer to the meeting video at [\[7:39 pm\]](#).

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil.

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, January 16, 2024.

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.

Trustee Andres provided brief highlights of the meeting.

ii. Approval of the January 16, 2024, Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

2024-003

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 January 16, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, January 16, 2024.

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly.

Trustee Connelly provided brief highlights of the meeting.

ii. Approval of the January 16, 2024, Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

2024-004

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 January 16, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

School Learning Plans: Superintendent Hachlaf continues to participate in 'school learning plan visits. Themes include: Social Emotional Learning, Growth Mindset, Literacy, Numeracy, and Outdoor Learning. The Superintendent shared some brief examples of goals put forward by Ecole Qayqayt, Fraser River Middle and Queensborough Middle

Safety in Schools:

- Superintendent Hachlaf’s update last month highlighted quantitative survey data explicitly around how students feel safe and welcomed at their schools, and how many feel connected to trusted adults. Hachlaf reiterated that overall, their District data is good, and aligns with provincial averages; however, the District remains unsatisfied if any student feels unsafe and/or not connected.
- Hachlaf noted that he participated in a meeting last month in which schools shared the explicit strategies they are taking within their schools towards safety action plans and how they continue to engage with students, staff, and parents. Hachlaf will continue to provide updates on Middle and Secondary School collaborations via Student Safety Action Plans that include students, staff, and parents; Staff Reports to the Board, and the Budget process as all quantitative and qualitative data is helpful to the District when they consider where they will continue to invest in the next fiscal year.

i. Mentorship Program Update (P. Pain) – 8:49

Patricia Pain, Teacher, and Curriculum Facilitator for Mentorship at New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) provided a comprehensive overview of what the mentorship program resembles in SD40 Schools. Teachers volunteer their time to support ‘early career teachers’ on their unique professional journey to help them facilitate their careers. Teachers have shifted the way in which they practice, and students are positively impacted in a way they did not expect. They are currently in their fourth year with forty-two official mentors and three unofficial mentors. The program began with thirty-five members including other volunteers: a total of 105 members in all and growing.

To review the ‘Mentorship Program’ presentation in its entirety refer to the video at [\[8:49 pm\]](#).

Chair Russell thanked Patricia for her leadership in this incredibly important work, and stated that her presentation captures the positive effect on student engagement.

Chair Russell put forward the Motion to recess at 9:07 p.m. for 5 minutes.

Chair Russell reconvened the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

j. Approve Budget Development Process and Timelines (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham presented the draft proposal for the budget process for the 2024-25 school year, and stated that the timeline and process is consistent with that of prior years.

Trustee Connelly inquired as to why the 2024-25 Budget did not include Board In-Service information as it had in previous years. Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham noted that the information provided this evening represents the public timeline. An internal timeline in which they complete their internal processes and consultations with their management teams will include a Board In-Service and is currently slated for April 9th.

2024-005

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2024-25 budget process and timeline as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Annual Trustee Remuneration Review (M. Russell)

Trustees provided their rationale as to why they are in favour and/or opposed to an Annual Trustee Remuneration.

2024-006

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) apply an increase of 3.34% to existing Trustee remuneration effective July 1, 2024.

Trustee Connelly put forward the following Amendment to the Motion to add 'as per Board Policy 7'.

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) apply an increase of 3.34% to existing Trustee remuneration effective July 1, 2024, as per Board Policy 7.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Board 2024 Advocacy Plan (Draft) (M. Russell & C. Sluis)

Chair Russell and Vice-Chair Sluis provided an update on the Board's 2024 Advocacy Draft Plan. *Items of discussion included:* The Strategic Plan; Annual Board Self-Assessment and Strategic Plan Implementation, Advocacy Plan Framework and Goals, Student Funding, Capital Projects, Diverse Learners / ELL Students, Mental Health, and Child Care.

The Board identified the following six goals they would like to achieve through Advocacy:

1. Raise awareness of the need to increase basic student funding.
2. Expedite approval of capital funding.
3. Secure capital funding required to begin to equip schools re: demands of climate change.
4. Increase funding from the Province of BC to meet the needs of diverse and ELL students.
5. Increase access to adequate mental health supports.
6. Expand access to child care for district families, and increase readiness for shared responsibility of child care responsibilities.

Questions were asked, and discussion ensued.

Chair Russell put forward the following Motion at 9:36 p.m. to extend the meeting to 10:00 pm

2024-007

Moved and Seconded

Trustee Connelly put forward the following Motion.

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) table this discussion, and refer the 'Board 2024 Advocacy Draft Plan' to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee (OPPC) meeting on February 13th, to allow sufficient time for the Trustees to confer, consult, and expand on the content before they continue further discussions with members of the public.

Chair Russell concurred, and stated that it would be beneficial to bring forward and present a rough consultation plan and timeline regarding the additional stages.

Trustee Dhaliwal requested that Trustees provide feedback to the Board Chair regarding the 2024 Advocacy Plan Draft document with track changes prior to the next OPPC meeting to allow for a clearer and more informed discussion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To review the Board's 2024 Draft Advocacy Plan discussion refer to the video at [\[9:20 p.m.\]](#).

9. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

*Trustees spoke to various meetings and events they attended over the past month.
To review the full Trustee Reports, please refer to the meeting video at [\[9:38 pm\]](#).*

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: Mentorship Program, the NWSS Wellness Centre, School Learning Plans, Student Voice, and the Plain Language Association.

Refer to the meeting video at [\[9:54 pm\]](#) for full Q&A comments.

11. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, February 13, 2024 - Education Committee Meeting at 3:30 pm - In-person/TBD.
- Tuesday, February 13, 2024 - Operations Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm - Hybrid.
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - Hybrid.

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

- a. Record of the December 12, 2023 In-Camera Board Meeting.
- b. Record of the December 12, 2023 Special In-Camera Meeting.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer