

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

Tuesday, February 27, 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
Kathleen Carlsen, 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.

2024-008

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the February 27, 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, January 30, 2024.

2024-009

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for Tuesday, January 30, 2024, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2024-010
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Special Open School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Business Arising from the Minutes.
Nil.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Chief Election Officer Report (M. Brown)

Chief Election Officer Mark Brown reported on the 2024 By-election process and official election results which resulted in candidate Kathleen Carlsen being sworn in as the new Trustee for the SD40 Board of Education. The report included: the Purpose, Executive Summary, Legislation/Bylaw/Policy, Background, Analysis, Voting Opportunities, Public Communication, Administrative Support, and Conclusions.

To view the full 2024 By-election report, please refer to the meeting video at [\[7:05 p.m.\]](#).

Chair Russell thanked Brown and his team for allowing the Board of Education to hold this Election to create a full Board.

2024-011
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Chief Election Officer's report dated February 5, 2024, regarding the 2024 by-election results for the office of the School Trustee for School District No. 40 (New Westminster) be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair

- DPAC provided a number of updates and comments which included a motion to write a letter to the District and Board of Education re: student success, kindergarten gradual entry survey, Queen Elizabeth expansion project and questions about glazing/windows.
- DPAC shared that they have been talking to other Districts within the province regarding the 'Building Schools Together - Capital Project Initiatives' brochure that was published by the Ministry in October 2023.
- DPAC is looking forward to working with the District on the proposed amendments to Administrative Proposal 520 in a meeting on Thursday, February 29th.
- DPAC is pleased to be participating, and contributing in, the Anti-racism Advisory Committee and SOGI Committee meetings this month.

Questions were raised, and discussion ensued with Chair Russell providing answers to the questions posed above.

CUPE 409 Dave Bollen, President

- CUPE 409 AGM was held on Saturday, February 24th.
- CUPE 409 recently completed its bylaws which resulted in the new Indigenous Members Representative executive position. The name of the successful candidate will be stated at the next Board meeting.
- Bollen noted that CUPE was disappointed to learn that the Child Care program at Lord Tweedsmuir did not open as planned. He further stated that if the Board of Education is interested, CUPE National would like to invest in a cost share program with the District to help support the program for September 2024.

Chair Russell stated that the Tweedsmuir afterschool Child Care did not open as planned due to insufficient enrolment, and thanked CUPE for their offer regarding a cost-share program.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

- Oxley highlighted this week is 'Freedom to Read Week' which is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom.
- Oxley noted the current capacity crisis in New Westminster schools and questioned if the District would be interested in creating a joint letter that would support Trustee advocacy goals.
- NWTU sent a letter to the Board and Superintendent Hachlaf regarding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and requested that these presentations occur at the October Open Board meeting to showcase what schools have done to mark this day. The Board of Education has agreed to review this request.
- NWTU was pleased to learn that the Open Board agenda item 'Good things are Happening' will continue to showcase student events at schools within the District.

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 [\[7:12 p.m.\]](#).

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, February 13, 2024.

- i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.
Trustee Andres provided brief highlights of the meeting.
- ii. Approval of the February 13, 2024, Education Policy, and Planning Committee Minutes.

2024-012

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 February 13, 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.

2024-013

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 February 13, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf)

- Superintendent Hachlaf continues to participate in 'school learning plan visits and shared brief examples of goals put forward by Ecole Glenbrook Middle School (EGMS), and New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS). Highlights include a student-led technology club that assists students with digital safety presentations; qualitative student data collection to foster safe and inclusive spaces; communication bulletins to parents that contain safety initiatives and helpful resources; ongoing education regarding vaping; an ERASE reporting tool to educate parents; 'morning buzz' announcements to support behavioral expectations, and safety expectations around washrooms and cell phone usage.
- Black History Month: Several activities are occurring in New Westminster Schools this month to celebrate Black History. Hachlaf noted that he had visited Fraser River Middle School (FRMS), and had the privilege of seeing a fantastic mosaic that was being created to honour the rich contributions and accomplishments of Black Canadians.

b. 2024-25 Enrollment Update & Short Term Capacity (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided an update regarding District Enrolment and Short Term Capacity Strategies.

Highlights:

- The District has completed its enrolment process for the 2024-2025 school year and continues to see a tremendous amount of growth. The current registration has closed; however, the District anticipates receiving additional registrations up to August 2024. Expected growth totals 354 students for the 2024-2025 school year.

- In the 2023–2024-year enrolment capacity was at 115%, and this number continues to increase as enrollment increases. The greatest need for space is in the Fraser River Zone, and the District continues to work on its submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) on the Simcoe Elementary School project to create some relief by 2027-28. They also continue to work with the Ministry and the City on their proposed plans for the Fraser River Middle School (FRMS) to alleviate capacity at the Middle School level.
 - In the interim, the District will continue to create Short Term Capacity Strategies to navigate its current state until permanent facilities are built. The next steps include Board direction regarding the guiding principles, as they will help the District prioritize how they create space within all their school facilities. Ketcham and Pam Craven, Director of Instruction, Secondary Programs will provide an update regarding capacity strategies at the Open Board meeting on March 12, 2024.
- c. Approve Amended Budget for Current Fiscal Year (A. Grey)
- i. Ministry Amended Budget Submission.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Grey provided a detailed walk through of the budget changes since the Board’s passing of the preliminary budget in June 2023.

- 2024 Amended budget: \$109,902,065 consists of the Operating Budget (\$87M) along with capital assets, special purpose funds, and capital funds.
- The revised anticipated annual deficit by June 30, 2024, is \$389K.

2024-014
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the three readings of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2023/2024.

2024-015
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the FIRST and Second reading of the amended budget bylaw for the fiscal year 2023/2024.

2024-016
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the THIRD reading, reconsideration, and FINAL adoption of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2023/2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Review Student Learning/Welfare Accountability Report

Directors of Instruction, R. Jones, S. Singh, and P. Craven; District Vice-Principal, Melanie Smith, Safe & Caring Schools; District Vice-Principal, Ken Headley, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism; and Manager, Ileana Neilson, Early Learning and Childcare, provided a comprehensive review of their respective areas within this report: 'Framework for Enhancing Student Learning: Student Success in New West Schools 2022-2023.' The themes of their report included Literacy, Numeracy, Equity, and Student Safety.

To review the presentation in its entirety, please refer to the meeting video at [\[7:57 p.m.\]](#)

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nil.

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 [\[9:20 p.m.\]](#).

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: New Westminster Schools Teaching & Learning in Diverse Classrooms, and New Westminster Schools Padlet. Dave Bollen of CUPE 409 apologized for his comment about the trustee by-election, and expressed congratulations to newly appointed Trustee Kathleen Carlsen.

Refer to the meeting video at [\[9:31 p.m.\]](#) for full Q&A comments.

11. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Events:

- Black History Month – February 2024.
- Represent Board at the British Columbia School Employers' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council Meeting - Saturday, February 24, 2024.
- Pink Shirt Day - Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

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

- a. Record of the January 30, 2024 In-Camera Meeting.
- b. Record of the February 6, 2024 Special In-Camera Meeting.
- c. Record of the February 16, 2024 Special In-Camera Meeting

13. **REPORTING OUT FROM THE SPECIAL OPEN BOARD MEETING**

- a. Record of the February 13, 2024 Special Open Board Meeting.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer