

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

**Tuesday, May 28, 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

Sylvia Russell, Interim 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
Kristie Oxley, NWTU President
Dave Bollen, CUPE 409 Vice-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 7:03 p.m.

**2024-042
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the May 28, 2024, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

- a. Minutes from the Open meetings held:
- i. April 30, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting.

**2024-043
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as presented for the Regular School Board meeting held on April 30, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. May 14, 2024, Special Open Board Meeting.

2024-044

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as presented for the Special Open Board meeting held on May 14, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes.

Nil.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

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

DPAC: Laura Kwong, Chair

- DPAC AGM was held on May 16, 2024; elections resulted in a complete executive.
- Non-profit organization 'Children of the Street' will present 'Keeping Kids Safe Online' to parents and caregivers on Thursday, June 20th at 6 p.m. at NWSS Library.
- The next DPAC monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20th at NWSS Library at 7:00 p.m. and via Zoom.
- As Co-Chair of the BCCPAC Facilities Committee Laura delivered their recommendation letter which outlined four priority areas for addressing facilities issues across B.C. schools which are: 1) To update the B.C. area standards to allow for long-term forecasts to be included in the design of schools; 2) To revise standards for student population forecasts; 3) To review national trends and programs that impact their local population trends, and 4) to strengthen the connections within municipalities to ensure kitchen facilities are in every school. The letter also includes a call to action around Bill 44 and 47, recently passed legislation which is designed to expedite housing developments in B.C., and which comes into effect on June 30, 2024.
- DPAC conducted a survey and will share information to the board related to the food program, traffic and safety concerns.

CUPE 409: Dave Bollen, President

- Bollen congratulated two new members of their CUPE executive team: Lee Laufer, Indigenous Member Support; and Lisa Woo, Grievance officer.
- BC CUPE Convention: municipal members put forward a climate change concern based on the fires that occur almost every summer.
- CUPE BC recently sponsored the BCSTA Social for the School Trustees Association. The event was well attended, and provided the opportunity for Trustees to meet other Trustees outside their District.
- The K-12 Council meeting will be held next week to discuss Bill 41; the duty to accommodate, the duty to cooperate, and to implement this process.

NWTU: Kristie Oxley, President

- Kristie stated that she had sent two letters to the Board of Education last week.
- The first letter outlines teachers' concerns regarding the change to the Kindergarten Gradual Entry model.
- The second letter outlines concerns regarding 2 Counsellors in the Middle Schools who will now be required to take on VP roles.

To review the Q & A period in its entirety refer to the video recording at the [\[7:05 p.m.\]](#) mark.

Chair Russell thanked the NWTU president for her thoughtful points and stated that a response to her first letter of concern is forthcoming shortly; discussion will continue with her second letter of concern.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, May 14, 2024.

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Andres.

Trustee Andres highlighted topics which included the International Program Report (Trevor Gee); Inclusive Education Review Update (Rhonda Jones); and the Online Learning & Continuing Education Report (Pam Craven & Stephen Inniss). Andres also extended his thanks to Queensborough Middle School Vice Principal Sukhdeep Rai for his work on the Extracurricular Athletics Survey which included the quantity & quality of extracurricular opportunities for students, the quality of coaching, and funding for and access to equipment and facilities.

ii. Approval of the May 14, 2024, Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2024-045**

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approves the minutes from the May 14, 2024, Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, May 28, 2024.

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly.

Connelly provided brief highlights and spoke to the Interior School Renovation Report which reveals how the District's interior schools' sites are changing in thoughtful ways to accommodate enrolment growth.

Connelly shared her gratitude to Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham and the team for the work they have done on the 2024-25 budget; it places the District in a good financial position leading into the upcoming school year.

ii. Approval of the May 28, 2024, Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes.

**Moved and Seconded
2024-046**

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the May 28, 2024, Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. NWSS 5-Block Timetable (B. Ketcham)

**Moved and Seconded
2024-047**

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham brought forward the following recommendation to the Board for their consideration and noted that changes to the NWSS 5-Block timetable model will add capacity at New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) in future years.

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve in principle a 5-block timetable model for New Westminster Secondary School,

AND

THAT consultation with partners continues to take place with a recommended option being brought forward for implementation for the 2025-26 school year no later than November 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (S. Russell).

Superintendent Russell highlighted the following items:

New Superintendent Visits SD40 School Board:

- Newly hired Superintendent Mark Davidson spent time at the School Board from Thursday, May 21st to Monday, May 27th. Accompanied by 2 members of the District Learning Team, Davidson spent this time visiting every school in the District; meeting with both principals and students. Davidson also participated in meetings with the Finance and Facilities teams, Human Resources, Partner Groups, and District Personnel. Russell noted that Davidson's visit to the District during his vacation time is a testament to a real act of generosity and great leadership qualities. Mark Davidson will begin his new role at SD40 on Monday, July 8th. The final Senior Management Team member to complete the SMT will be the hiring of a new Associate Superintendent which is currently in progress.

District Events:

- *SD40 Retirement Event* will be held at the Inn, at New Westminster Quay Hotel on Tuesday, June 4th at 4:00 p.m.
- Qayqayt Leaving Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 30th at NWSS from 5-8 p.m.
- Rite of Passage celebrations will occur at the Middle and Elementary school level in June.
- Alternate Programs & Continuing Ed. graduation ceremonies will be held at end of June.
- Scholarship & Bursary Ceremony will be held at NWSS School Theatre on June 18th.
- NWSS Graduation Ceremony will be held on June 25th at the Queens Park Arena.
- Recognition Day for POWER and RCAP will be held at Grimston Park on June 26th.

Trustees thanked Interim Superintendent Sylvia Russell for her support, leadership and contributions throughout the recruitment and hiring process for the new SD40 Superintendent who will begin on July 8th.

b. NWSS 5-Block Survey Update (P. Craven)

Pam Craven, Director of Instruction-Secondary Programs provided the following highlights:

- The survey was distributed to all students, parents, and staff at NWSS, Middle Schools and the Home Learner's program. The survey was open from May 7th to May 17th to provide individuals with the opportunity to provide feedback on 7 survey questions which were based on structural issues associated with a timetable; a total of 306 responses were received.
- Results revealed a greater percentage of participants preferred 1) A Static Schedule; 2) Start and end times to be based on collective agreements; 3) an 8:25 am start time and a 3:10 pm end time received top ratings; 4) a Semester system; 5) Extended time – 68% believe extended time should be included in items 3,4, and 5 noted above; 6) one lunch period, and 7) to shift the start time for grades 9 and 10, and grades 11 and 12, and to increase the hybrid learning options. On a scale from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, the importance of providing extended time for students to receive support during the school day garnered an average rating of 3.22.

Questions and discussion ensued.

Next Steps:

- *A meeting will be scheduled with the Review Committee at NWSS to discuss the results.*
- To provide a one-page overview document on the five-block model consultation process, including a timeline, survey results, and FAQs to be posted on the District website.
- Explore incentives and conduct surveys during class time to improve response rates for future consultations.

To listen to the complete update, refer to the video recording at the [\[7:40 p.m.\]](#) mark.

- c. Approve Eligible School Site Proposal (B. Ketcham) 8:15 PM 43 / 7:55 PM

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 incorporated into the District's 5-year capital plan and is shared with their City partners to inform them of their future land acquisition plans.

Questions and Discussion ensued.

**Moved and Seconded:
2024-048**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the 2024-25 Eligible School Site Proposal (ESSP) through the adoption of the 2024-25 ESSP Resolution.

1 OPPOSED / CARRIED

- d. 2024-2025 Budget Bylaw - Third and Final Reading (B. Ketcham)
- i. 2024-25 Annual Budget
 - ii. 2024-25 Budget Companion Guide 2023-046

Ketcham thanked Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Grey and stated that her work on the 2024-25 Annual Budget and Budget Companion Guide was an integral part of this process.

**Moved and Seconded
2024-049**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the THIRD and FINAL reading of the 2024-2025 budget bylaw as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- e. Sanctuary Schools (S. Russell)

Superintendent Russell provided a review of the Sanctuary Schools Policy for 2023-24, and stated that this policy represents an impressive and well-established process within SD40. Russell highlighted the importance of supporting families with precarious immigration status, emphasizing the need for a welcoming environment. Russell commended the District's commitment to providing a sense of normalcy to newcomer families, beyond just a seat in the classroom; The student registration process is very responsive to the nature of the people who are coming to the community and tracks students (and their families) who enter the school district, and who access the District's School experience through the Sanctuary Schools Policy; some of whom become residents of B.C.

To listen to the review please refer to the video recording at the [\[8:22 p.m.\]](#) mark.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nil.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

Nil.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustees provided highlights of the events they attended in June. Please refer to the meeting video at [\[8:27 p.m.\]](#) for full comments.

11. **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: the future of the waking school bus, NWSS 5-Block timetable survey, and population forecasts.

Refer to the meeting video at [\[8:36 pm\]](#) for full Q&A comments.

12. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Events

- World Autism Day – Tuesday, April 2, 2024.
- Board In-Service: 2024-2025 Budget Review - Tuesday, April 9, 2024.
- National Volunteer Week - Sunday, April 14 to Saturday, April 20, 2024.
- British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) All General Meeting (AGM) and Provincial Council Meeting - Thursday, April 18 to Sunday, April 21, 2024.
- Earth Day – Monday, April 22, 2024.
- Administrative Professionals' Day – Wednesday, April 24, 2024, National Day of Mourning – Sunday, April 28, 2024.
- Red Dress Day and the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – Sunday, May 5, 2024.

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

- a. Record of the March 12, 2024, In-Camera Meeting.
- b. Record of the April 9, 2024, Special In-Camera Meeting.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer