

## School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) held virtually through Microsoft Teams in North Vancouver, British Columbia, on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

**PRESENT:** G. Tsiakos, Chair  
C. Gerlach  
M. Higgins  
K. Mann  
C. Sacré  
M. Tasi Baker

---

### A. Call to Order

Board Chair George Tsiakos called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and acknowledged the traditional territorial lands of the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

#### Motion to Approve Trustees Participation by Microsoft Teams

Moved by G. Tsiakos

WHEREAS Section 67 of the School Act permits Trustees to participate in or attend a meeting of the Board by telephone or other means of communication if all Trustees and other persons participating in or attending the meeting are able to communicate with each other;

the Board hereby approves the participation by the Trustees in the February 23, 2021, Public Board Meeting by Microsoft Teams.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

### Board Chair Announcement

The following statement was read out by Board Chair George Tsiakos:

I would like to start tonight's Board of Education meeting with news as it relates specifically to the North Vancouver Board of Education and one of our trustees.

It is with regret that I must inform the Board of Education and School District staff that yesterday, February 22, 2021, Secretary Treasurer Jacqui Stewart advised me that she received a letter of resignation from Trustee and Vice Chair Devon Bruce.

Trustee Bruce was elected by District of North Vancouver electors in fall 2018 and on December 1, 2020, was acclaimed as Vice Chair. During his time serving on the Board, Trustee Bruce worked collaboratively with fellow trustees to make policy decisions that govern all aspects of education with the North Vancouver School District. Like his fellow trustees, Trustee Bruce worked tirelessly to support the School District's overarching vision and district priorities in the pursuit of the highest level of service we can provide to students and our community.

Trustee Bruce would like our community to know that he has enjoyed his time on the Board of Education tremendously. However, due to a growing portfolio of professional responsibilities in his work with North Shore ConneXions Society, he feels he cannot continue on with his role and responsibilities with the Board of Education at this time. I respect the decision, and I know fellow trustees, district staff, and our school community will join me in thanking Trustee Bruce for his service and wish him well.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the purpose of the Board of Education and role of the school trustee. The Board's purpose with respect to the BC public education system is to enable all learners within the School District to develop their individual potential and to acquire

### **Board Chair Announcement (continued)**

the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.

As a member of the Board of Education, school trustees are accountable to the public for the collective decisions of the Board, and for the delivery and quality of educational programs and services. It is a responsibility that we do not take lightly and does require a commitment of time, over and above our personal and professional responsibilities.

Due to the resignation of an elected school trustee, a by-election will be required to fill this vacancy for the remainder of the four-year term ending in the fall of 2022. The North Vancouver School District will be informing the District of North Vancouver, who will run the municipal election process, of the resignation. – end –

Chair Tsiakos acknowledged the continued challenges related to COVID-19. February was acknowledged as Black History Month and Inclusive Education Month with Pink Shirt Day and the Provincial Eating Disorders Awareness both occurring in this month as well. Chair Tsiakos thanked everyone who took time to engage with the School District to provide feedback on the Board of Education's Strategic Plan.

#### **A.2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by K. Mann

that the agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be adopted.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

#### **A.3. Public Comment Period**

Due to COVID-19 and moving the meeting to Microsoft Teams, the Board of Education requested that interested parties email in their submission to be read out by the Board Chair.

Jennifer Branston, resident of North Vancouver, implored the Board of Education to begin the conversation around ableism and ableist language within the North Vancouver School District to help align processes with current visions of restorative and trauma informed practices, diversity and inclusion.

Noel Deschenes, resident of North Vancouver, provided comments regarding the Temporary Transitional Support Option, asking the Board of Education to continue the option for the remainder of the school year.

Meredith Dawson and Melissa McConchie, both residents of North Vancouver, commented on the use of masks in elementary schools. Ms. Dawson and Ms. McConchie asked to strengthen the COVID-19 safety measures in North Vancouver schools.

#### **A.4. Stakeholder Comment Period**

As per the motion passed on May 26, 2020, the Board of Education provided a twenty minute stakeholder comment period to allow stakeholders to speak to items on the Board of Education Agenda.

Jennifer Branston, Co-Chair of North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, spoke regarding the Elementary Temporary Transitional Support Option, respectfully requesting that the Board of Education continue the option for the remainder of the school year.

**A.4. Stakeholder Comment Period (continued)**

Katrina Russell, First Vice President of North Vancouver Teachers' Association, commented on the Elementary Temporary Transitional Support Option, asking the Board of Education to consider extending the option till the end of the year. Ms. Russell also spoke regarding Block Budgets that were provided to the schools, asking the Board to reconsider these allocations. Ms. Russell also shared her concern that the Board has not yet discussed the provincial and federal COVID-19 funding at a Public Board Meeting.

**A.5. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by M. Tasi Baker

that the minutes of the public meeting of January 19, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Seconded by K. Mann

Carried

**B.1. School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2020/21**

Financial Services Director Kristen Watson introduced this agenda item and noted that the Board is being asked to adopt an Amended Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2020/21 pursuant to Section 113 of the *School Act* which provides the authority for a Board to amend its annual budget bylaw. The Amended Budget in the amount of \$206,792,467 was updated to take into account changes in revenue and expenditures that have occurred since the adoption of the 2020/21 Preliminary Budget on June 23, 2020.

Ms. Watson provided clarification on various budget lines including salary and benefit costs, revenue and services and supplies. Ms. Watson highlighted the risks and liabilities, changes in the operating, special purpose and capital funds.

The revenue was increased by \$10,049,908 over the Preliminary Annual Budget. Significant adjustments included an increase to the Operating Grant budget by \$952,724 as a result of higher than anticipated enrolment. The School District received \$1,116,823 from the Provincial Government for the Safe Return to Class Grant, and \$6,187,532 from the Federal Government for the Safe Return to School Grant. Both grants were received to support the School District with revenue and expense impacts resulting from COVID-19. The Classroom Enhancement Fund Grant increased by \$2,001,296 to fund the provisions of restored collective agreement language. International Student Tuition fee revenue increased by \$1,403,300 as a result of higher than anticipated international student enrolment.

Total planned expenditures increased by \$4,039,489. This was largely attributed to an increase in staffing and facility maintenance expenses resulting from the implementation of COVID-19 health and safety plans, as well as additional teacher staffing to support learning and the elementary temporary transition support option. Ms. Watson noted that the Amended Budget incorporates the utilization of \$2,271,193 of the Accumulated Operating Surplus to balance the Operating Budget. In addition, \$4,350,000 has been included as a transfer to local capital reserves to support School District capital construction projects and future investments in information technology and communications. Ms. Watson answered a number of questions raised by Trustees.

Moved by K. Mann

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2020/21 be read a first time;

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

Moved by G C. Sacré

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2020/21 be read a second time;

Seconded by K. Mann

Carried

**B.1. School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2020/21 (continued)**

The Board unanimously agreed to proceed to a third reading of the bylaw.

Moved by C. Gerlach

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2020/21 be read a third time, passed and adopted.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

A short break was observed.

**B.2. Elementary Temporary Transition Support Option - Extension to June 2021**

Assistant Superintendent Pius Ryan introduced this agenda item sharing that the 2020/21 school year began with an option for parents of elementary-aged students to consider participating in a temporary transitional programming option that, in light of COVID-19, provided a delayed return to in-person instruction. The Board extended this option on December 8, 2020, based on the expressed needs of families to spring break.

The Board of Education continued to receive feedback from families in the Elementary Temporary Transition Support Option requesting that the option be continued to the end of the 2020/21 school year. Assistant Superintendent Ryan noted that the Option would continue in the same delivery format, with the same level of supports currently provided to students as introduced in September 2020.

Moved by C. Sacré

that the Board of Education confirm further extension of the Elementary Temporary Transition Support Option until the end of the 2020/21 school year, and that the option be provided to those families currently participating, in the same format and design as introduced in September 2020.

Seconded by M. Tasi Baker

Carried

**Motion to Extend**

Moved by unanimous consent to extend the meeting past 9:30 p.m.

**C.1. Land Management Update**

Superintendent Pearmain updated the Board of Education on the Argyle and Handsworth Secondary School Replacement Projects, the Mountainside Secondary Seismic Upgrade and the status of Cloverley Elementary School.

Responding to Trustees' questions, Superintendent Pearmain clarified options for Cloverley Elementary being an eco-demonstration school and the design of sensory spaces at Argyle and Handsworth Secondary.

**C.2. Tuesday, February 2, 2021, Standing Committee Meeting**

Trustee Sacré reported on the meeting that showcased budget development components for 2021/22, including historical and current revenues and expenses, budget timelines, operating grant and the three-year forecast enrolment forecast.

**C.3. Superintendent's Report (including COVID-19)**

Superintendent Pearmain provided an update on COVID-19 which included the number of exposures in the North Vancouver School District since the beginning of the school year and clarity was provided on the updated health guidelines for mask use. Superintendent Pearmain shared

**C.3. Superintendent’s Report (including COVID-19) (continued)**

that the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSAs) are underway at all schools. Highlights from Black History Month will be included in the Superintendent’s Reports.

**C.4. Report Out - BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and BC Public Schools Employers’ Association (BCPSEA)**

Trustee Tasi Baker updated the Board on the BCSTA Provincial Council. Trustee Gerlach updated the Board on the BCPSEA AGM.

**C.5. Trustees’ Reports**

Trustees submitted their reports on their activities on behalf of the Board as follows:

1. Meetings attended by Trustees included:
  - Public Board Meeting
  - Standing Committee Meeting
  - Trustee Seminar Meetings
  - Board of Education and MLA Meeting
  - Board of Education and NVPAC Meeting
  - Board of Education and NVTA Meeting
  - Audit Committee Meeting
  - Inclusion Committee Meeting
  - Sustainability Committee Meeting
  - Presidents Council Meeting
  - DSLC Meeting
  - AFK Management Committee Meeting
  - Various PAC Meetings
  - NV Band & Strings Parent Information Meeting
  - BCSTA Legislative Committee Meeting
  - BCSTA Metro Meeting
  - CNV Integrated Transportation Meeting
2. Events attended by Trustees included:
  - Handsworth, Argyle and Mountainside Tours
  - NVPAC Meeting – How to Raise and Anti-Racist Child
  - Digital Media Academy Virtual Expo
  - BCPSEA AGM
  - BCSTA Provincial Council

**Notice of Motion**

During Trustees’ Reports, Trustee Gerlach advised that she had a notice of motion regarding sensory rooms for the March Public Board Meeting. Board Chair Tsiakos asked if the motion could be brought back in April due to the short timeframe to the March meeting. Trustee Gerlach approved.

**Motion**

That the Board of Education direct the Superintendent to direct staff to dismantle the spaces known as "sensory room" and "calm room" at Argyle and Handsworth and create an appropriate sensory room that can be used by all students and that this space include a window and more than one door.

And that the costing and plans for these spaces be brought forward to the Board for May public board meeting.

That the Superintendent consult with experts, including self advocates, as to what an appropriate sensory room would entail both for elementary and high school students.

And

That the Superintendent direct the Inclusion Committee to create a Disability advisory committee made up of students with disabilities and who identify as having a disability and self advocates who have been through the school system who either have a disability or identify as having a disability.

And

That the Board of Education write a letter of advocacy to the Minister of Education requesting that there be guidelines and minimum set of standards on sensory spaces in all schools.

#### **Notice of Motion Update**

During Trustees' Reports, Trustee Gerlach advised that she is no longer bringing forward the restorative justice motion that was initially discussed at the October 20, 2020 Public Board Meeting.

#### **D. Future Meetings**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Virtual
Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.	Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting	Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Virtual
Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.	Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting	Microsoft Teams

#### **E. Public Question & Comment Period**

Due to COVID-19 and moving the meeting to a virtual platform, the Board of Education did not take questions or comments in real time. Members of the public were asked to email their submission in to [publiccomments@sd44.ca](mailto:publiccomments@sd44.ca).

#### **F. Adjournment**

The established agenda being completed, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m. and thanked those who attended.

Certified Correct:

*Original signed by J. Stewart*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqui Stewart  
Secretary Treasurer

*April 19, 2021*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Original signed by G. Tsiakos*

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Tsiakos  
Chair, Board of Education

*April 19, 2021*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date