

School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver), held in the Mountain View Room of the Education Services Centre at 2121 Lonsdale Avenue in North Vancouver, British Columbia, on Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

PRESENT: F. Stratton, Chair
C. Gerlach, Vice Chair (by teleconference)
L. Bayne
B. Forward
M. McGraw
C. Sacré
S. Skinner

A.1. Call to Order

Chair Stratton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed those in attendance, with a special welcome to Assistant Superintendent Pearmain who was attending his first public Board meeting in North Vancouver. The traditional territorial lands of the Squamish Nation were acknowledged by the Chair.

A.2. Motion to Approve Trustee Participation by Teleconference

Chair Stratton advised that Vice Chair Cyndi Gerlach was unable to attend the meeting but wished to participate by telephone.

Moved by C. Sacré

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 Trustee Gerlach in the September 23, 2014 Public Meeting by telephone.

Seconded by S. Skinner

Carried

A.3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Skinner

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

Seconded by M. McGraw

Carried

A.4. Public Comment Period

The ten-minute comment period is intended to be restricted to items on the evening's Board Agenda. The Chair requested that those wishing to speak should sign on the Public Comment Sign-Up Sheet.

Mark Chevalier, a member of the Hamilton Heights Neighbourhood Association, spoke to Agenda Item B.4. and noted that public school lands should be retained and not sold. Mr. Chevalier expressed his concern that community identified options were not presented in the DIALOG report and requested that the Board address these concerns going forward.

A.5. Approval of Minutes – Public Meeting of June 17, 2014

Moved by L. Bayne

that the minutes of the public meeting of June 17, 2014 be approved as circulated

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

B.1. World Teachers' Day Declaration - October 5, 2014

Chair Stratton advised the Board that October 5, 2014 is World Teachers' Day. In 1994, UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, dedicated October 5th as a day to celebrate and honour the teaching profession. UNESCO's slogan for 2014 World Teachers' Day is "*invest in the future, invest in teachers*". The Canadian Teachers Federation and its member organizations, through its public awareness campaign, highlight the contributions of the teaching profession and its slogan for World Teachers' Day 2014 is "*It all starts with a qualified teacher*".

Moved by B. Forward

that the Board declare October 5, 2014 as World Teachers' Day in North Vancouver School District.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

B.2. World Mental Health Day Declaration – October 10, 2014

Chair Stratton noted that October 10th is World Mental Health Day and is supported by the United Nations to raise public awareness about mental health issues worldwide. In 2014 the focus of World Mental Health Day is Schizophrenia.

Further in the meeting, Assistant Superintendent Pius Ryan would speak to the commitment that the Board of Education and School District staff have made to the integration of school and community services and supports for positive mental health. Visually, support will be shown by wearing purple on Mental Health Day.

Moved by S. Skinner

that the Board declare October 10, 2014 as World Mental Health Day in North Vancouver School District.

Seconded by M. McGraw

Carried

B.3. Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2014

Georgia Allison, Secretary Treasurer, tabled the 2013/2014 Audited Financial Statements and invited Stephen Wurz, Director of Financial Services, and Lenora Lee from KPMG LLP to the table and acknowledged the work that has been done by staff in preparation of the audit.

In his presentation of the Audited Financial Statements, Stephen Wurz, Director of Financial Services, highlighted that the financial statements have been prepared consistent with the format prescribed by the Ministry of Education and that the budget used in the financial statements is the Amended Budget, which is a change from last fiscal year where the Preliminary Budget was used.

Mr. Wurz reported the repayment of \$4.14M of the Operating Grant to the Province as a result of teacher job action. Approximately \$1.24M of CUPE salaries and benefits costs for the Employee Savings Grant (ESG) were accrued and reflected in the wage costs for the 2013/14 year, and therefore not returned to the Province.

The Director of Financial Services reported a decrease in total Cash and Cash Equivalents; an increase in Accounts Receivable that was predominantly due to Annual Facilities Grant funding that was requested near the year end but was not received until early July; an increase in liabilities primarily due to the accrual for repayment of the Operating Grant as a result of the teacher job action; and the debt to the province incurred for the Sutherland and Westview capital projects was reduced by a payment of \$996,814. It was reported that the Operating Fund has a cumulative surplus of \$7,357,283, of which \$5.9M is appropriated for use in the 2014/15 fiscal year including the three-year staffing plan. The decrease in the Capital Fund balance reflects the net changes in Capital Assets purchased and additions to Local Capital. Further, although the

B.3. Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2014 (continued)

grant calculation increased due to greater than projected enrolment in Distributed Learning and Special Needs as well as a 4.81% increase in projected International student revenue, it was reported that total revenue was approximately \$1.5M (or 1.01%) lower than projected due to the repayment of the operating grant due to labour action. Total Expenses were 4.0% less than budgeted and included decreased instruction costs, primarily attributable to savings in teacher salaries due to the job action, Principal/Vice Principal short term vacancies; an increase in District Administration and a decrease in Transportation and Maintenance due to the reclassification of Cheakamus Centre expenses between categories; and capital assets were over budget to meet the operational demands for equipment, primarily for the elementary school computer replacement and the School District's contribution to Queen Mary Elementary.

In presenting the Auditor's report to the Board, Ms. Lee noted that the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 have been completed and along with the auditor's report have been submitted with no qualifications to the Board for its approval. Ms. Lee noted that there were no adjustments to the audit, and thanked management and staff for their help during the audit process.

In response to Trustees' questions, Stephen Wurz, Director of Financial Services, Secretary Treasurer Georgia Allison and Superintendent John Lewis provided clarification regarding: repayment of the Ministry debt; the consolidated surplus; the breakdown of consulting and software expenses; approximation of \$300,000 incurred for the Lucas Centre and Cloverley community consultation; lower than planned AFK print sales; the reallocation of line items between District Administration and Operations and Maintenance for the Cheakamus Centre; and that Distributed Learning (DL) has 24 courses currently offered with over 1,000 students enrolled in DL courses.

The Board thanked Ms. Lee for her report and extended thanks to Mr. Wurz and staff for their work done on the financial statements.

Moved by L. Bayne

that the Board approve the Audited Financial Statements and the Auditors' Report to the Board of Education of School District No.44 (North Vancouver) for the Year Ended June 30, 2014 as presented in Schedule B.3. of September 23, 2014.

Seconded by M. McGraw

Carried

B.4. Notice of Motion – Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement

Board Chair Franci Stratton introduced this agenda item and noted that Trustee Skinner had presented a Notice of Motion at the June 17, 2014 Public meeting of the Board of Education.

Moved by S. Skinner

WHEREAS the NVSD has embarked on the long term land management Land, Learning and Livability initiative and is now, according to the Summary Report delivered to the Board by DIALOG Design, at the Review of the Planning Study stage for the Lucas Centre and Cloverley School facilities and sites. AND that the DIALOG report focused mainly on real estate development as a means to generate capital for the NVSD, while leasing and other community alternative uses have yet to be fully explored. DIALOG also reported that the majority of community members consulted for the report do not support selling the property for real estate purposes. And further that a Ministry of Education Ministerial Order requires Boards of Education to conduct broad consultation with local government, community organizations and the general public regarding alternative community uses and the disposal of land. AND finally, that the Board of Education is the key decision making body in the future use of the surplus properties that are part of the Land, Learning and Livability initiative.

B.4. Notice of Motion – Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement (continued)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education develop and execute a next stage action plan for the Land, Learning, Livability initiative which will encompass broad consultation on the matter of alternate community uses for the NVSD's surplus facilities and land. This next stage action plan will be conducted prior to the City of North Vancouver's Special Study Area Process and will include consultation with local government, community organizations and the general public.

Seconded by B Forward

Defeated

In speaking to the motion, Trustee Skinner provided her synopsis of the Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement process to date and voiced her concerns particularly in regards to the DIALOG process of community engagement relating to the Cloverley and Lucas Centre sites, and noted that members of those two communities have been in contact with her to voice their concerns. Included in their concerns was a request for further consultation with other community organizations regarding future use of the sites that does not include redevelopment. There was also concern that the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC) and other community stakeholder organizations have not been directly invited into the consultation process.

During the meeting, there was acknowledgement that the DIALOG report is seen as the starting point of a process that will carry on over the next few years; as well as discussion regarding the need for the Board of Education to collaborate with the City of North Vancouver during the "Special Study Area Process" as it specifically relates to the School District's surplus sites at Lucas Centre and Cloverley School to ensure that the opportunity will be made available for further community and stakeholder input.

In response to a Trustee's question regarding the timing of a meeting between City Council and the Board of Education, it was clarified that the meeting was at the request of City Council and that discussion took place throughout the summer to come to a mutually available date; which was then impacted by the BCTF labour action. With the subsequent delayed school start up, there was a City and School District staff to staff decision made to postpone the meeting until January 2015 following the inauguration of both Council and the Board. Concern was expressed that the meeting should take place during the current office of the Council and the Board.

Following a friendly amendment, the following motion was passed.

Moved by C. Sacré

that the Board of Education supports and encourages a collaborative process through the City of North Vancouver's Special Study Area Process regarding the Lucas Centre and Cloverley sites; and requests of City Council that the Board be involved in this process alongside other stakeholders.

Seconded by L. Bayne

Carried

At a Trustee's request, the Chair called a 5 minute recess.

C.1. Mental Health: Understandings, Actions and Future Directions

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, introduced this agenda item, and Assistant Superintendent Pius Ryan noted a motion by this Board of Education which was endorsed at the BC School Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting regarding an increased focus on healthy minds and healthy people and the subsequent submission of a Report for the Select Standing Committee on Youth Mental Health.

In a [presentation](#) to the Board, Jeremy Church, Principal, Mountainside Secondary, and Vince White, Vice Principal, Sutherland Secondary, spoke to the premise that a key symptom of Mental Health is a student's level of engagement in schooling. There is the understanding that the School District's role is to create safe and caring environments that foster a sense of belonging for students, staff, and community. The presenters highlighted initiatives related to Mental Health

C.1. Mental Health: Understandings, Actions and Future Directions (continued)

and understanding, actions and future directions in North Vancouver School District. These initiatives include: Social Responsibility Support Program for K-7; the Choices support at each secondary school, the role of the youth engagement worker; Mountainside Secondary School supports; and ongoing partnerships between school and community partners which include Vancouver Coastal Health, the RCMP, the City and District of North Vancouver and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Concluding the presentation, the public was encouraged to attend a community information evening featuring Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc on *Growing Absolutely Fantastic Teens: How families, schools and communities can support positive mental health among young people*. The presentation will be followed with a question and answer with panel and an *Infofair* with community service providers. Appreciation was extended to District Administrator Brad Baker who has organized this informative event that will take place at Centennial Theatre on October 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

In response to Trustees' questions, clarification was provided regarding challenges at the elementary level; the level of outreach done with Vancouver Coastal Health; training of School District staff to address and deal with challenges of the student that doesn't feel supported; and the promotion of not only support for mental health but also social emotional learning.

Appreciation was extended to Jeremy Church, Vince White and Brad Baker (in absentia) for their presentation and their work in the School District.

C.2. Trustee Election Process – Timelines and Candidate Orientation

Secretary Treasurer Georgia Allison advised that the municipal election will take place on Saturday, November 15, 2014. The nomination period is open from 9:00 am September 30, 2014 until 4:00 pm October 10, 2014. The North Vancouver School District Board of Education is comprised of seven Trustees, three Trustees are elected in the City and four Trustees are elected in the District.

Superintendent Lewis advised that there are numerous resources available for potential candidates through the BC School Trustees Association and both municipalities. In addition, the School District is in the process of planning a candidate orientation session at the Education Services Centre on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 7:00 pm

C.3. North Vancouver Teachers' Association Collective Agreement Ratification

Following the Chair's introduction, Secretary Treasurer Georgia Allison reported that the collective agreement between the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association, the Board of Education of School District No. 44 and the British Columbia Teachers' Association (BCTF), bargaining agent for North Vancouver Teachers' Association, expired on June 30, 2013. The Secretary Treasurer advised that on September 16, 2014, a tentative Provincial Collective Agreement was reached for the term of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2019.

On September 18, 2014, BCTF members voted 86% in favour of the agreement. On that same date, the North Vancouver School District Board of Education voted to ratify the agreement, which received 100% ratification from all Boards provincially.

Motion to Extend

Moved by S. Skinner
to extend the meeting past 10:00 pm.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

C.4. Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement – Update

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, introduced this agenda item and provided a brief update on the status of the Board's work to date towards long-term management of School District surplus sites.

- DIALOG's report regarding the Lucas Centre and Cloverley School sites was presented to the Board at its public meeting on June 17, 2014. Upon the approval of the Official Community Plan, there is an expectation that the "special study" process will be developed by the City of North Vancouver, in consultation with North Vancouver School District.
- The acquisition of the Keith Lynn site by the Corporation of the District of North Vancouver has been successfully completed. Proceeds of \$5M from the sale of Keith Lynn have been identified towards the funding "gap" of \$8.9M required to convert the Argyle Seismic Project to a full replacement project.
- Morningstar Development Ltd is continuing in its process with the District of North Vancouver municipal requirements towards a public hearing for development of the Monterey site.
- The Lions Gate Christian Academy commenced school operations at the Plymouth site on September 16, 2014. A number of building and site improvements are still in progress.
- Anthem Properties' development application for the Ridgeway Annex site did not receive City Council's approval to proceed to a public hearing. A meeting with the City of North Vancouver Council will be arranged for January 2015 to enable further discussion of the Board of Education's land management strategy, the proposed redevelopment of Ridgeway Annex, and the Board's funding obligations related to the debt incurred for replacement of both Westview Elementary and Sutherland Secondary and the request for replacement of Argyle Secondary.
- A comprehensive land management update of progress to date on each of the eleven identified surplus sites will be prepared for October 2014, to demonstrate the progress made over the past three years.
- Argyle Replacement Project request – a follow up letter to the Minister of Education was sent on September 9, 2014 requesting a meeting to address any remaining concerns related to the Argyle Secondary replacement project.

Superintendent Lewis reported that confirmation has been received from the Ministry that government has amended the capital cost sharing policy for school districts under the Cash Management Strategy. Seismic projects are no longer subject to the cost-sharing requirement, subject to the satisfaction of a number of objectives related to the Provincial Treasury's Central Deposit Program.

The Board's request to convert the Argyle seismic project to a replacement project would remain subject to the Board funding the "gap" of \$8.9M as this would relate to a non-seismic project and exceeds the budget for the seismic upgrade.

Superintendent Lewis responded to Trustees' questions regarding: the seismic upgrade at Windsor Secondary which will include a Board contribution of \$167,000 to enable reconfiguration of the science wing; though the School District is no longer required to contribute to the seismic upgrade portion, a meeting with the Ministry to discuss its expectations for funding the cost difference between seismic and full replacement of Argyle Secondary is being pursued; and building improvements by the leaseholder of the Plymouth site included a reorientation of the lower gravel field to accommodate a portable gymnasium as well as installation of modular units to the south section of the building which will allow accommodation of approximately 300 students. In response to a question regarding funding of the Environmental Learning Centre project, Superintendent Lewis noted that cash flow information was provided to Trustees at a Trustee Seminar. Secretary Treasurer Allison also advised that this matter was previously addressed at a Finance and Facilities Standing Committee meeting.

C.5. Out of Country Field Trips - Secondary

Provided for their information, Trustees received in their agenda packages an overview of out of country field trips that are being planned for secondary students as follows:

- Argyle Secondary School – field trip to Irvine, CA, USA (Sep 25-29, 2014)
- Seycove Secondary School – field trip to Newport, OR, USA (Oct 15-20, 2014)

C.6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lewis reported on the following and advised that additional items are included in the *Superintendent's Blog* (<http://blog44.ca/superintendent>):

- Negotiated Collective Agreement – The Superintendent was delighted to report that a negotiated collective agreement has been reached and students have returned to school. A preliminary review of the Teacher Education Fund indicates that improvements are 'modest' but will provide some additional resources where needed.
- Instructional Time – The media has reported that "lost" instructional time during the labour action will not be made up. It is anticipated that the Minister will amend the instructional hours for the 2014/15 school year through a Ministerial Order, which will provide certainty for the local school calendar as established. The Executive will meet with Principals and the North Vancouver Teachers' Association to discuss the need to maximize instructional time to ensure that the expected learning outcomes for students will be achieved during the school year.
- Support and Stability – Acknowledging that following the lengthy labour action, it will take some time to restore the excellent working relationships that have been a foundation for the School District, the Superintendent looks forward to working with all partner groups to move forward in a positive direction and look towards a period of stability and continuous growth.
- School Opening – staff in each school and at the District administration level have been working diligently to help ensure schools are fully operational as quickly as possible. Verification and adjustments to student enrolment, class organization and school timetables are currently in process. The Superintendent reported that Central Registration has processed a total of 300 new registrations during the summer and early September.

C.7. Trustees' Reports

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

1. Meetings attended by Trustees included:

- Public Board meetings
- Trustee Seminar/In Camera meetings
- Board Planning Committee meeting
- BCPSEA conference calls
- BCSTA conference calls
- BCSTA Finance Committee meeting
- Table Matters Network meeting
- North Vancouver Recreation Culture Commission meeting; given the proactive programming that NVRC implemented during the labour action, the Trustee Liaison suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the NVRC Chair.
- City of North Vancouver Advisory Planning Commission, which included a walk along Lonsdale with Gary Penway, Director of Community Development, to showcase the ongoing revitalization of the 13th Street and Lonsdale area.

2. Events attended by Trustees included:

- Artists for Kids year end event
- Lonsdale Creek Daycare Centre 40th Anniversary

D. Future Meetings

Future public meetings of the Board are confirmed as follows:

Tuesday, Oct 7, 2014 at 7:00 pm	Standing Committee Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, Oct 21, 2014 at 7:00 pm	Public Board Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, Nov 4, 2014 at 7:00 pm	Standing Committee Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, Nov 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm	Public Board Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver

E. Public Question and Comment Period

The Chair called for questions and/or comments from the public noting that in accordance with Board policy, questions relating to personnel, negotiations or litigation must not be dealt with in a public session.

Kerry Morris, a City of North Vancouver resident, sought clarification on an item in the Audited Financial Statements and commented on the community engagement process for the Lucas Centre and Cloverley surplus sites.

F. Adjournment

The established agenda being completed, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:26 pm and thanked those who attended.

Certified Correct:

Georgia Allison
Secretary Treasurer

Franci Stratton
Chair, Board of Education

Date

Date