

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, June 22, 2021.

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

A. Call to Order

Board Chair George Tsiakos called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 June 22, 2021, Public Board Meeting by Microsoft Teams.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

Board Chair Announcement

I would like to begin tonight's meeting by addressing an important matter that occurred last month. At the May 18, 2021 North Vancouver Board of Education Public Board Meeting, Trustee Gerlach made comments and drew a comparison that minimized the residential school experience of Indigenous people. As the Board has previously shared with Chiefs, Councils and Members of Skwxwú7mesh, Tsleil-Waututh and Métis Nations, and the NVSD community, the comparison and comments were unacceptable, highly inappropriate, insensitive, and are not representative of the collective Board of Education. Words matter and there is no excuse for this comparison to have been made.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the North Vancouver School District, I would like to offer my most sincere apology for the hurt and pain the offensive remarks have caused. I offer this apology to members of the Skwxwú7mesh, Tsleil-Waututh, and Métis Nations and all Indigenous students, educators, and staff who contribute so much to the NVSD community.

I also want to acknowledge the Board's silence in response to Trustee Gerlach's remarks. As a Board, we have thought a lot about why the issue was not addressed in the moment. Though we were shocked by the comparison and left speechless, there is no excuse for our collective silence. We should have addressed the matter as it occurred, and we deeply regret the hurt this silence has caused. As stated earlier, words matter. As a Board, we are learning from this experience, and we commit to doing better.

Chair Tsiakos then called upon Trustee Gerlach to issue an apology.

Following Trustee Gerlach's apology, Chair Tsiakos addressed the matter further and acknowledged the Board of Education's commitment to reconciliation through education.

A moment of silence was observed to honour the 215 children discovered buried on the grounds of a Kamloops residential school and all children of the residential school system who did not return home.

A ten minute break was observed.

Indigenous Welcome and Blessing

Chair Tsiakos welcomed Ann Marchand, First Nations Support Worker, to the meeting to share the Women's Warrior Song with new Trustee Linda Munro.

A.1. Chair Tsiakos' opening remarks

Chair Tsiakos began by thanking School District employees, families and community members, and students for their resolve and resilience this past year. A warm welcome was provided to the North Vancouver Teachers' Association's executive committee. Chair Tsiakos acknowledged National Indigenous Peoples Day and Pride month which are occurring in the month of June. Concluding the opening remarks, Chair Tsiakos congratulated the Graduating Class of 2021.

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 the COVID-19 pandemic 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.

Noel Deschenes, resident of North Vancouver, wrote to the Board regarding the Temporary Transition Support Option. Mr. Deschenes proposed that the North Vancouver School District survey participants about the transition option to gain an understanding and scope of the option.

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.

Brayden Yuen Co-President of the District Student Leadership Council, thanked the Board of Education for the continued support, noting how valuable it is that Trustees are listening directly to students' ideas. This support acknowledges the importance of student voice.

Katrina Russell, Acting President of the North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTAs), requested that a rainbow crosswalk be added to the crosswalk that passes over the driveway at the Education Services Centre as a symbol of inclusion. Ms. Russell then commented on the 2021/22 Preliminary Annual Budget sharing that the NVTAs is pleased to see a mentorship coordinator in the budget. Special recognition was provided to teachers for making it through such a difficult year and it was requested that enhanced cleaning protocols continue. Ms. Russell concluded by sharing how deeply saddened teachers are at the news of unmarked graves found on the property of a residential school in Kamloops. Teachers are dedicated to learn and teach the truth of our history and reconciliation is the key.

A.5. Approval of Minutes

Moved by C. Sacré

that the minutes of the public meeting of May 18, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Seconded by K. Mann

Carried

B.1. Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2021/22-CPSD44-01

Jim Mackenzie, Director of Facilities and Planning, was invited to provide an overview of the 2021/22 Capital Plan. The Ministry provided written response to the North Vancouver School District's 2021/22 Capital Plan submission of June 2020 and approved the following capital projects:

- Lynn Valley Elementary – Addition: submit draft Project Definition Report
- Cloverley Elementary School – New School: submit final Project Definition Report
- Mountainside Secondary School – Enhancement Program: HVAC Upgrades; Exterior Wall Systems
- Lynnmour Elementary School – Playground Equipment Program
- Queen Mary Elementary School – Playground Equipment Program

Moved by C. Sacré

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Capital Bylaw No. 2021/22-CPSD44-01 be read a first time;

Seconded by C. Gerlach

Carried

Moved by K. Mann

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Capital Bylaw No. 2021/22-CPSD44-01 be read a second time;

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

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

Moved by C. Gerlach

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Capital Bylaw No. 2021/22-CPSD44-01 be read a third time, passed, and adopted.

Seconded by K. Mann

Carried

B.2. School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Annual Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2021/22

As required under the *School Act*, the Board of Education must adopt its budget bylaw on or before June 30, 2021, for the 2021/22 fiscal year. Secretary Treasurer Jacqui Stewart introduced this agenda item by sharing the budget process with the Board of Education.

Director of Financial Services Kristen Watson presented the 2020/21 Preliminary Annual Budget in the amount of \$206,430,223. Ms. Watson provided an overview of the budget, highlighting the operating fund, the operating grant, international tuition fees, other revenues, rentals and lease income, and investment income.

Secretary Treasurer Jacqui Stewart, Executive Director of Human Resources Scott Stanley and Assistant Superintendents Chris Atkinson and Pius Ryan summarized the 2021/22 preliminary planning assumptions, highlighting student enrolment, revenues, staffing, and salaries and benefits. The presentation included reference to the Board's new Strategic Plan Goals for 2021-2031. Staff highlighted programs and services included within the 2021/22 financial plan that align with Board priorities. Input received from consultation with the School District Partner groups was presented, and staff identified ways in which those priorities have been incorporated into the 2021/22 financial plan. Concluding the presentation, Ms. Watson summarized the approach for the next year as maintaining core services to students, and restoring service to pre-COVID levels.

The Executive team provided clarification and responded to Trustees' questions.

B.2. School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Annual Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2021/22 (continued)

Moved by C. Sacré

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2021/22 be read a first time;

Seconded by C. Gerlach

Carried

Moved by K. Mann

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2021/22 be read a second time;

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

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

Moved by L. Munro

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2021/22 be read a third time, passed and adopted.

Seconded by M. Tasi Baker

Carried

A short break was observed.

Motion to Extend

Moved unanimously

to extend the meeting past 9:30 p.m.

C.1. Anti-Racism Steering Committee Report/Update

In September 2020, the Board of Education directed the Superintendent to create a representative committee/group to explore the prevalence of explicit and implicit racism and micro-aggressions within the North Vancouver School District. The Steering Committee met seven times over the course of the year under the leadership of Co-Chairs Jessica Day and Mabel Nahanee, both students in the School District.

Superintendent Mark Pearmain, on behalf of the Committee, provided a report to the Board of Education on the work of the Anti-Racism Steering Committee has completed to date, highlighting the following recommendations:

Recommendations to the Board of Education:

- That the Anti-Racism Steering Committee continues its work into the 2021/22 school year:
 - Continue to meet as a full committee; the Committee will review data provided by the various focus groups and develop a strategy based on the feedback; and,
 - Provide update/recommendations to Board of Education at the December 2021 Public Board Meeting
- Develop a communications plan to promote awareness about the contributions of BIPOC Canadians:
 - The focus is beyond Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month, National Indigenous Peoples Day, etc.; and, increased engagement and awareness within students, staff and parents/guardians
- That Bakau Consulting undertake a review of School District policy/internal documents and make recommendations:
 - Take the recommendations of Bakau Consulting to make the necessary changes to policy and internal documents; and,
 - Provide guidance for all new policies and documents based on Bakau Consulting Recommendations

C.1. Anti-Racism Steering Committee Report/Update (continued)

Work will continue throughout the 2021/22 year by collecting data from students, staff and the community through forums and surveys. Next steps will be provided to the Board at the December 2021 Public Board Meeting.

C.2. Trustee School Liaison

Board Chair Tsiakos shared the Trustee School Liaison assignments for the 2021/22 school year.

TRUSTEE LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS	
Argyle (Boundary, Lynn Valley, Ross Road, Upper Lynn)	Kulvir Mann
Carson Graham (Larson, Queen Mary, Westview)	Mary Tasi Baker
Handsworth (Canyon Heights, Cleveland, Highlands, Montroyal)	Linda Munro
Mountainside Secondary, NV Distributed Learning (Braemar, Capilano, Carisbrooke, Norgate)	George Tsiakos
Seycove (Cove Cliff, Dorothy Lynas, Sherwood Park)	Megan Higgins
Sutherland (Brooksbank, Eastview, Queensbury, Ridgeway)	Cyndi Gerlach
Windsor (Blueridge, Lynnmour, Seymour Heights)	Christie Sacré

C.3. 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. An update on the Cheakamus Centre's Environmental Learning Centre was provided.

C.4. Tuesday, June 8, 2021, Standing Committee Meeting

Trustee Tsiakos reported on the meeting that showcased planning assumptions and forecast expenditures for the 2021/22 annual preliminary budget. Staff provided a focus on expenditures plus the 2020/21 budget position and the impact to the accumulated operating surplus.

C.5. Superintendent's Report (including COVID-19)

Superintendent Pearmain started by recognizing the Graduating Class of 2021 who embraced the concept of adaptability and resilience this past year. A final update on COVID-19 was provided and Superintendent Pearmain shared the expectations for the start of September 2021.

C.6. Report Out - BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and BC Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

Trustee Tasi Baker had nothing to update on BCSTA. Trustee Gerlach had nothing to update for BCPSEA.

C.7. Trustees' Reports

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

- Meetings attended by Trustees included:
 - Public Board Meeting
 - Standing Committee Meeting
 - Trustee Seminar Meetings
 - District Student Leadership Council Meeting
 - Sustainability Committee Meeting
 - Artists for Kids Committee Meeting
 - Larson Elementary Parent Advisory Council Meeting

C.7. Trustees' Reports (continued)

- Carson Graham Secondary PAC Meeting
 - Meeting with City of North Vancouver Councillors
 - BCSTA Metro Meeting
 - Physical Literacy for Communities Meeting
 - CNV4ME Action Team Meeting
 - North Shore Table Matters Meeting
- Events attended by Trustees included:
 - Windsor Secondary Green Team Lunchtime Cleanup
 - Ridgeway Elementary Planting Event
 - Carson Graham Secondary Student Climate Action Event
 - Handsworth Secondary Grad Car Parade
 - Drumming and Prayer Ceremony
 - Virtual Celebration for North Vancouver RCMP Superintendent

During the Trustees' Reports, Trustees took the opportunity to share thoughts on the comments made at the May 18, 2021 Public Board Meeting.

Notice of Motion

During the Trustees' Reports, Trustee Tsiakos advised the Board of a notice of motion for the September or October Public Board Meeting regarding best practices guidelines for motions and notice of motions.

D. Future Meetings

Date and Time	Event	Location
Tuesday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.	Standing Committee Meeting	TBC
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	TBC
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.	Standing Committee Meeting	TBC
Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	TBC

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.

F. Adjournment

The established agenda being completed, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:54 p.m. and thanked those who attended.

Certified Correct:

Original signed by J. Stewart

Jacqui Stewart
Secretary Treasurer
September 22, 2021

Date

Original signed by G. Tsiakos

George Tsiakos
Chair, Board of Education
Sept 22, 2021

Date