

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, January 19, 2021.

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

REGRETS: D. Bruce, Vice Chair

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 January 19, 2021, Public Board Meeting by Microsoft Teams.

Seconded by K. Mann

Carried

Chair Tsiakos wished community members a Happy New Year and acknowledged the continued challenges related to COVID-19. The North Vancouver School District participated in a new grassroots movement, Black Shirt Day, and continues on its own journey of learning together. Recognition was provided to the Argyle Secondary School community who celebrated the opening of their new school and it was shared that International Day of Education is January 24.

A.2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by C. Sacré

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

Seconded by M. Higgins

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.

There was no email submission.

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.

A.4. Stakeholder Comment Period (continued)

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

Carolyn Pena, President of North Vancouver Teachers' Association, thanked everyone involved in creating the Policy 412: Supporting Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression – Administrative Procedures. Ms. Pena highlighted how important it is to continue supporting this process with time and resources for all employees and the ability to access high quality teaching resources.

A.5. Approval of Minutes

Moved by C. Sacré

that the minutes of the public meeting of December 8, 2020, be approved as circulated.

Seconded by K. Mann

Carried

B.1. Board Committee and Trustee Representational Assignments (2021)

Chair Tsiakos introduced this item and advised that, in accordance with [Policy 102: Board of Education – Committees and Representation](#), Trustees had met to discuss their preferences for committee appointments in the 2021 calendar year.

Moved by K. Mann

that the Board approve the Chair's appointments of Trustees as attached to this Administrative Memorandum and make the appointments effective January 19, 2021.

Seconded by M. Tasi Baker

Carried

C.1. North Vancouver Teachers' Association Professional Development Report

Each year through the Collective Agreement; the Board of Education provides a grant to the North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTa) to fund professional development. Carolyn Pena, President of the NVTa and Tammy Daley, Chair of the Association's Professional Development Committee, were welcomed to present the NVTa Professional Development Report.

Ms. Daley shared the Report and highlighted that all teachers were eligible to apply for up to \$250 for professional development. Opportunities were provided for teachers to participate in larger, more expensive professional development activities with \$6,000 being allocated to special grants. Concluding the presentation, Ms. Daley thanked the Board of Education for the continued support.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Tsiakos thanked the NVTa team for their presentation.

C.2. Policy 412: Supporting Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression – Administrative Procedures

Vince White, Director of Instruction, was invited to share the administrative procedures for Policy 412: Supporting Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression. The administrative procedures were drafted during a Policy 412 Policy Review Sub-committee with representatives from the secondary and elementary school administrators (NoVA), the North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTa), the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC) and the Board of Education.

Dr. White provided highlights of the administrative procedures that were updated to reflect the changes of structure and language. This important work will help increase visibility and awareness of sexual orientation and gender identity by acknowledging national and international days of recognition; through school announcements; making available books and resources for teachers;

C.2. Policy 412: Supporting Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression – Administrative Procedures (continued)

building gender-neutral washroom options in new constructions and renovations; and, examining existing and new school activities.

Trustees shared their thanks and appreciation to Dr. White on taking on such an important and sensitive policy.

C.3. Proposed Robotics Academy

District Principal Michael Kee provided the Board of Education with an overview of the Robotics, Mechatronics & Digital Fabrication Academy Proposal and the discussions that have occurred to date with respect to this proposal.

In the fall of 2019, the North Vancouver School District began exploring the possibility of a Robotics Academy, and in January 2020 initiated discussions with Zen Maker Lab to introduce a new specialty academy.

Mr. Kee shared that the academy would be open to all students regardless of experience in robotics. Interested students will have opportunities to participate in competitions as well as Career Education Work Experience placements related to robotics and mechatronics. Students interested in advancing in this area can, through the academy's connection to Zen Maker Lab, discover pathways from secondary school to post-secondary institutions and/or employment in the technology/industrial sector in North Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

The intent is to offer the Academy at Carson Graham Secondary School and/or Zen Maker Lab's new Shipyards location beginning in the 2021/22 school year. As with other NVSD academies, the program would be offered during an afternoon block.

Responding to Trustees' questions, clarification was provided regarding the communications to ensure families within the School District are aware of the academy and sponsorships was explored to reduce the cost. It was noted that if there is a waitlist, like other academies, there will be a lottery process to offer acceptance.

Mr. Kee will come back to the Board of Education in March 2021 with enrolment numbers for the Robotics, Mechatronics & Digital Fabrication Academy.

C.4. School Calendar 2021/22 – Update

Assistant Superintendent Chris Atkinson provided the Board of Education with an update on the work that has been completed with the proposed school calendar for the 2021/22 school year. The 2021/22 calendar proposal developed by the School District's School Calendar Committee will be published, for comment, to the School District website from February 1, 2021, till February 28, 2021.

C.5. 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.

A short break was observed.

C.6. Tuesday, January 12, 2021, Standing Committee Meeting

Trustee Mann reported on the meeting that showcased the Museum and Archives of North Vancouver and a presentation from the North Vancouver School District’s Inclusive Education team and Indigenous Education team.

C.7. 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. An update on the Elementary Temporary Transition Support Option was provided to the Board, with notification that a recommendation would be coming forward in February. Superintendent Pearmain also shared information regarding the concept of a Student Trustee and acknowledged Black Shirt Day.

C.8. Report Out - BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and BC Public Schools Employers’ Association (BCPSEA)

Trustee Tasi Baker shared that the BCSTA Provincial Council is on February 20. Trustee Gerlach asked for feedback on the motions proposed for the BCPSEA AGM.

C.9. 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
 - District of North Vancouver Meeting
 - Trustee Seminar Meetings
 - Various PAC Meetings
 - BCSTA Legislative Committee Meeting
 - Integrated Transportation Meeting with CNV
2. Events attended by Trustees included:
 - NVPAC Online Presentation
 - POPARD Workshop – Social Skills for Students
 - Physical Literacy for Committees
 - North Vancouver HUBBUB 3: Digital Showcase

D. Future Meetings

Date and Time	Event	Location
Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.	Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting	Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Virtual
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

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 8:51 p.m. and thanked those who attended.

Certified Correct:

Original signed by J. Stewart

Jacqui Stewart
Secretary Treasurer

February 23, 2021

Date

Original signed by G. Tsiakos

George Tsiakos
Chair, Board of Education

February 23, 2021

Date