

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, March 9, 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 6:30 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 March 9, 2021, Public Board Meeting by Microsoft Teams.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

Chair Tsiakos acknowledged the celebration of Class Acts, where the Board of Education celebrates and recognizes people and achievements from across the School District. International Women's Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination are both occurring in the month of March. Chair Tsiakos recognized that Spring Break was upcoming and took a moment for thank community members for the extra efforts with COVID-19 and encouraged everyone to continue to be cautious and stay safe.

A.2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by M. Tasi Baker

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

Seconded by K. Mann

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 were no comments.

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.

Dean Yeo, Co-President of North Vancouver Administrators (NoVA), took the opportunity to acknowledge all School District staff over the past year during COVID-19. On behalf of NoVA, Mr. Yeo extended his appreciation and thanks.

A.4. Stakeholder Comment Period (continued)

Carolyn Pena, President of North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTAs), spoke regarding the proposed calendar for the 2021/22 school year. Ms. Pena noted that teachers would like to see Friday, November 12, 2021, as a day not in session.

A.5. Approval of Minutes

An amendment to the minutes of February 23, 2021, was requested in *Trustees' Reports* to write out, in full, Trustee Gerlach's notice of motion.

Moved by C. Sacré

that the minutes of the public meeting of February 23, 2021, be approved as amended.

Seconded by M. Tasi Baker

Carried

B.1. Election of a Board Vice Chair

Chair Tsiakos called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Board for the term commencing on March 9, 2021 and ending November 30, 2021 or until a successor has been elected. Trustee Tasi Baker nominated Trustee Mann. There being no other nominations, Trustee Mann was declared Board Vice Chair.

B.2. Proposed 2021/22 School Calendar for Board Approval

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 proposed 2021/22 calendar was developed by the School District's School Calendar Committee and was published on the School District website on February 1, 2021. Notification of a one-month public comment period was provided to staff and parents of students through the online engagement tool Thoughtexchange. Highlights were provided on the comments received.

Responding to Trustees' questions, Assistant Superintendent Atkinson clarified questions surrounding November 12, 2021 as a day not in session.

Moved by M. Higgins

that the Board of Education approve the Proposed 2021/22 School Calendar as attached to the Administrative Memorandum of March 9, 2021, with the addition of a day not in session on November 12, 2021.

Seconded by M. Tasi Baker

Defeated

The motion was defeated.

Moved by K. Mann

that the Board of Education approve the Proposed 2021/22 School Calendar as attached to the Administrative Memorandum of March 9, 2021.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

B.3. Proposed Robotics Academy

District Principal Michael Kee updated the Board of Education on the Robotics, Mechatronics & Digital Fabrication Academy. The application period for academies was January 18 – February 21, 2021, from which 47 students applied. Mr. Kee noted that the Academy would be situated at Carson Graham Secondary School with Zen Maker Labs as a secondary site.

B.3. Proposed Robotics Academy (continued)

Mr. Kee responded to Trustees' questions including issues of cost, inclusivity and the possibility for an additional class in the future.

Moved by C. Sacré

that the Board of Education approve, in principle, the implementation of a Robotics, Mechatronics, & Digital Fabrication Academy in partnership with Zen Maker Lab as outlined in the proposal presented at the January 19, 2021 Public Board Meeting, and that the academy be offered beginning September 2021 subject to sufficient student enrollment.

Seconded by K. Mann

Carried

B.4. City of North Vancouver and North Vancouver School District Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

In April 2020, both the North Vancouver Board of Education and the City of North Vancouver passed motions at their respective public meetings formalizing the partnership and collaboration between the two organizations. The new initiative coming from these meetings is the Collaboration Working Group. A Memorandum of Understanding will formalize the strong and historical working relationship that has existed between the Board of Education and the City of North Vancouver.

Superintendent Pearmain provided a review of the Memorandum of Understanding, which was created in part with the City of North Vancouver, and highlighted key areas of focus for the coming year.

Moved by K. Mann

that the Board Chair and Secretary Treasurer execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Vancouver Board of Education and the City of North Vancouver.

Seconded by C. Sacré

Carried

A short break was observed.

C.1. 2021 School Trustee By-election Update

Superintendent Pearmain updated the Board of Education on the 2021 school Trustee by-election. As a result of a Trustee resigning in February 2021, a by-election must be held to fill the vacancy. As outlined in the *School Act*, within 30 days after a vacancy occurs, the Board must notify the municipal council of the need for a by-election. The municipality must then appoint a chief election officer within 30 days of being notified.

The 2021 school Trustee by-election will be conducted by the District of North Vancouver, as the School Trustees' electoral area was in the District of North Vancouver. The Chief Election Officer must set a general voting day for the by-election, which must be on a Saturday no later than 80 days after the Chief Election Officer is appointed.

The North Vancouver School District will be responsible to cover all costs associated with the by-election. The by-election will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2021. More information will be shared by Superintendent Pearmain when it becomes available.

C.2. Secondary Timetable Update

Providing an update on this item, Assistant Superintendent Chris Atkinson shared key highlights on decisions about the secondary timetable. The goal is to get students and staff back to a full experience with engaging meaningful learning, extra curricular sports, music, clubs, teams and social time. There is a sense of uncertainty because of COVID-19 that continues to change as new developments come from the Provincial Health Officer.

C.2. Secondary Timetable Update (continued)

Over the past three months, feedback has been collected on this topic and is currently being analyzed. Initial responses comprised both successes and challenges in the current semester system instead of the usual linear system. Elements of success included: daily non-instructional time for teachers allowing more time to collaborate; flex time allowing for students to get more support from teachers; a later start time and most importantly reduced the number of contacts. Challenges included the length of each course and class, and the pace of learning.

Assistant Superintendent Atkinson advised that the North Vancouver School District will plan a timetable that is transitional and balanced.

C.3. Land Management Update

Superintendent Pearmain noted there has been no change in updates since the last Public Board Meeting of February 23, 2021.

C.4. 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 acknowledged that it has been a year since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic. Superintendent Pearmain referenced the 25 Year Service Employee Recognition Event which recognized and celebrated employees within the organization that have provided over 25 years of service.

C.5. Report Out - BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and BC Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

Trustee Tasi Baker updated the Board on the BCSTA AGM in April and shared that there are 48 motions being put forward for discussion. Trustee Gerlach shared she attended a phone conference in her roll as BCPSEA representative.

Motion to Extend

Moved by C. Sacré

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

Seconded by M. Tasi Baker

Carried

C.6. 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
 - Inclusion Committee Meeting
 - Communications Committee Meeting
 - Calendar Committee Meeting
 - Board of Education and District of North Vancouver Meeting
 - CNV4ME Action Team Meeting
2. Events attended by Trustees included:
 - 25 Year Service Employee Recognition Event
 - North Vancouver Teacher's Association Professional Development Conference
 - Virtual Physical Literacy 101 Workshop

D. Future Meetings

Date and Time	Event	Location
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
Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Virtual

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 9:33 p.m. and thanked those who attended.

Certified Correct:

Original signed by J. Stewart

Jacqui Stewart
Secretary Treasurer

April 27, 2021

Date

Original signed by G. Tsiakos

George Tsiakos
Chair, Board of Education

April 27, 2021

Date