

New Westminster DPAC

School District 40

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Date: Oct 15, 2020

Time: 7:04 -7:48 pm

Co-Chair: Kathleen Carlsen (Ecole Glenbrook Middle School) **Minute Taker:** Kathleen Carlsen
Executive: Ronda Field (Acting Past Chair/ New Westminster Secondary School), Renee Mosi (Treasurer/ NWSS), Akbar Merchant (Member-at-Large/ Lord Kelvin Elementary)
Guests: Karim Hachlaf (Superintendent),
Parents/Guardians: (participant list from Zoom)
Harpreet Bal, Fatema Chowdhury (Connaught Heights Elementary), Larisa Ciprian (Richard McBride Elementary), Bernadette Gourlay, Sue Kenny (Queen Elizabeth Elementary), Jen Knight (RME), Catherine Lamadine (Ecole Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary), Martinique Longstaff (Herbert Spencer Elementary), Ximena Marin (ELTE), Natalie Suffron (HS), Tina Wang, Leah Yallop (HS)

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

1. [REDACTED]

1. **Welcome & Attendance:** all those logged in were asked to add their name and school they represented in the chat room

2. **Acknowledgement**

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: Natalie, **Second by:** Ronda, **CARRIED**

4. **Motion to accept Minutes of the Sept 17th, 2020 meeting**

Moved by: Marti, **Seconded by:** Catherine **CARRIED**

5. **Chair Report - Kathleen Carlsen**

I would like to thank all parents in the District for being patient while we started this new school year in a much different way than expected. I would also like to thank the District staff for being so adaptable and making it possible for our children to continue their education. I feel very fortunate living in this country. And I know that we will continue to work together to support all children in this district to get the education and support they need while staying healthy

6. **District Update - Superintendent Karim Hachlaf**

Mr. Hachlaf spoke about Halloween protocols that will be coming out soon, communications protocols re: COVID 19, the confirmation that there are NO SD40 Schools on the list right now, and no student or staff are self-isolating at this time.

The first board mtg took place 2 weeks ago; they are very committed to the schools in SD40 and are working towards the Strategic plans.

There is on-going work with the on-line programs and with the Inclusive Education initiatives, the process to rename Richard McBride Elementary has been started, the capital projects for Richard McBride are on time and the work on the QE expansion although on hold until the election, is expected to continue soon.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Renee presented two versions of the Budget for the 2020-21 school year - showing the difference between if we get the gaming grant money and if we do not receive gaming money.

2.

8. **BCCPAC membership** - thank you to all PAC chairs & Reps for sending in your membership registration forms. We only have one school left to register. Kathleen will follow up with the executive of Ecole Qayqayt Elementary School to ensure they also receive benefits of being BCCPAC members.
9. **Parent Education** - we have secured Bruce Cunnings and Maureen McRae-Stanger to come to our next meeting (November 19th) to teach parents about the platforms students are using in schools. A couple parent videos will go out to parents (from DPAC) prior to the next meeting to help them get prepared for the lessons being given on November 19th
10. **Gaming Grants** - it seems most schools in our district did receive money from the gaming grant. Most received close to, but a wee bit less than last year. Kathleen will follow up with those schools who have not received this money. DPAC has been told we will not find out if we receive gaming money until at least February, 2021.

3.

- 11.
12. **Question re: Would there be an opportunity for parents and NWSS students to learn about University applications, and how to go about applying to various colleges and universities.**
Karim told those present that the counsellors and principal at the High School along with the learning team will hold meetings for parents and students. He suggested that sometimes outside speakers come to speak to the parents and students.
It was also suggested that concerned parents / students should contact the school directly.
13. **Environment Club at NWSS hosted All Candidates meeting;**
Discussion took place amongst those who attended the Virtual All Candidates meeting last night. Candidates for the Conservatives, Greens, NDP and Liberatarian attended. The Liberal candidate did not respond or show up. Ronda spoke about the different candidates who attended and some of their responses. We encourage everyone to read, go to events or virtual events to learn about the candidates and to VOTE for the right person for you and your family.

4.

- 4.1 Will there be any additions for Student Mental Health at NWSS - Superintendent Hachlaf stated that the District has already added additional counsellors, moving from 1.5 to 2 FTD meaning the ratio is reduced.

4.2 There was a question again about the timing of the half days and Professional days and the number of these in September. Also about the first week in September that has partial days. This is extremely difficult for working parents.

Superintendent Hachlaf acknowledged the difficulty families face, at the same time explaining the Provincial Pro-D days are set by the BCTF (teachers union) and there has not been any discussion about changing these.

Adjournment: 7:48 pm, Moved by Ronda

Next Meeting - November 19, 2020 @ 7pm

At: Virtual Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82424657258?pwd=L3EvZUI2Wml0aUx2ZzBWcVZ2VzUydz09>