

Date: Feb 18, 2021

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Time: 7-9 pm

Chair: Kathleen Carlsen (EGMS)

Minute Taker: Kathleen Carlsen (Chair)

Executive: Ronda Field (Acting Past Chair, NWSS), Renee Mosi (Treasurer, NWSS) Akbar Merchant (Member-at-Large, LKE)

Guests: Karim Hachlaf (Superintendent), Maureen Mc-Rae Stranger (Director of Instruction, Learning and Innovation), Ravinder Johal (District Principal Equity & Inclusion), Dee Beattie (School Trustee)

Regrets: Cyrus Sy, Trustee Maya Russell

Parents/Guardians: Christian Beschea (EGMS), Janice Blanco (Power alt HS), Carrie Carlsen (ELTE), Larisa Ciprian (RME), Mike Dalley (EGMS), Tyler Gardner (FRMS), Ashley Hartford (EQE), Doug Herssymuik (FWHE), Steph Hsu (NW Online), Angel Khazoum (EHSE), Lorida Koca (LKE), Qing Liu (EGMS), Martinique Longstaff (EHSE), Marlayne Metzker (EHSE/ EGMS), Mona Meyer (EGMS), Chelle Ostlund (NWHL), Carmen Postulart (EQQE), Ana Radu (FRMS), Francis Manica Riberio (FRMS), Joey Saboy (K8-O), Garry Self (FWHE), Jessica Swanson (EQQE), Karon Trenaman (FRMS), Cira Vasquez (EQQE), Joanne Villadolid, Allison Viveriros (NWHL), Anne Whitmore (K8-O), Ashley Young (EHSE),

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

1. [REDACTED]

1. **Welcome**

2. **Call to Order & Acknowledgement**

3. **Attendance** - see above

4. **Adoption of Agenda - with the addition of FSA & Sidewalk Safety being added to New Business**
Moved by Marti, Second by Carrie, CARRIED

5. **Approval of Minutes from January 21/21 Meeting**
Moved by Marti, Second by Ronda, CARRIED

6. **Chair Report: Kathleen Carlsen**

All Executive members and Guests were introduced (see Guest list above) and thanked for their attendance. All parents present were thanked for coming together, and for bringing their thoughts, concerns and questions here so we can all work together for the betterment of all students in this district.

7. **District Update: Karim Hachlaf**

- a. **COVID-19 Update:** As Fraser Health continues to hone their process as we move through the COVID-19 notification process, they have streamlined their communications. The benefit of this will be: the new process will enable them to respond in a more timely manner when issuing notifications and it will decrease the number of emails sent to staff and families. A district-wide letter was sent to all families – click [link](#) for more details. Additionally, the return to school after the winter break has seen far less exposures as compared to November and December. Parents can find my detailed COVID-19 monthly updates to the Board on our District website. Please use this [link](#) to access my February COVID-19 report.

b. **Budget 2021-22:** The Board of Education will begin its annual planning and consultation budget process after the Spring Break prior to finalizing its 2021-22 operating budget. As opposed to past years, we are excited to align our consultation process guided by our five-year [strategic plan](#). Specifically, the Board will continue to focus on its strategic goals including:

- Neighborhood Learning Centres (Welcome and Wellness Centres)
- Mental Health supports
- COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Inclusive Education Action Plan (2nd year)
- Anti-Racism Framework

8. **Treasurer's Report: Renee Mosi**

- There has been no change since the January mtg; we are still in a good financial position
- Reminder that DPAC has money in the budget to help PACs bring in parent educators or presentations. Email newwestdpac@gmail.com with your requests or questions about this

9. **Guest Speakers - District Principal Johal and Director of Instruction, M. McRae-Stanger**

- A presentation on the Child and Youth Liaison Officer program was given. Discussion took place, members gave their opinions, questions were answered and a live survey was taken.
- The link for this presentation will also be posted on the New West Schools website, and when we receive it, it will get posted to our DPAC website as well.

10. **School Trustee Dee Beattie: NWSS Farewell to the old Building**

The group working on this project is shooting for the last Saturday in May. They have moved to the idea of a video production with New West TV and have received a lot of input from former students and staff members. Massey Theatre is booked, but we don't know at this time what that will look like.

- Unfortunately we cannot do a tour of the old school like we had hoped
- We are working on a 70 year memorial pin which will be given to all students and staff enrolled at NWSS this year. There will also be pins available for purchase. The artwork on the pins is almost finished.

11. **PNO Report: Kathleen**

- The PNO is an acronym for Parents Night Out and consists of representation from Fraser Health, New West Schools, Community School liaisons, New West Youth Services and SD40 DPAC. We work to put on educational / informative presentations for parents in this district. Our last event was a virtual presentation on February 4th via Zoom. The focus was on Nurturing Emotional Resilience and Well-Being both for ourselves and for our Children. This was a popular event with over 85 attendees. I will be attending the next PNO meeting at the end of this month where we will be making plans for our next event - hopefully in May. If you have any suggestions for this event, please type it in the chat or email me directly at newwestdpacchair@gmail.com

12. **Anti-Racism Advisory Committee (ARAC): Laura Kwong**

The first meeting of the SD40 ARAC took place January 27, 2021 via Zoom and laid out the goals and terms of reference for the committee. The stakeholder groups include: NWTU, CUPE, NWPVPA, DPAC, SOGI, Indigenous Ed, SD40 Secondary Students and the Board of Education.

There has been a lot of work done in the district around equity, diversity, and inclusion such as the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (2018) which set forth a 5-year plan to take on shared responsibility, viewing education as a key to reconciliation. In addition, last year's Inclusive Practices Review which highlighted what is working well in our district but also shed light on areas for growth. As individuals in positions of influence, we have a collective responsibility to address systemic racism.

The prime goal of the committee is to seek feedback from the stakeholder groups and to liaise with an external consultant working towards the development of an anti-racism framework that will be adopted by all schools within SD40.

The role of the DPAC representatives on this committee is to provide feedback from the perspective of parents and caregivers for children attending schools in SD40.

2. [REDACTED]

13. None

3. [REDACTED]

14. **K-8 Online Learning / Questions from Parents** - There were comments from parents about the success of the online learning program, how appreciative the parents and students are, how upset they are to learn a decision to discontinue this program for the 2021-22 school year has already been made and how they would like to see this fantastic program with it's amazing teachers continue post the pandemic.

Superintendent Hachlaf responded: he has heard some concern over receiving notice that our K-8 inclusive online program would end at the conclusion of the school year. Comments included an appreciation of the district's work in developing this program for families this year and wanting the program to continue given uncertainty regarding the ongoing impact of COVID-19. Again, I want to acknowledge the need for families to seek out alternative options to best meet their individual family needs.

More questions were asked and more information was shared by our Superintendent. With updates to these added in bold below:

- Our online program first and foremost was part of our pandemic transition planning; back in June we were in stage 3 and still had a lot of unknowns when it came to COVID safety and transmission in schools. Hence, our planning over the summer looked at building a K-8 online program and we made the decision to keep the program for the 2020-21 school year. Certainly, should the pandemic shift course in a negative way, the province would adjust the stage for instructional delivery and we would be prepared to engage in a similar process to re-open online programming.

That said, the Ministry of Education is anticipating to move to Stage 1 with enhanced health and safety protocols for September 2021. Please click this [link](#) to view the K-12 Five-Stage Provincial Framework.

While the pandemic continues, we have learned a lot over the course of this school year:

- A completely virtual learning environment for our primary, intermediate and middle learners is less than ideal learning environment which does have an impact on developing social skills and can result in a negative impact on student mental health.

- Looking at the provincial health data, schools have not been shown to be concerning environments for COVID-19 transmission given the health and safety standards we have now implemented in our schools. Dr. Henry's recent public report clearly illustrated that the start of school in September and return after the winter break did not show an increase in community transmission. Further, COVID-19 has a relatively low infection rate amongst school aged children aged 5-18. This is now important data we can use when planning for the 2021-22 school year.
- Beyond these primary reasons, we were also able to use one time additional federal and provincial pandemic funding to supplement our operational budgets. In doing so, we maintained inclusive education supports beyond the typical Distributed Learning funding allocation. Moreover, we held available spots at schools for our online families allowing them to return to their home school throughout the year. In order to achieve this, we had to maintain higher than normal staffing levels.
- Now – while sustaining the current K-8 online program is challenging for the reasons I have listed – we recognize parents may wish to continue with alternate forms of learning and why our HLP is an alternate option where families have switched over. Moreover, we are prioritizing spaces for in-district families who may still wish to pursue this option. **Additionally, we will continue to assess our ability to offer online opportunities under our Home Learners Program.**
- While our initial communication was sent via our parent newsletter, we will be sending out a letter to all families providing a further update and outlining available options. In the interim, parents are welcome to email myself and Director [Maureen McRae- Stanger](#). **This will provide the opportunity for individual families to reach out to the school district to consider their needs and work on a successful transition plan.**
- **While I sincerely acknowledge parent comments regarding frustration over this decision and the sentiment that the lack of consultation can impact the level of trust parents have with the school district, I want parents to understand that we are not in a position to continue the current K-8 online program as it is currently structured for the 2021-22 school year. For this reason, it is why we articulated this decision in February to allow the time we need to work with individual families as we plan for the 2021-22 school year.**

The Chair of the meeting suggested we add this item to possible resolutions to BCCPAC.

2. **FSA Questions** - Prior to this meeting, there were some parents in the district who had some questions and concerns about the FSA. As we had a presentation at the DPAC meeting last month and the information from this presentation is available both on the DPAC website and the New West Schools website, parents with questions were directed to check these out and then take any further questions directly to their school administrators. Parents of Ecole Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School were directed to attend a meeting on Monday night with the school administration and Maureen who will be happy to answer any further questions there.
3. **Sidewalk Safety** - There is concern from parents re: icy sidewalks on McBride Boulevard to Royal Avenue making it unsafe for parents and students of Qayqayt Elementary school to get to the school safely. As all sidewalks in the City are related to City Business, parents are asked to go to their school principal before going to or writing to the City.
4. **Call for Resolutions for BCCPAC** - because of the pandemic and all of the unknowns last year, the BCCPAC did not accept any resolutions. The SD40 DPAC executive plans to re-send the ones we put forth last year and had put a call out for any others to be forwarded by tonight.

The subject of the resolutions we are working on were all read aloud:

1. advocate for safe drinking water in all districts and all schools
2. no sale of bottled water in schools in areas that safe water is available
3. restrict the sale of Vaping products (the same as liquor stores) in regards to being more than 1km away from school grounds
4. develop long range climate action plan

5. make the HPV vaccine available to all students (including all males)
6. include expected population growth in regards to new school builds

Motion to accept these resolutions and send them in to BCCPAC

Moved by: Ronda Second by: Kathleen **CARRIED**

Discussion re: adding advocating for development of a universal online K-12 educational program for families to equally access beyond pandemic programming.

Moved by: Sue Seconded: Kathleen **CARRIED**

Sue will work on this and send to the executive this weekend.

3.5 Letters from the DPAC executive

- A. re: mandatory mask wearing of all people on school property. As this is not a District decision; it is a province wide decision, the executive would like to write a letter on behalf of the SD40 DPAC requesting it be mandatory for all peoples who are able to, to wear a mask while on school property. This would include drop-off and pick-up of students on school grounds (even if outside of the actual school)
- B. For your information, the SD40 DPAC has sent an invitation letter to the New Westminster MLA Jennifer White-side, also Minister of Education, asking for her attendance at one of our upcoming meetings. We will let you know when we hear back.

Adjournment: 9:35pm, Moved by Janice & Ronda

Next Meeting - April 15, 2021, 7pm

At: Virtual Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89945746238?pwd=U25sQXd4a1o0SE5aS1N6KzhBakFzd09>

SD40 Schools:

NWSS - New Westminster Secondary School

EGMS - Ecole Glenbrook Middle School

FRMS - Fraser River Middle School

QBMS - Queensborough Middle School

CHE - Connaught Heights Elementary School

EHSE - Ecole Herbert Spencer Elementary School

ELTE - Ecole Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School

EQQE - Ecole Qayqayt Elementary School

FWHE - F.W. Howay Elementary School

LKE - Lord Kelvin Elementary School

QEE - Queen Elizabeth Elementary School

RME - Richard McBride Elementary School

NWHL - New Westminster Home Learners

PA - Power Alternative High School

K8-O - K-8 Online Schooling

