

Date: January 18, 2024

Location: virtual only due to closure of schools due to weather

Time: 7-9 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt)

Minute Taker: Laura Kwong

Executive Krista Macauly (Treasurer, Lord Tweedsmuir), Cyrus Sy (Member-at-large, NWSS DPAC Rep), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS & QEE DPAC Rep), Don Doyle (Member-at-large, QMS)

Guests: Cheryl Sluis (Board of Education), Karim Hachlaf (SD40), Bettina Ketcham (SD40)

Parents/Guardians: Danielle Connelly, Gurvir Singh, Carline Alon, Allison Wilkie, Kathleen Carlsen, Natalie Taha, Shawn Sorensen, Courney Daws, Sloane Drennan, JC Valeros, Joana Henrey, Jennifer Vander Zalm, Renee Mosi, Francis Riberio, Amber Sadgrove, Doug Herasymuik, Melody Gibson

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:03	Welcome, Call to Order & Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance	Laura
	Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes MOTION TO APPROVE: Kathleen SECOND by Melody CARRIED	Laura
	Adoption of February 16th, 2024 Agenda Amendment to add an update on the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee under the chair report. MOTION TO APPROVE as amended Melody SECOND by Krista CARRIED	Laura
7:06	Special Guest - Kai Smith, SOGI Lead SD40 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slides from Kai's presentation ● Happy to be presenting to parents and caregivers, also open to connecting with PACs who'd like their own session or presentation ● Sharing information about our SOGI policy and what resources are available for PACs to support SOGI in our schools. ● Questions about SOGI are often rooted in fear, and genuinely are concerned for their kids. ● Can direct to school admin, or if that isn't a good route given one or both parties then to Ken Headley the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion ● Hard conversations are best when we're calm and informed. 	Kai Smith

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The district has an obligation to educate students such that they are fully prepared to be successful in society and able to relate to all of their peers. ● Meet people where they're at, otherwise we'll get tangled in fear and shame. Have a discussion where nobody is trying to change your child or your child's trajectory. Making space for all the kids and about your child learning about the world. Everyone's family feels welcome in our district. As we do this around SOGI it spreads to other topics. ● As parents we need to acknowledge, there is a worry that students will talk to teachers using names & pronouns they wouldn't use at home, and are these teachers keeping secrets. If we are to say that students are NOT able to express themselves, not part of teacher job to decide where and when their human rights start. When students come to teachers and share a bit of themselves that means they have a safe adult. Schools are places to express themselves as places to share before they're ready to go to parents. ● The client is actually the student, not the parent. If a student wants to be addressed a certain way, they have that right. It is the right of the student to find an adult that they want to talk to and that includes within schools. Have the right to share and be addressed who they want. Extends to medical things. Students get to express themselves, and have to serve them as much as we can because they are the client. ● Part of what Kai is doing is supporting, dial back the fear - this is about being inclusive and not about taking child on a journey that isn't driven 	
<p>7:30</p>	<p>Special Guests - Superintendent Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Survey Results → student feelings of safety ● Met with secondary and middle school teams → noticing from survey that want to dig into numbers (e.g. 78% of NWSS students feel safe), want to have further conversations with students. Focused conversations with staff and parents taking place as well. ● FRMS → following up also on survey results. Code of conduct review, student engagement and feedback is coming back to the PAC. Committees and school safety presentations through the PAC. QMS → doing similar work incorporating this into their own school learning plan. "We have safe schools but we can do more in terms of creating safe spaces" ● Beyond DPAC, middle school and secondary school teams will provide updates to the PACs at these schools. ● QEE Open house → more details about expansion plans Feb 1. ● Q from Krista: How much over capacity and crowding is a barrier to perception of safety and belonging, going to see a permeation outward. Hopeful that a push for dealing with capacity crisis and keeping it front of mind. A - confirm that capacity challenges are front of mind every day. 	<p>Karim Hachlaf</p>

	<p>We are doing everything we can from a short and long term standpoint, welcoming spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q from Gurvir - about weapon incident at NWSS, “perfect storm of mis-communication” A - our team works closely on a MOU around incidents that may require police. Will provide an update later in the spring in the safe schools update, and will include a communication aspect. Want to avoid the rumour mill. ● Q from Melody - liaising with the police, program was halted it was like a buddy program where one was assigned to each school site. Create a positive impact with the police, plans to go back to that? A - board made decision to move away from that, but whenever there is a violent situation or a situation that needs police intervention we work there. We are now looking to other community partners to create safety in schools <p>Special Guest - Secretary Treasurer for feedback on AP520 draft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rationale on why it’s coming forward for revision. ● “Feel we have a mandate to oversee any funds that come into the district, also through school generated funds” ● Usually about \$1M in and out in a given year. ● June 30 2023, \$550k was the balance (\$343k is at NWSS) ● So the mechanism to ensure balance is spent is to consolidate decision making upwards with the Secretary Treasurer. ● “More intentionality” around peripheral groups accountability back to the NWSS PAC. ● Doug - “assets redirected” wouldn’t take musical instruments, but for something like IPADs ● Kathleen - draft? A yes. Q - when was this work started? A - in Sept, approached NWSS PAC in Nov, once we found out a larger based interested sent out draft AP and asked share it out at PAC meetings. This is within AP revision process, coming to Ops meetings. Doing this “consultation more broadly”. Q - implementation of policy prior to being adopted? A - going to the board. ● Gurvir - If a PAC buys a computer it can’t be serviced by the district. But now the district owns the computer, will they support now? A - if it is a district supported piece of technology then yes (eg. we do Dell computers, so if you buy a Dell). Where is the pressure come from? ● Courtney - poor consultation. When we change policy what issue are we trying to solve, especially the one around “inequitable situation” what is this trying to solve? When talking about school district. Want clarity. ● Krista - engagement strategy for this, and curious if lessons were learned, ● Cyrus - going forward what is the timeline engagement. Conflict between 2.6 and 2.9. ● DPAC would like to ask the Board of Education to direct staff to not move forward with these revisions. Looking for a rationale that it will be spent. 	<p>Bettina Ketcham</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swingset example, transparency. Want money back into hands of community, amassed fairly significant balance over decades, intent of 2.9 to prevent growth that has no known purpose overall. We manage our budgets and vote when we need to reallocate budget. <p>Board of Education Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quick update that included info about the minor capital grant the district received for installing cooling systems at NWSS and Skwo:wech. The grant is for \$3.5M and the district needs to contribute \$500k. This plus the hiring consultant fees will put our next budget into a slight deficit. ● Universal washrooms still a concern for NWSS students, and 84% said don't want more installed ● Vaping and drug use, school negatively affects their mental health, long lineups at servery, drug use ed, mental health ed, more hands on and universal learning opportunities, more resources struggling with vape and drug use. ● More awareness about GSA (gay-straight alliance), and more resources for students with IEPs, and traffic at 8th and 6th intersection. ● Students are much more aware of wellness center, wifi is better, have access to a device ● 78% of students feel safe at school, which is an improvement from last year. ● To cool portables will cost \$1M, and all schools \$10M. And will take years, can only fund one per year. If this is the priority of the board then other upgrades will take a backseat. Asked which portables & schools used through summer. ● Portables in place, occupancy permits issued, licensing by Purpose in progress. Keeping with commitment there will be no disruption of services ● Budget consultations, starting soon. Karim leaving in April 2024. Hiring is a top priority of the board. ● Q from Gurvir - budget for cooling of NWSS? A - most is coming from minor capital fund request, some from SD40 budget. 	<p>Cheryl Sluis</p>
	<p>Standing Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participated in Discover New West Schools night, that's where the connection with Kai was made, thank you Kai for fitting us in your schedule so quickly and for sharing with us tonight ○ All candidates debate prep ongoing, will be getting support from Student Voice group again ○ Lots of time on AP520, 522 and 525 draft discussions, will ask again for consultation opportunity with school based fundraising groups and PACs. 	<p>Laura</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mita Naiker - DPAC rep on DEI Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Framework has been in the works for a while, seeing an iteration that is pretty far along. Monitoring and updating the DEIA parent toolkit. ○ I like what I see in that area, and will stay focused on bigger document. But the next step is the district is trying to organize a half day session. ● Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ no significant expenses, will be getting some cheques out soon for all candidates debate expenses 	<p>Mita Naiker</p> <p>Krista Macaulay</p>
	<p>School Reports *Deferred due to lack of time*</p>	
	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none 	<p>Laura Kwong</p>
	<p>OLD Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All candidates debate - please share info and remind everyone to vote <p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BCCPAC Resolutions *deferred due to lack of time* 	<p>Laura Kwong</p>
	<p>Adjournment: 9:33pm Next Meeting: February 15 @ Lord Kelvin</p>	