New Westminster DPAC

School District 40

Date: April 18, 2024

Location: Ecole Qayqayt Elementary

Time: 7-9 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt) Minute Taker: Cyrus Sy

Executive Cyrus Sy (Member-at-large, NWSS DPAC Rep), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS & QEE DPAC Rep),

Guests: Cheryl Sluis (Board of Education)

Regrets: Krista MacAulay (Treasurer), Sylvia Russell (Interim Superintendent)

Parents/Guardians: Alison Ytsma (Qayqayt), Theresa Lomas (Qayqyat), Heather Kamitakahara

(Connaught Heights), Carline Aton (Lord Tweedsmuir), Doug Herasymuik (FW Howay),

Joana Henrey (Skwo:wech),

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:02	Welcome, Call to Order & Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance	Laura
	Adoption of April 18, 2024 Agenda MOTION TO APPROVE by Cyrus S SECOND by Laura K CARRIED	Laura
	Approval of January 2024 Meeting Minutes MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECONDED by Cyrus CARRIED	Laura
	Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECONDED by Cyrus CARRIED	Laura

7:30 Superintendent Update

- Started on April 2nd, 2024
- Happy to work with staff and students and connect with DPAC
- Interim Associate Superintendent is Julie Pierce, has worked with interim Superintendent
- New Superintendent will be hired with input from partner groups, including DPAC
- Budget process is underway
 - No learning supports added this year
 - No service cuts either
- Working hard to handle increasing student population with portables and rearrangement of spaces
- Essential spaces for inclusive education and explorations given priority
- Excited to meet next month, met some students at symposium, their feedback important for budget priorities

Board of Education Update

- Superintendent Mark Davidson
 - Superintendent in Medicine Hat for 8 years; former teacher, principal.
 - Has experience working on the ministry side; working in a district in a similar manner; cares deeply in relationships
- Thank you to DPAC for support with Superintendent interviews, fundraising, coordinated media on short term capacity growth
- Budget Update
 - Please respond to both district and DPAC survey
- Capacity Crisis
 - New legislation for transit-oriented growth will impact future projections
 - Land deficit New West only has 50% of ministry site standards
 - BoE is doing a lot of advocacy with Ministry
 - For short term \$800K for portables 2024-2025 will impact operating budget; won't lead to short term cuts, but will not be able to add. 2025-2026 projection is about \$1.1M
 - 7-8 portables this year; Qaqyat renovations; trying hard to keep specialized spaces intact
 - High School reducing # of international students, going to online model for Career Life Ed 10. 2025-2026: further cuts to international students, move to 5-block model from current 4 block; Pam Craven to make proposal to Board by end of Month
 - Guiding Principles original principles was quite general; new principles for K-8: students that reside in new west are put in NW schools; students are placed in catchment school; students

Sylvia Russell (via email)

Cheryl Sluis

	are placed in their neighborhood school; maximum amount of	
	space. 9-12 principles: placed in NWSS and alternate schools;	
	have equitable access; maintain 21st century learning principles	
0	Portables are fine for more classroom spaces; but does not help	
	for gym and specialized spaces	
0	Q: Has the board put in consideration to use of other facilities	
	and infrastructure for specialized programs. A: There are some	
	programs	
0	Q: Can we use more Online school A:	
0	Q: (Chat) Will the photo of the board will be updated	
0	Q: Long term plan for the high school? A: Satellite high school	
0	Q: What can city do to help? A: Speed at which permits can be	
	approved; portable spaces; amenable to creating;	
0	Q: Urban schools A: The challenge is that district does not have	
	the money to pay for the space/developer when they need it.	
0	Q: Location for West End School? A: TBD, new middle school	
	must be built within 4-5 years	
0	Q: Any update on cel phone for schools? A: Staff are working on	
	a cel phone use policy; but we don't expect to see any changes	
	on the student side	
Standing Reno	rts	
Standing Repo • Chair F		Laura
Standing Repo • Chair F	Report	Laura
• Chair F		Laura
• Chair F	Report Thank you to District & Staff for co-advocacy for short term	Laura
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- Aim to spend all gaming grant this year and divide it among requests
- Deadline for gaming reports and spending is end of the year
- Gaming grant applications are open until June 30th and deadline is strict
- Need AGM minutes and 3 signatures (chair, secretary, treasurer) to apply for gaming grant
- Can use most recent AGM if next one is after the deadline
- Offer help from DPAC for filling out gaming grant application

School Generated Funds Committee Report

- Staff, DPAC, EGMS, Spencer (Elementary), VPs, Board of Education, Danielle Connelly, NWSS PAC
- Committee members: staff, partner groups, principals, VP, 2 trustees, secretary treasurer
- DPAC has 3 seats (1 secondary, 1 middle, 1 elementary)
- Committee reviews school funds from fundraising, fees, grants, etc.
- Issue with musical theater program at high school triggered review
- 3 meetings held, account summaries and balances shown
- Recommendations to amend AP 520 and 525 in progress
- Parents want money to go to intended purpose, district wants to avoid inactive or large accounts
- Seeking balance between transparency and good practices

School Reports

- Skwo:wech (Joana)
 - Fun-lunches
 - Decided to remove cakewalk event due to racist history
 - Will have movie night soon on Earth Day
 - Will get 450 gardening kits; t-shirt with school logo for each student
 - Saleema Noon presentation
 - Question to PACs: What type of other Grade 5 field trips do you have accommodate accessibility needs? Qayat did PNE and Cultus Lake (way too expensive).Wild Play. Otter Co-Op Park in Aldergrove; Watershed and Steveston Shipyards
- QMS (SueK)
 - No update
- Connaught (Heather K)
 - Grade5 ideas: Kayaking at Rocky Point, Otter Co-Op
 - Will be getting Saleema Noon workshop over zoom; workshop with kids over a day
 - O May school wide field trip to ??
 - Caseknke Ukrainian Egg Decoration for Easter
 - Gearing up for Connaught Heights Carnival
- Howay (DougH)
 - School brought in Bollywood Dance Teacher

Laura Kwong

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 Fundraisers: Fun Lunches, Purdy's, Growing Smiles 	
 New Parents are starting to get involved 	
 New portable in place 	
Tweedsmuir (CarlineA)	
 ArtCard and Fun Lunch 	
 Lauren Mclean - Nature Workshop 	
 New portables are now open and kids are happy to have a real 	
classroom!	
Qaqyat (TheresaL)	
 Fundraisers: Purdy's, Readathon 	
 AGM in May 	
 One of the PAC members is planning to go to BCCPAC 	
 Trivia Night (90s) 	
NWSS (CyrusS)	
 Haven't had a meeting yet for next 	
 We are losing quite a few members, and if anyone from middle 	
schools are coming in they can reach out - especially treasurer	
 SpiritWear fundraiser 	
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CORRESPONDENCE	Laura
None	Kwong
OLD Business	
None	Laura
None	Kwong
	KWOIIg
New Business	
Preliminary Results on Parent Survey	
 Survey ends on Sunday at midnight; Survey is open - about 450 	
responses so far	
 Need more responses from RCAP, Queensborough, and Queen Elizabeth 	
 Survey data used for advocacy and budget requests to Board of 	
Education (due next week) and BCCPAC and Ministry of Education	
(ongoing)	
 Survey is anonymous - only ask for schools of kids 	
 Chart shows responses by school - colors for elementary, middle, 	
secondary, and portables	
 Want to see if portables affect comfort in classrooms 	
Student safety and wellness	
 Most agree: feel safe in bathrooms and extracurriculars 	
 Some disagree 	
 Many unaware of erase reporting tool and Wellness Center 	
 Need feedback for district and Board of Education 	
 ERASE is an anonymous online tool to report safety, bullying, 	
harassment, racism, and other incidents in schools; created by	
Alberta provincial government and school districts can opt to	
participate in it	
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- Reports can be categorized and users can choose to be anonymous or not
- Reports go to external body and then to district director of safe and caring schools → passed on to principal for actual follow up and any action needed
- Importance of adult supervision, support, trust, and comfort for students
- Facilities and capacity challenges
 - Split timetable and urban school model have no clear consensus among parents
 - Most parents are in favor of keeping the middle school model
 - Many parents are not familiar with the long range facilities plan
 - Long form responses reveal concerns about infrastructure, advocacy, accountability, and impact of overcapacity
- Inclusive education responses
 - Pointed out some questions about sports for diverse learners
 - Concern about the low percentage of parents who felt their children were adequately supported by an EA
 - Feedback from parents on inclusive and diverse learners, highlighting:
 - Low percentage of parents who felt their children were adequately supported by an EA
 - High percentage of parents who knew who to talk to at school about learning support needs
 - Small percentage of parents who had concerns about the indigenous focused grad requirement
- Concerning comments from some parents who did not accept SOGI
- Proposed a budget ask for the district to hire another psychologist to reduce the wait time for assessment and to ensure the quality and training of support staff
- Transportation, programs of choice, food and nutrition, and DPAC operations
 - High support for the walking school bus and expansion of programs of choice to Queensborough
 - o Feedback on the Fuel Up quality and supplier
 - Top three topics for parent Ed: online safety, mental health, and healthy body image

Adjournment: 9:05pm - Cyrus

Next Meeting: May 18th 7pm @ FRMS