

BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 25, 2020 at 7:00 pm

The Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) met in room 114 (the Boardroom), VSB Education Centre, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. on Monday, May 25, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was live-streamed.

Trustees Present in the room: Janet Fraser, Chairperson, Carmen Cho, Vice-Chairperson

Trustees Present online through Teams: Fraser Ballantyne, Lois Chan-Pedley, Estrellita Gonzalez, Oliver Hanson, Barb Parrott, Jennifer Reddy, Allan Wong, Joshua Harris (Student Trustee)

Senior Management Team Present: Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent (present in the room)
J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer (present in the room)
David Nelson, Deputy Superintendent
Carmen Batista, Associate Superintendent-Employee Services
Jody Langlois, Associate Superintendent-Learning Services
Rob Schindel, Associate Superintendent-School Services
Pedro da Silva, Associate Superintendent-Learning and Information Technology

Also Present: Marlene Phillips, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Shamirah Khan, Administrative Office Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the meeting is being held in the traditional unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

1.2 Opening Remarks

The Chairperson informed everyone the meeting is being live-streamed and the audio and visual recording will also be available to the public for viewing after the meeting. The footage of the meeting may be viewed inside and outside of Canada. She reviewed meeting decorum for respectful behavior.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Meeting of April 27, 2020

Moved by F. Ballantyne, seconded by C. Cho, that the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting be adopted.

The Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the motion was

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

2.2 Special Board / Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 20, 2020

Moved by E. Gonzalez, seconded by F. Ballantyne, that the minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting be adopted.

The Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the motion was

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding supporting students and their families during COVID-19. She highlighted:

- Health and safety of students and staff
- Communication
- Connections
- Continuation of learning

The Superintendent responded to questions from trustees about teacher workloads and other matters.

4. STUDENT TRUSTEE

4.1 Student Trustee Report

The Student Trustee provided a verbal update on actions of the Vancouver District Students' Council (VDSC) and other student leadership initiatives throughout the District, which included:

- VDSC's first virtual general meeting
- Facilitating student elections at the high school level and for VDSC
- Virtual activities amongst students (e.g. games and quizzes)
- Discussion of budget priorities
- Ingenuity of students across the district

4.2 Acknowledgement of Student Trustee

The Chairperson summarized the work done by J. Harris, Student Trustee, and thanked him for his contribution to student voice in the District. On behalf of the Board, she wished him success in his future endeavours.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

5.1.1 Report: Meeting of May 6, 2020

The Chairperson of the Committee, A. Wong, presented the report of the May 6, 2020 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following:

- Five Year Capital Plan instructions
- Land & Assets Strategy Framework (update)
- Building for Modern Learning Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary
- Coal Harbour Project Update
- Facilities Response to COVID-19
- 2020-2021 Capital Plan Response Letter – Notice of Motion

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by E. Gonzalez, that the report of the May 6, 2020 meeting be received.

The Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the motion was

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

5.1.2 Matters Arising from the Meeting of May 6, 2020

5.1.2.1 2020/2021 Capital Plan Response Letter

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by C. Cho, that the Vancouver Board of Education writes to the Minister of Education requesting an explanation as to why the province has not approved any major capital expansion and seismic projects in response to the District's 2020/2021 Five-Year Capital Plan submission. Particularly, given the Board has followed the Ministry's, April 12, 2019 approach to long-term capital planning for boards of education with the particular 'requirement' on community consultation.

In discussing the motion, Trustee Wong reviewed the rationale for the motion, as presented in the agenda package. He also requested that, if the letter is approved, it include:

- appreciation for the Minister having met with trustees regarding the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) prior to sending the response letter;
- thanking the Ministry of Education for past major capital plan approvals, particularly for the seismic mitigation program; and
- a request for clarification on how to proceed and move forward as co-governors of the system.

Trustees voted on the motion and it was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.1.2.2 Notice of Motion from Trustee Reddy – Land & Assets Strategy

Trustee Reddy requested a Notice of Motion be considered under matters arising from the meeting of May 6, 2020. She presented the following Notice of Motion and requested it be considered at the meeting as an urgent motion:

*That the Vancouver Board of Education staff and contractors, Urban Systems, meaningfully consult and cooperate with the Musqueam (*xʷməθkʷəy̓əm*), Squamish (*Skwx̣wú7mesh Uxwumixw*), and Tsleil-Waututh (*səlilwətaʔl*) Nations in the development of the VSB's Land and Assets Strategy plan to ensure that it is informed by and not in conflict with the principles of these Nations' interests and land use plans.*

Further the VSB trustees will consider and incorporate the input from each Nation in the development and implementation of specific projects under the Land and Assets Strategy.

It was moved by C. Cho, seconded by F. Ballantyne that the motion be referred to the Facilities Planning Committee.

During discussion, Trustee Reddy reviewed the rationale for her Land & Assets Strategy Framework motion and the Board Chair reviewed the Land & Assets Strategy process.

Trustees voted on the referral motion.

CARRIED

For: F. Ballantyne, C. Cho, L. Chan-Pedley, J. Fraser, E. Gonzalez, O. Hanson
Against: B. Parrott, J. Reddy, A. Wong

5.2 FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.2.1 Report: Meeting of May 13, 2020

The Chairperson of the Committee, O. Hanson, presented the report of the May 13, 2020 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following:

- Business Development Update
- Financial Update to March 31, 2020 (Operating Fund)
- Draft Operating Fund Budget Report for 2020/2021
- School Fee Schedules for 2020/2021

Moved by O. Hanson, seconded by A. Wong, that the report of the May 13, 2020 meeting be received.

The Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the motion was

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

5.2.2 Matters Arising from the Meeting of May 13, 2020

5.2.2.1 Business Development Update

Trustee Parrott requested information on the timeline for responses to questions that arose during the Business Development Update item in the May 13, 2020 Finance Committee meeting. The Superintendent reported the questions are being addressed and responses could be provided to trustees and stakeholders later in the week of May 25, 2020.

5.2.2.2 School Fee Schedules for 2020/2021

Moved by O. Hanson, seconded by L. Chan-Pedley, that the Board approve publication of all school fee schedules for the 2020-2021 school year.

Trustees voted on the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chairperson announced the on-line link for submitting questions to this meeting will now be closed.

6. REPORT ON PRIVATE SESSION ITEMS

6.1 Meeting of April 23, 2020

The Chairperson reported that the Board of Education authorized the Board Chair to report to a future public meeting in May that, at the Private Session of April 23, 2020, the Board passed a motion to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation for the next 3 years.

6.2 Meeting of May 25, 2020

The Chairperson reported that the Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the May 25, 2020 Public Meeting that, at the Private Session of May 25, 2020, the Board discussed matters related to personnel, property, legal matters, COVID-19 and business interests.

7. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

- 7.1 Reports from Trustee Cho on the District Parents' Advisory Council meetings held on April 23, 2020 and May 14, 2020.
- 7.2 The Board Chair thanked the District Parents' Advisory Council for hosting two townhall meetings. The meetings were attended by Trustee Cho, the Superintendent and other staff for answering questions and sharing information.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 Notice of Motion from Trustee Wong – COVID-19 Health Officer Letter

Trustee Wong presented a Notice of Motion regarding COVID-19 Health Officer letters and requested it be considered at the meeting. He reviewed the reasons for his request and the Board Chair agreed it could be considered at the meeting.

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by B. Parrott, that the VSB send a letter of appreciation and support to the Provincial Health Officer (Dr. Bonnie Henry) and to Canada's Chief Public Health Officer (Dr. Theresa Tam) with respect to their effective handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 Notice of Motion from Trustee Wong – COVID-19 Anti-racism Proactive Direction

Trustee Wong presented a Notice of Motion regarding COVID-19 Anti-racism Proactive Direction and requested it be considered at the meeting. He reviewed the reasons for his request, and it was agreed it could be considered at the meeting.

Main Motion

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by F. Ballantyne, that the VSB requests the Superintendent of Schools to investigate whether there have been any forms of racism in the District associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, prepare a memo to staff and students that racism will not be tolerated in our schools, share the memo with stakeholder groups and the Diversity Committee and provide a verbal report to the Board of Education at a public meeting of these efforts.

Amendment:

Moved by L. Chan-Pedley, seconded by E. Gonzalez, the motion be amended to remove the words "whether there have been any forms of".

Trustees voted on the amendment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion followed regarding the main motion. The Superintendent provided clarification on how the motion would be addressed, if approved, and acknowledged other motions currently underway are addressing racism.

Main Motion

A vote was taken on the amended motion that reads:

That the VSB requests the Superintendent of Schools to investigate racism in the District associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, prepare a memo to staff and students that racism will not be tolerated in our schools, share the memo with stakeholder groups and the Diversity Committee and provide a verbal report to the Board of Education at a public meeting of these efforts.

CARRIED

For: F. Ballantyne, C. Cho, L. Chan-Pedley, J. Fraser, E. Gonzalez, O. Hanson, B. Parrott, A. Wong
Abstained: J. Reddy

10. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

The Board Chair responded to questions regarding:

- Discussions with the Ministry of Education regarding public input in the seismic mitigation process
- Catchment and Choice Program review as part of the Long Range Facilities Plan
- Any advocacy being done for a school's life cycle and facility condition index to be included in the lowest cost option of the seismic mitigation process
- Capacity targets for a school and the District as a whole
- In-class instruction for students with diverse needs
- Consideration of extending the school year through the summer

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustees agreed to adjourn by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer

Janet Fraser, Chairperson