

BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 26, 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. and online in Teams on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was live-streamed.

Trustees Present in the room: Janet Fraser, Chairperson, Carmen Cho, Vice-Chairperson, Fraser Ballantyne, Lois Chan-Pedley, Estrellita Gonzalez, Oliver Hanson, Barb Parrott, Allan Wong, Ricky Huang, Student Trustee

Trustees Present in Teams: Jennifer Reddy

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

Also Present in the room: Shehzad Somji, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Marlene Phillips, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

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 on 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 September 28, 2020

Moved by F. Ballantyne, seconded by C. Cho, that the minutes of the September 28, 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 UNANIMOUSLY

2.2 Matters Arising from the Meeting of September 28, 2020

As follow-up to a motion approved on September 28, 2020, Trustee Parrott thanked the Secretary Treasurer for providing an update to trustees regarding COVID-19 funds for increasing physical distancing in schools.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent acknowledged Canadian School Library Day and shared literacy initiatives in the district. A PowerPoint presentation was provided, along with video interviews with District Reading

Recovery Teacher, Nicole Harrison and District Resource Teacher for Literacy, Gina Wong.

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer gave a verbal update on how students are identified for breakfast and lunch programs. He reported Britannia Secondary and Tupper Secondary schools are opening their cafeterias as a pilot project on November 9, 2020. Each cafeteria in the district will require its own health and safety plan.

The Associate Superintendent-Employee Services gave a verbal update on unfilled absences and how schools are continuing to meet the needs of students.

R. Zerbe, Director of Instruction, provided further information regarding the scope of Reading Recovery and literacy programs in schools.

4. STUDENT TRUSTEE

4.1 Student Trustee Report

The Student Trustee provided a verbal review of recent actions by the Vancouver District Students' Council (VDSC), upcoming VDSC events, and students' back-to-school experiences. Recent VDSC events and actions include:

- Shifting VDSC meetings to an online format using Teams
- Plans for continuation of the Canley Cup Food Drive
- Spirit week held the week of October 19, 2020
- Teams meeting with Student Council Presidents

Trustees asked questions and provided feedback.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

5.1.1 Report: Meeting of October 14, 2020

The Chairperson of the Committee, L. Chan-Pedley, presented the report of the October 14, 2020 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on:

- The School Liaison Officer (SLO) Program Review
- Interim Report Anti-Racism and Non-Discrimination Strategic Plan
- Proposed Revisions to Policy 21 (Non-Discrimination) and Accompanying Administrative Procedures
- Naming and Renaming of schools

Moved by L. Chan-Pedley, seconded by A. Wong, that the report of the October 14, 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 UNANIMOUSLY

5.1.2 Matters Arising from the Meeting of October 14, 2020

5.1.2.1 Amendment to a Previously Adopted Motion - School Liaison Officer (SLO) Program Review

Trustee Chan-Pedley presented the motion below to amend a motion previously adopted at the June 22, 2020 board meeting regarding the SLO Program Review. This is as a result of discussions that occurred at the SLO Program Review ad hoc

committee meeting and at the Policy and Governance Committee meeting of October 14, 2020.

Moved by L. Chan-Pedley, seconded by E. Gonzalez, to amend the motion on the SLO/VPD program review adopted by the Board at the June 22, 2020 Board meeting by replacing the original alpha numbering with numeric numbering and

- inserting the words “With respect to gathering input, those would be experts in communications and consultation and be informed” after the word “experts”
- by inserting the words “review’s primary focus is to” after the words “that the” (i.e. replacing “review”)
- by adding the words “including not limited to” after the words “member/groups,”
- by inserting the words “With respect to the following matters those would be experts in their fields:” after the word “opinions”
- by striking out the words “first fall” and inserting “February 2021”
- and by striking out the words “initial staff”

The amended motion would now read:

That as part of the Racism and Discrimination Strategic Plan the role of VPD/RCMP in schools, including School Liaison Officers (SLOs) and related activities and events, be reviewed, led by independent third party experts.

1. With respect to gathering input, those would be experts in communications and consultation and be informed that the review’s primary focus is to seek input from VSB stakeholders, local First Nations and community members/groups, including but not limited to:
 - Students/Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC)
 - Parents/Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)
 - Employee groups
 - VSB Diversity Committee
 - Black community groups such as but not limited to Black Lives Matter Vancouver and BC Community Alliance
 - Urban Indigenous groups
 - Vancouver Police Department (VPD)/Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

That students/VDSC are included in developing the plan to seek input from students.

That specific measures and procedures will be in place to ensure that all participants providing input have a safe setting in which to share their experiences and opinions.

2. With respect to the following matters those would be experts in their fields:

That the review include investigating the creation and funding of a restorative justice model/process for acts of racism.

That the review make recommendations on (1) the VPD/RCMP role, and (2) the continuation/alteration/elimination of the SLO positions, for the board to consider.

3. And that there be a report back to the February 2021 Policy and Governance committee meeting.

Trustee Chan-Pedley reviewed rationale for amending the previously adopted motion, which is to split the work up into two parts (an engagement piece and a field expert piece) to complete the required work in the desired timeline.

The Superintendent provided further information from the SLO Program Review ad hoc committee regarding timelines for the proposed two parts. She provided information on staff support available to assist the Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC) with gathering input from students. Additionally, the Superintendent spoke of other ways to contact students throughout the district.

Trustees voted on the amendment to the previously adopted motion.

CARRIED

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

5.2 FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

5.2.1 Report: Meeting of October 21, 2020

The Chairperson of the Committee, A. Wong, presented the report of the October 21, 2020 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the Long Range Facilities Planning Strategy 2020-2030.

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by C. Cho, that the report of the September 23, 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 UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Chan-Pedley left the meeting at 7:44 pm.

5.2.2 Matters Arising from the Meeting of October 21, 2020

5.2.2.1 Long Range Facilities Planning Strategy 2020-2030

Main Motion

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by O. Hanson, that the Board of Education approve the Long-Range Facilities Planning Strategy 2020-2030 document presented at the October 21, 2020 meeting of the Facilities Planning Committee, now revised, but that the final Long-Range Facilities Planning Strategy 2020-2030 be subject to changes made by Trustees prior to the adoption of the Long Range Facilities Plan in January 2021.

In presenting the motion, Trustee Wong reviewed rationale, including input received to date and upcoming trustee workshops.

Postponement Motion

Moved by B. Parrott, seconded by J. Reddy, that this item be postponed until the December Board Meeting.

During discussion, the Secretary Treasurer provided some clarification on the timeline when considering postponement of the motion. He informed trustees it is up to them to

come up with a long range planning strategy vision for the district.

DEFEATED

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

Following discussion, trustees voted on the main motion.

CARRIED

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

5.3 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

5.3.1 Report: Meeting of October 21, 2020

The Chairperson of the Committee, E. Gonzalez, presented the report of the October 21, 2020 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on:

- Anti-Racism training for all VSB employee groups and delegations that presented at the meeting regarding this matter
- Staffing and recruitment
- Wellness and employee engagement

Moved by E. Gonzalez, seconded by C. Cho, that the report of the October 21, 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 UNANIMOUSLY

5.3.2 Matters Arising from the Meeting of October 21, 2020

5.3.2.1 Anti-Racism Training for All Employee Groups

Main Motion #1

Moved by E. Gonzalez, seconded by B. Parrott, that the Vancouver Board of Education engages independent experts to design and deliver anti-racism training for all educators with a focus on anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, and anti-Asian racism.

And that this training be at least one full day of training, including reference child rights, VSB policies and procedures on discrimination, hate, racism, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), and incident reporting and response.

And that this training be mandatory for all employee groups and trustees in the 2020-2021 school year with a follow-up in the same year to obtain feedback and make needed changes.

Amendment #1

Trustee Wong proposed a friendly amendment to add the words “with an understanding of students in the K-12 system” after “independent experts”. The first paragraph would now read:

That the Vancouver Board of Education engages independent experts with an understanding of students in the K-12 system to design and deliver anti-racism training for all educators with a focus on anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, and anti-Asian racism.

There was no objection from trustees and the amendment was accepted with unanimous consent.

Amendment #2

Moved by B. Parrott, seconded by C. Cho, the motion be amended in the third paragraph by replacing “in the 2020-21 school year” with “to be completed by September, 2021”.

During discussion, the Associate Superintendent-Employee Services provided information on the timeline for mandatory training to be provided. She also provided clarification regarding adding non-instructional days to the school calendar.

The Secretary Treasurer and the Superintendent provided further clarification regarding the school calendar, based on the School Calendar Regulation in the *School Act*.

Following discussion, trustees voted on the amendment.

CARRIED

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

Main Motion #1

A vote was taken on the main motion as amended, that now reads:

That the Vancouver Board of Education engages independent experts with an understanding of students in the K-12 system to design and deliver anti-racism training for all educators with a focus on anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, and anti-Asian racism.

And that this training be at least one full day of training, including reference child rights, VSB policies and procedures on discrimination, hate, racism, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), and incident reporting and response.

And that this training be mandatory for all employee groups and trustees to be completed by September 30, 2021 with a follow-up in the same year to obtain feedback and make needed changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Main Motion #2

Moved by C. Cho, seconded by B. Parrott, that the Board of Education add an additional non-instructional day to the calendar in September 2021 for the purpose of anti-racism training for all staff.

In addition, that the Board of Education write to the Minister of Education to recommend that this additional non-instructional day for anti-racism training be in place for all school districts.

Amendment #1

Moved by E. Gonzalez, seconded by B. Parrott, to add the word “completing” between “purpose of” and “anti-racism”. The first paragraph would now read:

That the Board of Education add an additional non-instructional day to the calendar in September 2021 for the purpose of completing anti-racism training for all staff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment #2

Moved by O. Hanson, seconded by A. Wong, to add the words “and financed by the Ministry of Education” at the end of the second paragraph.

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

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Main Motion #2

A vote was taken on the main motion as amended, that now reads:

That the Board of Education add an additional non-instructional day to the calendar in September 2021 for the purpose of completing anti-racism training for all staff.

In addition, that the Board of Education write to the Minister of Education to recommend that this additional non-instructional day for anti-racism training be in place for all school districts and financed by the Ministry of Education.

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 October 5, 2020

The Chairperson reported that the Board of Education authorized the Board Chair to report to the Public Meeting on October 26, 2020 that, at the Private Session of October 5, 2020 the Board discussed the School Liaison Officer Program Review

6.2 Meeting of October 7, 2020

The Chairperson reported that the Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the Public Meeting on October 26, 2020 that, at the Private Session of October 7, 2020 the Board dealt with a personnel matter.

6.3 Meeting of October 26, 2020

The Chairperson reported that the Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the October 26, 2020 Public Meeting that, at the Private Session of October 26, 2020 the Board discussed matters regarding properties, business interests and personnel.

The Chairperson also reported that the Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the October 26, 2020 Public Meeting that, at the Private Session of October 26, 2020, the Board authorized the Board Chair to report that at the September 28, 2020 meeting the Board approved the following motion:

The Board authorizes spending of \$150,000-\$180,000 to design a 6 classroom addition to Henry Hudson Elementary School.

7. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

- 7.1 Reports from Trustee Cho on the District Parents' Advisory Council meeting held on October 8, 2020 and the Britannia Community Services Board meeting held on October 14, 2020.
- 7.2 Report from Trustee Wong on the VSB Diversity Committee meeting held on October 7, 2020.
- 7.3 Reports from Trustee Fraser on the Seniors' Advisory Committee meeting held on October 2, 2020 and the Vancouver City Planning Commission meeting held on October 14, 2020.
- 7.4 Reports from Trustee Gonzalez on the:
- Vancouver Heritage Commission meetings held on September 14 and October 5, 2020
 - Renters' Advisory Committee meeting held on September 23, 2020
 - Vancouver Food Policy Committee meeting held on September 12, 2020.
- 7.5 Report from Trustee Chan-Pedley on the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on September 30, 2020.

8. NEW BUSINESS: None

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 Notice of Motion from Trustees Hanson and Cho – Proposed Amendments to Policies 3, 5 and 8

Trustee Cho presented the following motion and requested it be considered at the meeting. The Chairperson confirmed it could be considered at the meeting.

Main Motion

Moved by C. Cho, seconded by O. Hanson, that the Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) adopt the amended Policy 3, Role of the Trustee; Policy 5, Role of the Board Chair; and, Policy 8, Board Committees in the forms attached hereto as Schedules "A", and "B" and "C", respectively.

Trustee Cho reviewed the rationale for the motion.

Amendment

Moved by B. Parrott, seconded by A. Wong, to remove the last sentence from the new number 10 in Schedule "A" - Policy 3, that reads "Notices of motion may not be brought in the first instance to a standing committee".

Trustee Parrott reviewed rationale for the proposed amendment.

Following discussion, trustees voted on the amendment.

DEFEATED

For: B. Parrott, A. Wong

Against: F. Ballantyne, C. Cho, J. Fraser, E. Gonzalez, O. Hanson

Abstained: J. Reddy

Referral Motion #1

Moved by J. Reddy, seconded by E. Gonzalez, that the motion be referred to the Policy and Governance Committee.

DEFEATED

For: J. Fraser, E. Gonzalez, J. Reddy

Against: F. Ballantyne, C. Cho, O. Hanson, B. Parrott, A. Wong

Referral Motion #2

Moved by E. Gonzalez, seconded by J. Reddy, the portion of the motion regarding Policy 8 be referred to Policy and Governance Committee.

DEFEATED

For: J. Fraser, E. Gonzalez, B. Parrott, J. Reddy

Against: F. Ballantyne, C. Cho, O. Hanson, A. Wong

Main Motion

A vote was taken on the main motion.

CARRIED

For: F. Ballantyne, C. Cho, E. Gonzalez, O. Hanson, B. Parrott, A. Wong

Against: J. Fraser, J. Reddy

9.2 Notice of Motion from Trustee Wong – Olympic Village Elementary School

Trustee Wong presented the following motion and requested it be considered at the meeting. The Chairperson confirmed it could be considered at the meeting.

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by E. Gonzalez, that the Vancouver Board of Education write to the City of Vancouver to expedite the formal transfer, at a nominal cost, the parcel of land for the school site in Olympic Village to the Vancouver School District. The letter to be copied to all Vancouver MLAs and the Minister of Education.

Trustee Wong reviewed rationale for the motion and trustees voted on the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 Notice of Motion from Trustee Fraser – COVID Funding

Trustee Fraser presented the motion and requested it be referred to the Finance Committee.

Referral Motion

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by E. Gonzalez, the following motion be referred to the Finance Committee.

That the Vancouver Board of Education write letters to:

- 1) the Prime Minister to request that adequate and stable funding for schools to respond to the COVID pandemic be included in the next Federal budget, and
- 2) to the new Minister of Education to request that adequate and stable funding for schools to respond to the COVID pandemic be included in the next Provincial budget.

And that the Vancouver Board of Education invite VSB stakeholders to co-sign the letters.

And that the Vancouver Board of Education invite Vancouver MPs and MLAs to meet with our Board to discuss the impacts of the COVID pandemic in our district.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 Notice of Motion from Trustee Parrott – In Support of 30 km/hr on Expo Boulevard at Crosstown Elementary

Trustee Parrott presented the following motion and requested it be considered at the meeting. The Chairperson confirmed it could be considered at the meeting.

Moved by B. Parrott, seconded by E. Gonzalez, that the Board support the Crosstown Elementary School Parents' Advisory Council's (PAC's) requests for a school zone (30 km/hr) on Expo Boulevard and for an agreement to use the parking lot on the south side of Expo Boulevard between Carrall and Abbott for 15 minute parking for drop off and pick up, and that the City be informed of our support.

During discussion, the Deputy Superintendent provided information on how schools assess their transportation safety, work done at the school level and work done at the district level.

Following further discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.5 Notice of Motion from Trustees Parrott, Wong and Cho – School Grounds

Trustee Wong presented the following motion and requested it be considered at the meeting. The Chairperson confirmed it could be considered at the meeting.

Main Motion

Moved by A. Wong, seconded by C. Cho, that the Board advocate to the provincial government for an increase to the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) to specifically address school site upgrades to ensure minimal acceptable play field standards, and healthy and safe levels on school grounds across all District school sites.

That the Board reach out to the City of Vancouver Heritage Commission to initiate a conversation about options for a Heritage A school building which is a seismically unsafe building in disrepair.

That the VSB Advocacy Committee be asked to develop, with support from our Communications Department, an awareness campaign to highlight student/staff safety in school zones.

In presenting the motion, Trustee Wong reported the motion resulted from discussion of school grounds at Strathcona Elementary, but could apply to all school sites in Vancouver.

Amendment

During discussion, Trustee Wong proposed an amendment to remove the words "to ensure minimal acceptable play field standards, and healthy and safe levels on school grounds across all District school sites" in the first sentence. The first sentence would now read:

That the Board advocate to the provincial government for an increase to the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) to specifically address school site upgrades.

There was no objection from trustees and the amendment was accepted with unanimous consent.

Main Motion

Following discussion, trustees voted on the main motion as amended, that now reads:

That the Board advocate to the provincial government for an increase to the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) to specifically address school site upgrades.

That the Board reach out to the City of Vancouver Heritage Commission to initiate a conversation about options for a Heritage A school building which is a seismically unsafe building in disrepair.

That the VSB Advocacy Committee be asked to develop, with support from our Communications Department, an awareness campaign to highlight student/staff safety in school zones.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.6 Urgent Motion – Olympic Village Elementary School Funding

The following motion was presented as an urgent motion, to be considered at the meeting. The Chairperson agreed to accept it as an urgent motion.

Moved by Trustee Gonzalez, seconded by C. Cho, that in response to this weekend's BC NDP election win, that the VBE writes Premier John Horgan and Vancouver MLA's to ask for full funding of the Olympic Village Elementary school as promised by NDP candidates George Heyman and Brenda Bailey during the election on October 10, 2020, with funding to come from the recently announced Recovery Investment Fund.

Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

CARRIED

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

10. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were submitted.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustees agreed to adjourn by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer

Janet Fraser, Chairperson