

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 – BURNABY**

A Public Session meeting of the Board of Education of School District 41 – Burnaby was held in the Admin Office at 7:02 pm on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

**Present**

Trustees Gary Wong (Chair), Bill Brassington, Peter Cech, Christine Cunningham, Larry Hayes and Jen Mezei; Superintendent of Schools Gina Niccoli-Moen, Secretary-Treasurer Russell Horswill, Assistant Superintendents Roberto Bombelli, Heather Hart, Richard Per and Wanda Mitchell and Executive Assistant Sandra Brunner.

**Agenda**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Bill Brassington:

*THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

**Inside Burnaby Schools**

Larry Hayes outlined some recent events in Burnaby schools, as attached.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Peter Cech:

*THAT the minutes of the Public Session meeting of September 24, 2019 be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

**Board Chair Report**

Gary Wong commented on the importance of childcare to the community. The district has been a leader in creating space for childcare in its schools and on its properties; it is now building on that legacy, particularly with respect to before and

after school care. The district's Project Definition Report – Creating a Plan for Childcare Opportunities within the Burnaby School District outlines where and how expansion might be possible and describes several opportunities to partner with the City of Burnaby and the Government of BC to fund more childcare spaces.

It was moved by Gary Wong and seconded by Bill Brassington:

*THAT the Board of Education receive and approve the Board Chair Report, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Teaching Indigenous World Views in Burnaby Schools

Brandon Curr, Director of Instruction, described the work of the district to embed Indigenous perspectives and worldviews into classroom practice for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Orange Shirt Day is now honoured in deeper ways and schools are finding ways to partner with artists, knowledge keepers and Elders to bring Indigenous knowledge and our shared history to the forefront for all learners.

One such collaborative project recently brought Indigenous artist Trenton Pierre from the Katzie Nation together with students from Royal Oak Secondary and Take a Hike Secondary. The district was looking for a way to connect students to school at the start of the year through an art project where they could find success. It was decided that Trenton would work with students to design a mural for the entryway of Canada Way Learning centre, home of both Take a Hike and Royal Oak and the new home of the district staff development team.

Linda Schiff, teacher, Royal Oak Secondary, introduced students Elias Machado, Sina Sadeghi and Joaquin Fellner. The students showed their work to Trustees and talked of the connections they had made with other students during the project, the memories they had of their experience and the realization that they were able to make some artwork that was so visually appealing.

Leigh Taylor-Gibbs outlined the district's first ever Indigenous Learning Week for students in grades 4-5 in collaboration with the Burnaby Village Museum. From October 7-11 students attended the Museum site daily to experience four different learning activities, each of which provided students with the chance to learn from Coast Salish knowledge keepers through hands-on activities. Students Katherine Mincheva, Amira Bissett and Kiev Lukasewich shared with Trustees what they had learned and the projects they had made.

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Peter Cech:

*THAT the Superintendent's Report be received, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Correspondence**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Peter Cech:

*THAT the letter from Todd G. Stone, MLA, outlining his concerns on youth vaping be received.*

Carried unanimously.

Jen Mezei commented that the Board had already outlined its concerns on youth vaping in a motion submitted to the BCSTA Provincial Council.

## **Committee Reports**

### Education Committee

It was moved by Jen Mezei and seconded by Christine Cunningham:

*THAT the Education Committee Report be received, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

### Youth and Community Services Committee

It was moved by Bill Brassington and seconded by Larry Hayes:

*THAT the Youth and Community Services Committee Report be received, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **District Operations – Administrative Services**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Peter Cech:

*THAT the Board receive and approve the Superintendent's District Operations – Administrative Services Report, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Business Services**

### Childcare – Project Definition Report

Russell Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer, and Wanda Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, presented the findings from the Project Definition Report: Before and After School Childcare – Creating a Plan for Childcare Opportunities within the Burnaby School District. The district was not able to bring any financial resources to the initiative and would explore joint opportunities with the City of Burnaby and the provincial government.

It was moved by Bill Brassington and seconded by Christine Cunningham:

*THAT the Board of Education receive the Business Services Report and approve the recommendations contained therein, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

Larry Hayes commented on the retirement of Sandra Wade, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools, and expressed the Board's appreciation for her many years of service and support to the Board.

## **Question Period**

Trustees and senior staff responded to questions from the floor.

## Adjournment

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Christine Cunningham:

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:38 pm.*

Carried unanimously.

Original signed

---

Gary Wong  
Chair

---

Russell Horswill, DBA  
Secretary-Treasurer