

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

A Public Session meeting of the Board of Education of School District 41 – Burnaby was held via video conference at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, August 26, 2020.

Present

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

Agenda

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

THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent of Schools, thanked participants for joining the meeting and introduced the senior management team. Earlier that day a letter had been sent to families, students and staff about September start-up. The government had provided BC schools with a defined framework in which to create a plan and provide options for students. The district had received feedback from partner groups and from a parent survey. Ms. Niccoli-Moen thanked the families who had reached out to share their unique circumstances. The Ministry of Education had approved Burnaby's plan and it could now be shared.

Wanda Mitchell, Roberto Bombelli and Jannette Laursoo, Assistant Superintendents, outlined the start-up plans for elementary and secondary students and students with special needs. Four options would be available: return to school, online learning, homeschooling and – for elementary students only – a short-term transition plan to enable elementary students and their families to become comfortable and transition back into school. The district's out of school support program would continue to support students who had to remain at home for an extended period recovering from an accident or illness or who were immunocompromised.

Russell Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer, outlined the health and safety protocols that had been implemented. Each site would have an individual custodial staffing plan. The district was hiring extra facilities staff to ensure a safe start-up.

With respect to technology, Mr. Horswill said the district had loaned out over 1,000 computers to students during the last school year and was in the process of getting some of those back from students who had graduated. The district had ordered 300 more laptops and would be ordering more if necessary. Some government funding was available for technology. The district was also working with Telus on a subsidized plan for internet access for families who needed it. The district was working to ensure there were no barriers to technology availability.

With respect to food security, Mr. Horswill said this was a high priority for the district. Plans for the fall would probably change from what was done March through June and during the summer with the help of partner groups, but needs would be met.

Ms. Niccoli-Moen said the district had received many questions from parents and students and lots of them had been answered in the start-up plan. A survey would be sent out at the end of the week and parents would be asked to indicate by September 1 which of the four start-up options they preferred. Schools would then contact parents with more specific details of the return to school and respond to student-specific questions.

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Ryan Stewart:

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

Carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Carried unanimously.

Original signed

Gary Wong
Chair

Russell Horswill, DBA
Secretary-Treasurer