

**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 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

**Present**

Trustees Gary Wong (Chair), Bill Brassington, Peter Cech, Christine Cunningham, 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, District Vice-Principal - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Beth Applewhite and Executive Assistant Sandra Brunner.

**Agenda**

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

*THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

**Inside Burnaby Schools**

Peter Cech outlined some recent events in Burnaby schools, as attached.

**Minutes**

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

*THAT the minutes of the Public Session meeting of September 22, 2020 be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

**Board Chair Report**

Gary Wong commented on the rising number of COVID-19 cases in BC and the fact that schools were not immune to what was happening in the community. He

outlined the procedures in place to respond to a notice from Fraser Health that an exposure had occurred in a district school and he thanked the custodians and cleaning crews for their hard work at all hours to keep district schools and sites as safe as possible.

It was moved by Gary Wong and seconded by Christine Cunningham:

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

Carried unanimously.

## **Superintendent`s Report**

### Action on Racism

Beth Applewhite, District Vice-Principal – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent, shared some of the foundational work that had been done in the district and plans for future action. The district had created an environment of readiness, of understanding the lived experience. It was important to find and hear the reluctant voices of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) in a school community – the voices that normally don't come forward - while remaining sensitive to how some BIPOC students may see authority. Authentic storytelling and open dialogue were powerful tools to drive change. A review of the Burnaby RCMP Youth Section (School Liaison Officer Program) was part of this process.

The district was still at the beginning stages in its anti-racism action plan. The next steps would include a review of the District Code of Conduct and a commitment to continued training. Staff were also working to establish the Ad Hoc Working Group.

### Programs of Choice Review

Wanda Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, outlined the scope and purpose of the review and the proposed timelines. The review provided an opportunity to identify and build upon key strengths of the current programs and address possible gaps in existing operations and services. The process would include interview with district and school-based staff, stakeholder focus groups with students and parents/ guardians of students participating in the various programs and would gather feedback from staff, parents and students through a survey. The review would be facilitated by an external consultant and would be submitted to the Board in the spring of 2021.

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

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

Carried unanimously.

## **Business Services Report**

### Quarter 1 Budget Update

Russell Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer, presented an update on the 2020/2021 annual operating budget that had been approved in June, including enrolment changes and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The district expected the enrolment decline and corresponding projected reduction in ministry grants would be offset by staffing reductions. Staff continued to work to identify issues that needed to be addressed. The 2020/2021 operating budget was projected to be in balance.

It was moved by Peter Cech and seconded by Christine Cunningham:

*THAT the Board of Education receive this information, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Question Period**

The Chair replied to a question that had been submitted by email.

## **Adjournment**

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

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:57 pm.*

Carried unanimously.

Original signed

Original signed

---

Gary Wong  
Chair

---

Russell Horswill, DBA  
Secretary-Treasurer