

**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, November 24, 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 and Executive Assistant Sandra Brunner.

Secretary-Treasurer Russell Horswill assumed the chair.

**Agenda**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Jen Mezei:

*THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

**Elections**

Election of Chair

Mr. Horswill called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Burnaby Board of Education for 2020/21.

Gary Wong nominated Jen Mezei who accepted the nomination.

Mr. Horswill called a second and a third time for nominations. There being none, he declared Jen Mezei elected by acclamation Chair of the Burnaby Board of Education for 2020/21.

Ms. Mezei assumed the chair.

#### Election of Vice-Chair

Ms. Mezei called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Burnaby Board of Education for 2020/21.

Larry Hayes nominated Bill Brassington who accepted the nomination.

Ms. Mezei called a second and a third time for nominations. There being none, she declared Bill Brassington elected by acclamation Vice-Chair of the Burnaby Board of Education for 2020/21.

#### Election of BCSTA Provincial Councillor

Ms. Mezei called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councillor for 2020/21.

Peter Cech nominated Bill Brassington who accepted the nomination.

Ms. Mezei called a second and a third time for nominations. There being none, she declared Bill Brassington elected by acclamation BCSTA Provincial Councillor for 2020/21.

#### Election of BCSTA Provincial Councillor Alternate

Ms. Mezei called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councillor Alternate for 2020/21.

Ryan Stewart nominated Peter Cech who accepted the nomination.

Ms. Mezei called a second and a third time for nominations. There being none, she declared Peter Cech elected by acclamation BCSTA Provincial Councillor Alternate for 2020/21.

#### Election of BCPSEA Trustee Representative

Ms. Mezei called for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Trustee Representative for 2020/21.

Peter Cech nominated Gary Wong who accepted the nomination.

Ms. Mezei called a second and a third time for nominations. There being none, she declared Gary Wong elected by acclamation BCPSEA Trustee Representative for 2020/21.

### Election of BCPSEA Trustee Representative Alternate

Ms. Mezei called for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Trustee Representative Alternate for 2020/21.

Christine Cunningham nominated Larry Hayes who accepted the nomination.

Ms. Mezei called a second and a third time for nominations. There being none, she declared Larry Hayes elected by acclamation BCPSEA Trustee Representative Alternate for 2020/21.

### **Inside Burnaby Schools**

Ryan Stewart 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 October 27, 2020 be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

### **Board Chair Report**

Jen Mezei thanked outgoing Chair Gary Wong for his leadership and guidance. The Board was enriched by differing perspectives and distinct lived experiences but had a common purpose and shared values and priorities.

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

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

Carried unanimously.

## **Superintendent`s Report**

### Burnaby North Students Create Published Book

Dave Rawnsley, Burnaby North principal, introduced students and staff from the ACCESS program, an exceptional community, who had created and published a book called “1,2,3, Count with Me, A Bug Can Count if You Believe”. Judy Chiao, ACCESS teacher, and Patti Jensen, Educational Assistant, described how students of diverse abilities had come together to share their talents in a project that had taken two and a half years to complete. Aaron Waddington (Grade 12), described his use of Photoshop in the project and said the students wanted to show that creativity and team work is more important than making money. Leo Yamamoto (who had graduated in 2019) read an extract from the book.

### Mental Health and Wellness in Burnaby Schools

Nick Christofides, District Vice-Principal – Safe and Caring Schools, provided an update on mental health literacy and wellbeing in the district. The COVID-19 pandemic had caused many changes in the lives of students and staff. The Mental Health Literacy Team was providing additional mental health liaison to help with outreach and vulnerable students, providing a mental health resource package for all staff, providing online opportunities for classes (on mindfulness, stress management, positive psychology) and school-based resource teams were identifying students that needed support. The team was also supporting schools and staff in ‘trauma-sensitive schools’ training, piloting a Quest for Rest Sleep Health program with BC’s Children’s Hospital and working with the District Student Advisory Council to use “student voice” as a way to build our mental health framework from the ground up.

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

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

Carried unanimously.

## **Correspondence**

It was moved by Larry Hayes seconded by Ryan Stewart:

*THAT the letter from D. Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education, regarding the timing of the Administration of the Foundation Skills Assessment, be received.*

Carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

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

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 pm.*

Carried unanimously.

Original signed

Original signed

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Jen Mezei  
Chair

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Russell Horswill, DBA  
Secretary-Treasurer