

**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 7:01 pm on Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

Present

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

Ryan Stewart, Trustee acknowledged the Indigenous territories on which the district is located.

Confirmation of Agenda

An amended agenda, with new item Use of Masks, was submitted for confirmation.

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

THAT the amended agenda be approved, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Inside Burnaby Schools

Trustees outlined several recent events in Burnaby schools, as per the Inside Burnaby Schools bulletin.

Approval of Minutes

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

THAT the minutes of the Public Session meeting of June 22, 2021 be approved, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Board Chair Report

Jen Mezei, Chair, welcomed everyone to first meeting of the year. September 30 is an inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and is more than just a day off, it is intended for the acknowledgement of the horrific legacy of residential schools, the intergenerational trauma, and ongoing impact caused to residential school survivors, their families, and their communities

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

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

Carried unanimously.

District Operations – Superintendent Report

Student Safety – Youth Summits

Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent of Schools, provided a report about how in May and June of last school year, the district’s Safe and Caring Schools team invited students to share their thoughts and feelings about safety at school in order to meaningfully engage with youth to listen and learn about their experiences. Student delegates had the opportunity to share their stories and experiences in classrooms, school-wide initiatives and community events. The input and perspectives shared by students will be used to improve and enhance student safety and a sense of belonging for all students.

Nick Christofides Acting District Principal, Safe and Caring Schools, and Beth Applewhite, Acting District Principal, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, provided an overview of the youth summits and share some of the stories and data collected.

It was moved by Ryan Stewart and seconded by Bill Brassington.

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

Carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Committee of the Whole

It was moved by Peter Cech and seconded by Gary Wong.

THAT the minutes of the public session of the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 13, 2021 be approved, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Audit Sub-Committee

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Gary Wong.

THAT the minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee meeting of September 20, 2021 be approved, as amended.

Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee

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

THAT the minutes of the public session of the Finance Committee meeting of September 20, 2021 be approved, as presented.

Carried unanimously, as amended.

District Operations – Administrative Services

The Enhancing Student Learning Report 2021-22

Wanda Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, presented the final report that was first brought to the September 13 Committee of the Whole meeting.

It was moved by Bill Brassington and seconded by Peter Cech.

THAT the Board of Education received this information, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Field Experiences – September 2021

Jeannette Laursoo, Assistant Superintendent, presented two field experiences for final approval. A dragon boat activity for Burnaby South Secondary students, grades 8 to 12 and a Manning Park trip for Take a Hike students, grades 10 to 12.

It was moved by Gary Wong and seconded by Ryan Stewart.

THAT the Board of Education received this information, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

District Operations – Business Services Report

Audited Financial Statements 2020/2021

Russell Horswill, Secretary Treasurer presented in detail on the Audited Financial Statements for 2020/2021.

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

THAT the Board of Education received this information, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

2022/2023 Capital Plan Submissions

Russell Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer, presented in detail on the 2022/2023 Capital Plan Submission. The Board discussed the detailed projects, including ventilation projects, site acquisition, and seismic priorities.

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

THAT the Board of Education approve the 2022/2023 Capital Plan Submission for the Major Capital Projects, Building Envelope Project, and Minor Capital Projects in the amount of \$393,901,684, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

New Business

Use of Masks

It was moved by Ryan Stewart and seconded by Bill Brassington.

THAT the Burnaby Board of Education:

- acknowledges the feedback it has received from partner groups and stakeholders, including teachers and parents, expressing apprehension about variants of concern, and calling for additional measures to prevent spreading the coronavirus in schools;
- reiterates its strong encouragement that all students--including those in K to 3--wear masks in schools unless medically, developmentally, or otherwise legitimately precluded from doing so;
- reiterates its endorsement of taking a supportive, as opposed to a punitive, approach to encouraging student mask wearing including in K to 3;

- will engage with the Chief Medical Health Officer for Fraser Health and BC's Provincial Health Officer to (a) share Burnaby's experience with mask wearing among students in K to 3, and to (b) urge consideration of additional public health measures to increase mask wearing in schools to the fullest extent supported by the medical science and educational pedagogy; and
- will provide an update to the Burnaby Schools community on this matter at its next regular meeting in October 2021 or sooner via regular channels of communication.

Carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Jay Chalke, Ombudsperson – Quarterly Reports: April 1 – June 30, 2021

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

THAT the Board of Education received this information, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care – September 14, 2021

It was moved by Ryan Stewart and seconded by Gary Wong.

THAT the Board of Education received this information, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Question Period

Ms Mezei read out one question that was submitted in advance and Trustees responded.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ryan Stewart and seconded by Gary Wong

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Carried Unanimously.

Jen Mezei
Chair

Russell Horswill, DBA
Secretary-Treasurer