

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. The next EPPC & OPPC Meetings will be held on April 16, 2024.

7. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

- a. Extracurricular Athletics Audit Update (S. Rai)

Sukh Rai, Vice-Principal at QMS provided a report on the Extracurricular Athletics Audit that he conducted at New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) and three middle schools. In December 2023, a motion was passed at the Open Board meeting to review the District's approach to providing and supporting extra-curricular physical activities. The Board expressed that athletics opportunities should be offered "Equitably" by removing barriers to student participation which may include socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, disability, and gender. The main goal of this audit was to explore if the District's extracurricular athletics were being offered in an equitable and meaningful way to all their students. Rai also spoke about the next steps, timeline, and plans, and reiterated the importance of extracurricular athletics as learning opportunities for students as they can have a huge impact on creating a strong school culture, and building strong connections between students and staff. *Questions and discussions ensued.*

Rai to provide a summary report of findings to the Board of Education at the Open Board meeting on April 30, 2024.

To view the report in its entirety please refer to the meeting video at [\[7:18 p.m.\]](#).

- b. Short Term Capacity Update for New Westminster Schools (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided a comprehensive Short Term Capacity Update, regarding the ongoing enrollment challenges in New Westminster Schools, and stated that the District continues to experience a rapid rate of enrolment growth. The registration process for the 2024-25 school year is now complete; 350 new students will join our schools in the fall.

Highlights include:

- **Fraser River Zone:** Anticipated growth in this zone will be supported by portables that will continue to be installed as enrolment projections increase. The immense capacity pressures will continue to grow between now and the tentative construction completion of the new Simcoe Elementary School in September 2027.
- **Mainland Middle Schools:** projected Middle School Enrolment vs. Operating Capacity which includes approved Capital Projects as of December 2023, Middle School Projections vs. Operating Capacity, and the expected growth projections in mainland middle schools as the City continues to grow. Ketcham noted that approval for the middle site acquisition and building is currently pending.
- **Options Under Consideration:** Ketcham stated the following options under consideration to alleviate the enrolment projections are Option 1). Portable Placement Strategy, and

- Indigenous education and school development in BC: Board invests in new school openings and renovations, despite pandemic and flooding challenges.
- School nutrition program and student involvement. Westminster schools implemented a district-wide school nutrition program, student voice verification committee, and childcare and early learning initiatives.
- The Board of Education invested in significant land acquisition over the years to secure future school development, the complete seismic update and renovation of Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School and the beginning of the new 3-story expansion at Queen Elizabeth School.
- Toonies for Tummies demonstrates their commitment to ensuring students have access to healthy food. And the implementation of a district-wide school nourishment program without barriers to handle the budget cycle that now has robust district input.

Superintendent Hachlaf acknowledged the tremendous community, and expressed his

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustees spoke to various meetings and events they attended over the past month.

Chair Russell highlighted the remarkable accomplishment of the New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) program having received the Canada Young Theatre Award for last year's Shrek Musical, and to the incredible Jazz band students who won at the Surrey Provincial competition. *To review the full Trustee Reports refer to the meeting video at [\[9:30 p.m.\]](#).*

11. **QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)**

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the Meeting. Members of the public voiced their concerns to the Board of Education on the following topics: 5-block timetable model, enrolment pressures and impacts, and the Board Advocacy Draft Plan.

Questions and discussions ensued; Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham responded to questions. Refer to the meeting video at [\[9:34 pm\]](#) for full Q&A comments.

12. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Events

- World Autism Awareness Day - Tuesday, April 2nd
- International Women's Day – Friday, March 8th
- Earth Day - Monday, April 22nd
- BCSTA Provincial Council & AGM - Thursday April 18th to Sunday, April 21st
- Volunteer Recognition Day - Sunday, April 14th

13. **REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING**

- a. Record of the February 27, 2024 In-Camera Meeting

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer