



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
FOR THE PURPOSES OF JOINT MEETING WITH THE
NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Monday, June 3, 2024

**Immediately Following the Special (Closed) Council meeting
Meeting held electronically and in Council Chamber
City Hall**

PRESENT: Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson*
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Trustee Maya Russell
Trustee Marc Andres
Trustee Kathleen Carlsen
Trustee Danielle Connelly
Trustee Cheryl Sluis

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

ABSENT: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

**Attendance by electronic means*

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council delete agenda Item 3.1 – Memorial Park at New Westminster Secondary School; and
2. **THAT** Council adopt the June 3, 2024 Special Council meeting (for the purposes of a joint meeting with the New Westminster Board of Education) agenda, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL AND BOARD DISCUSSION

3.1 Memorial Park at New Westminster Secondary School

Please refer to Item 2 for action on this matter.

3.2 Traffic Safety & Parking

Discussion ensued regarding opportunities to collaborate on traffic safety and parking needs in and around New Westminster schools.

In reply to queries, Mike Anderson, Manager of Transportation, advised that traffic flow patterns are examined prior to the development of new schools; should new traffic concerns develop following the school's construction, staff would examine them as they arise.

Discussion then took place on the potential to utilize the Climate Action Reserve Fund to support the Walking School Bus program.

3.3 New Westminster Board of Education Advocacy Plan

Trustee Sluis, New Westminster Board of Education, spoke to the Board's Advocacy Action Plan and highlighted six areas of focus:

1. raising awareness of the need to increase basic per student funding;
2. expediting approval of Capital funding for new schools;
3. securing Capital funding to support existing schools;
4. increasing funding from the Government of BC to meet the diverse needs of the community;

5. increasing access to mental health wellness and safety supports; and
6. expanding access to child care.

It was noted that collaboration between the City and the District is important to ensure related issues are addressed appropriately.

Discussion took place on the potential to advocate through the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and/or Union of BC Municipalities for shared needs. It was noted that the District's primary advocacy channel is through the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Discussion further took place on advocacy models, including the status of a New Westminster Caucus and it was suggested that the Working Group examine the potential to send a delegation of Council and Board members to Victoria.

3.4 Tree Planting Project & School Greening

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided background information regarding the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy and highlighted the Strategy's three overarching goals: (i) protect the City's urban forest, (ii) enhance the urban forest, and (iii) engage with all community stakeholders on urban forest management. Also, it was noted that the Strategy aims to increase the tree canopy cover by 27% city-wide by 2030.

Discussion ensued regarding the typical timeframe for tree removal in the city and staff was requested to provide an update to Council regarding removal of a tree on school grounds.

3.5 Youth Resiliency Initiative

Denise Tambellini, Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager, and Lauren Mathias, Program Manager, provided an overview of the Building Safer Communities Fund Program, noting that the City received \$1.7 million over four years to deliver new programming and resources until March 31, 2026. The Program's primary goal is to support youth aged 12 to 25 years old and provide basic needs and alternatives to divert them away from any gang involvement.

D. Tambellini and L. Mathias then highlighted initiatives implemented since the Program launched such as the New Westminster Youth Hub and "Dan's Diner." Staff are currently examining potential frameworks to render the Program to be self-sustainable.

3.6 Consultation to Refresh the Parks & Recreation Plan

In reply to a query, D. Gibson spoke to the City's practice as it relates to consulting key stakeholders, noting that staff will liaise with District staff in the near future.

3.7 Updates on Provincial Housing Legislation

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Lynn Roxburgh, Manager of Housing, detailed the various aspects of Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing legislation (Bill 44) and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) areas legislation (Bill 47) and the City's proposed approach to implement the Province's requirements.

L. Roxburgh advised that the City has been identified as a high-growth, high-need area and a Housing Order is anticipated in which the City will be mandated by the Province to build a certain number of housing units in five years' time. As such, L. Roxburgh requested the District convey their needs in the upcoming Official Community Plan review.

4. END OF THE MEETING

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council adjourn the June 3, 2024 Special Council meeting (7:19 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Special Council meeting of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on June 3, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER