



Burnaby D.P.A.C. Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2022

Burnaby Central Secondary School
Room A206 – Conference Centre
6011 Deer Lake Parkway
Burnaby, BC

Attendance:

Schools by Zone

Brentwood North

- Alpha
- Burnaby North
- Aubrey
- Brentwood Park
- Confederation Park
- Capitol Hill
- Gilmore
- Kitchener
- Lochdale
- Montecito
- Parkcrest
- Rosser
- Sperling
- Westridge

Cariboo Lougheed

- Burnaby Mountain
- Cariboo Hill
- Armstrong
- Cameron
- Forest Grove
- Lyndhurst
- Seaforth
- Second Street
- Stoney Creek
- Twelfth Avenue
- University Highlands

Central West

- Burnaby Central
- Moscrop
- Brantford
- Buckingham
- Cascade Heights
- Chaffey-Burke
- Douglas Road
- Gilpin
- Inman
- Lakeview
- Marlborough
- Morley

Kingsway South

- Burnaby South
- Byrne Creek
- Clinton
- Edmonds
- Glenwood
- Maywood
- Nelson
- South Slope
- Stride Avenue
- Suncrest
- Taylor Park
- Windsor

District Staff

- Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent
- Russell Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer
- Ishver Khunguray, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
- Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent
- Jeannette Laursoo, Assistant Superintendent
- Wanda Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent
- Richard Per, Assistant Superintendent
- Jason Brown, Manager, Finance & Budgets

Board of Education

- Jen Mezei, Chair (Brentwood North, Kingsway South)
- Bill Brassington, Vice Chair (Kingsway South)
- Gary Wong, Trustee (Central West)
- Peter Cech, Trustee (Brentwood North)
- Christine Cunningham, Trustee (Central West)
- Larry Hayes, Trustee (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Ryan Stewart, Trustee (Cariboo Lougheed)

DPAC Executive

- Ashley Sandquist, Chair (Brentwood North)
- Laura Ward, Vice Chair (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Alfred Romann, Treasurer (Kingsway South)

Members at Large

- Calvin Taplay (Brentwood North)
- Christine Nguyen (Central West)
- Esther Norcott (Central West)... late
- Lisa Young (Cariboo Lougheed)

1. Welcome and Introduction: *Ashley Sandquist, DPAC Chair*

- Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm
- Acknowledged meeting on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish nations, Musqueam and Squamish.
- Introduction of Board of Trustees and District Staff. Only district staff that were presenting were in attendance.

2. Message from The Chair of Burnaby School Board: *Jen Mezei*

- Greetings from the Board & Happy New Year and thank you for DPAC's patience and supporting the community. It's been difficult for families and it's gratifying to see how schools and communities have come together. Board Chair expressed gratitude for DPAC and board.

3. Presentation by the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer: *Gina Niccoli-Moen and Russell Horswill*

a. Burnaby Schools Pandemic Response Update – Gina Niccoli-Moen

- Refer to presentation link [Pandemic Response Update](#)
- **Background**
 - Jan 4-7th school district and staff reinforced existing safety measures in preparation for students to return on Jan 10th 2022
 - Plans were made for potential workforce/staffing shortages in the event of too many people having to isolate at home or recover from illnesses related to COVID-19
- **Guiding Principles for School Continuity – Ministry of Education**
 - Enhance health and safety
 - Support essential service workers – provide meals & support
 - Support vulnerable students
 - Provide continuity of learning
- **Health and Safety**
 - The Burnaby School District Communicable Disease Prevention COVID-19 Staff handbook was recently updated and can be found on the district website – [SD41 Staff Handbook](#)
 - For the most part the controls already in place stayed the same at the reopen. School gathering and events are kept virtually. Schools have always kept lists of names, dates, times for contact tracing. All the existing COVID-19 prevention controls have been reiterated and reinforced. We've paused extra-curricular activities, in fact all the activities paused at the beginning of January for an abundance of caution.
 - Some schools have returned to staggered starts
 - Principals have been working with staff to prepare the school, parents, and students for a safe return
 - Daily Health Check still in place; stay home when sick; wear masks; practice proper hand washing; maintain physical distance. We are reiterating and reemphasizing to students what proper hand washing should look like.
- **Some Preparation and Planning**
 - Updating resources; archiving lessons and materials online; professional development; outreach and connection
 - ELL assessments planning for online; establishing Ed Tech schedules of support; moved community and continuing education programs online; communication with childcare operators; meals and technology needs assessment; and communication plans prepared
- **Changes to Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in K-12 Settings**
 - No notification letters issued from Fraser Health on contact tracing or exposures anymore
 - Refer to 811, reach out to health care professional and follow guidance from BC Centre for Disease Control [BCDC Link](#)
 - Public Health close contact definition – those you live with, share a room or home with and people you've had intimate contact with. BC public health guidance focused on individuals taking responsibility for their close contacts.
 - See graphics on COVID-19 information, (i.e. travel advisory) on the [SD41 website](#)
- **Health Closure vs. Functional Closure**
 - Health Closure – public health closure is the temporary closing of a school by Medical Health Officer when they determine it is necessary to prevent the excessive transmission. Schools are monitoring absenteeism very closely
 - Functional Closure – due to staff shortage and determined by the school district; reasons could be insufficient teachers to adequately teach, not enough cleaning staff or support staff

- No increases in COVID-19 exposures in first week of school; however, some parents have chosen to keep their children at home
 - When the absentee rate increases (i.e. above 10%) for students and staff, schools may contact Fraser Health to enquire if there is a risk of COVID-19 exposures at their school
 - Every night at 8:00 pm staff absenteeism across the district is monitored. Absentee rates are checked at 7am and 8am to determine if there is sufficient teaching, support, and district staff available. Substitute teaching availability is also monitored closely
 - Public health asks for school districts to assess what is a normal absentee rate. Schools will work directly with parents, helping Fraser Health to keep an eye on the state of public schools. If absenteeism is too great schools will contact public health for more information
 - **Planning for functional closure**
 - Early considerations
 - Functional closure declared
 - Timeline of closure
 - Communication – will contact via notification letter if there is a closure and it may be short notice. It may happen during the school day that a functional closure is necessary, and we'll need to contact families immediately. We will ensure students have a safe return home.
 - **Learned from Friday from Fraser Health**
 - Rapid Antigen tests were coming to school districts; BC has a limited supply;
 - Provided to staff members for at home testing (it is optional, for those who are symptomatic), primarily for emergency use
 - Go to [Fraser Health website](#) to get the most up to date information
 - Medical Health officer, FHA sent a notification letter on Friday evening (Jan 14th) directing parents and guardians to key websites for information.
 - Superintendent expressed gratitude to the pandemic response team and DPAC Chair for gathering information, problem solving and commitment to regularly meet every week to address public health and district concerns
- b. Burnaby Schools Pandemic Response Update – Russell Horswill**
- Update from newspaper article – Jan 4-7th <https://www.burnabynow.com/>
 - Assessed classrooms that did not have mechanical ventilation installed which resulted in the following decisions:
 - Purchased air scrubbers with HEPA filters, to upgrade 280 classrooms (printed in article)
 - Looked for key features, such as, quiet scrubbers; filtration efficacy; quick delivery date
 - Energy department working with senior buyers, procuring from Ontario – order placed Friday, Jan 14th
 - First of two orders delivered; start deploying into schools the following week
 - Partnered with trucking company to get delivery from Ontario
 - Larger units (1400 sqft) will go into classrooms and other large rooms like libraries (350 units ordered and ~320 rooms in total slated for upgrades)
 - Smaller units (100 ordered) will go into offices and other smaller rooms
 - Air scrubbers purchased don't have a fresh air supply; so doors and windows will need to be opened
 - Only installing air scrubbers in classrooms that don't have ventilation. District is working w/BCHA and engineers – they've advised not to put air scrubbers in classrooms w/ventilation
 - Scrubbers running 2-hour pre-purge and 2-hour post-purge filter before/after class.
 - Schools with existing ventilation rely on dampers to bring in more fresh air; MERV 13 filters used for classrooms with ventilation; those without ventilation will get scrubbers installed
 - Burnaby has several older schools compared to other districts; reviewed capital needs with the board and talked to government;

- District Energy Manager is part of the committee that's working with Ministry of Education to move quicker on the school upgrades. Capital Plan submission in progress.
- Soliciting help from the community, grounds crews and custodial members to get the scrubbers installed as quickly as possible

4. Questions and Answers – DPAC members discussion

- Q. From Sally Felkai Westridge/Alpha she/her to Everyone: 07:42 PM
 - If staff are well, would you stay open if there are fewer than 75% students attending?
 - A. Yes, absolutely. Functional closing only pertains if not enough staff.
- Q. From Radhika_Maywood to Everyone: 07:50 PM
 - If there is a functional closure, will it be for all the schools or only affected schools?
 - A. It will be for affected schools
- Q. From Calvin Taplay, DPAC Exec, Burnaby North to Everyone: 08:07 PM
 - Of the two systems, MERV 13 and HEPA, which is superior for filtration purposes?
- Q. From Chad - Stoney Creek to Everyone: 08:09 PM
 - School by school ventilation report: https://burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Ventilation_System_Overview_in_Burnaby_Schools.pdf
 - Gov't wants to know which schools will be deployed
 - Does that report identify the schools targeted with the air scrubbers?
- Q. From Harinder BNSS to Everyone: 08:09 PM
 - Are the air scrubbers used in hallways during class change in high schools?
 - A. No, they are not effective
- Q. From Chad - Stoney Creek to Everyone: 08:10 PM
 - Rephrased question - where can we see the schools for the scrubbers
 - A. Article listed 16, but there are 20 classrooms; specifics are being communicated to principals
- Q. From Kristin Schnider (she/her), Stoney Creek Community School to Everyone: 08:10 PM
 - When the SD is assessing staff shortages and the potential for backfills vs. function closures, is bargaining unit work being protected or is the SD able to use either excluded staff or staff from other staff unions to fill any shortages?
 - (E.g. if teaching staff are short, can only BTA members fill the shortages, or can other SD staff be utilized where available?)
 - Similarly, for custodial/maintenance shortages, can backfilling only occur with CUPE staff members?
 - A. Wanted to hire unionized staff; the district has contractors on hand; each dept has a plan to keep business going – will move to a contractor
- Q. How long to allow the trauma to continue: 08:10 PM
 - When the SD is assessing staff shortages and the potential for backfills vs. function closures, is bargaining
 - A. District taking direction from Public Health and adapting to new guidance that occurs often
- Q. From Manny Pereira Central to Everyone: 08:12 PM
 - Do all schools with ventilation systems currently have MERV 13 filters?
 - A. Yes
- Q. From Trinity_Stoney Creek Community School to Everyone: 08:14 PM
 - These are from some parents/friends at our school:
Why can't our admin inform us if there is covid in the class - when they know? You do it for lice in the class. We need transparency...we can't go into the school...we need more information, especially now.
 - A. District is not being informed of personal health information; families can share amongst themselves. No longer are kids in classes considered close contacts.
 - What is our recourse if teachers/students come to school sick anyway? (Because they have,

- My daughter sits one foot away from her classmate who wears a single layer mask...she's breathing the same air space for 5 hours a day. Will the MERV 13 keep her safe from Covid? Why can't we buy another air filter for her class (like the ones you just bought)?
- A. MERV13 is the standard for where you have mechanical systems (return air back to unit, heated and filtered and returned). HEPA filters (99.99% carbon filters, ultra-violet lights) they are effective, but the limitation is that it doesn't provide fresh supply air so that's why doors/windows are left open. One-unit 58dB O layering HEPA filters that's why all the other controls are important to continue to provide a safe learning environment... HEPA filters are limited to the space that they occupy.
- When will Stoney Creek teachers receive the Vitacore N95 masks?
- A. Not acquiring N95 because not the guidance standard, we are using 3-layer masks
- Q. From Trinity Stoney Creek Community School to Everyone: 08:18 PM
 - In Burnaby, we know that with POLICY #5.12 "The Board recognizes that the responsibility for identification, control and treatment of head lice is a joint responsibility of the parent, the school and Municipal Health Department staff. Therefore, it is the Board's policy that: The school principal, in cooperation with the Community Health Nurse, will ensure that a head lice control plan is developed at each school."
 - A. Not available
- Q. From Pam Warner - Gilmore to Everyone: 08:19 PM
 - Do schools currently have different standards than childcare in terms of notification?
 - A. Yes, childcare providers have a different process, and they're own staffing concerns and capacity limits. District keeps close communication with childcare providers. Isolation periods should be the same as per BCCDC guidance website
- Q. From J- Marlborough to Everyone: 08:23 PM
 - We read in today's news that all BC schools must provide proof of vaccination status for its teachers (All school staff in B.C. must disclose COVID-19 vaccine status | Globalnews.ca). Understanding this was just issued today, can you please comment on the process and timing for this provincial order to be rolled out in the Burnaby District?
 - <https://globalnews.ca/news/8518070/school-staff-bc-covid-vaccine-status/>
 - A. Yes, it will be under the direction of the medical health officer. Board must work with local Medical Health Officials and there's more information to come.
- Q. From Trinity Stoney Creek Community School to Everyone: 08:28 PM
 - Sorry, my list of questions were lost in the line up...lol.
I cited this because we want to know why we wouldn't be notified from our principal about a covid exposure.
"In Burnaby, we know that with POLICY #5.12 "The Board recognizes that the responsibility for identification, control and treatment of head lice is a joint responsibility of the parent, the school and Municipal Health Department staff. Therefore, it is the Board's policy that: The school principal, in cooperation with the Community Health Nurse, will ensure that a head lice control plan is developed at each school."
Why wouldn't we receive a singular covid notice?
What is our recourse if teachers/students come to school sick anyway? (Because they have, regardless of the daily health check.)
 - A. Not available
- Q. From Trinity Stoney Creek Community School to Everyone: 08:29 PM
 - Also, BCTF received 100,000 Vitacore masks from teachers.
 - Local business donating; the district will continue to provide 3-ply masks

5. DPAC updates

- **COMMITTEE report:**

- Traffic Safety meeting attended by DPAC Chair – Trustee Member, proposing a no-drive policy for one of the schools
 - Trustee member reports from other districts, request for staff to review schools/areas for traffic safety concerns
 - From J- Marlborough to Everyone: 08:33 PM <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/school-streets.aspx>
 - Proposing a car free zone for 30-45 minutes like Vancouver SD, to provide greater safety and to encourage different modes of travel to and from schools
 - Inman, Sperling, Marlborough schools identified – waiting to hear back from city staff, and feedback from their survey. Not all schools are needed.
 - Safety around the schools in inclement weather (i.e. snowfall) is also a concern
- Marlborough Representative comments – 5 secretaries managing absenteeism which takes half a day to complete. Suggestion to automate the system (SMS, automated and save time). Principal supported MySchool (MyEducationBC – does it already have that feature and, if so, can we propose a pilot program?)

5. Show and Tell

- Gilmore – Music Bingo, Done through a 3rd Party provider and Raffle fundraiser
- Other discussion – Will DPAC will be involved in the school semester schedule planning next year?
 - This year high schools moved to a semester system. No decisions yet on the plans moving forward from the pandemic planning team. Parents want to give input.
 - Suggestion made to survey students (more importantly) and not just parents; they have a lot of experience/knowledge going through the pandemic again this year. The students’ responses are important

6. Next Meeting Date on Zoom – **Monday February 28, 2022**

Adjournment – meeting ended at 8:48 pm