



**Vancouver Municipal, Education and Community Workers
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
Zoom Platform
Wednesday, November 23, 2022**

1. Call to Order

The President, Warren Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

We give thanks today to be on the unceded lands of the Coast Salish peoples, the Squamish, Musqueam, and the Tsleil-Waututh Nations, original inhabitants of the Lower Mainland since time immemorial. On their lands where we live, work, and play we ask for their guidance on a day where the work we need to do needs to be guided by respect, understanding and contemplation.

3. Roll Call of Officers

Warren Williams	President	Present
Debbie Mohabir	Secretary-Treasurer	Present
Santino Scardillo	1 st Vice President	Not Present – Excused
Ravina Lal	2 nd Vice President	Not Present – Excused
Kamal Gautam	Member at Large	Not Present – Absent
Paul Chohan	Member at Large	Present
Chris Brown	Member at Large	Present
Cynthia Schadt	Member at Large	Present
Bernie Dionne	Member at Large	Present
Henry Lee	Member at Large	Present
Rose Palozzi	Member at Large	Present
Eduardo Rodriguez	Member at Large	Present
Roxshanna Shankar	Member at Large	Not Present – Excused
Mia Nickel	Member at Large	Not Present – Excused
Courtney Gillen	Member at Large	Not Present – Excused
Aaron Cook	Trustee	Present
John Kaptein	Trustee	Present
Vanessa Mani	Trustee	Present

Staff Present:

Steve Salsman	Staff Representative
Tia Tang	Office Manager (Recording)

The Secretary-Treasurer reminded members that her wi-fi is sporadic because she is attending from out-of-town.

4. Equality Statement

The CUPE Local 15 Equality Statement was read.

5. Initiations

The following members attended a meeting for the first time:

- Andrew Wootton – Vancouver School Board
- Noah Adekunle – Vancouver School Board
- Kasey Wong – City of Vancouver
- Zlatan Jankovic – City of Vancouver
- Kirsten Larson – Park Board
- Chad Lum – Park Board

6. Minutes

October 26, 2022

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of October 26, 2022 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Correspondence Report

The President advised members to contact him, the Secretary-Treasurer, or the Office Manager if they have a question or would like more information about items listed in the Correspondence Report.

8. Executive Board Report

The President referred members to the *Executive Decided* report in the November issue of the Members' Voice.

In addition, he provided a verbal report regarding the difficulty in recruiting and retaining stewards in the Parks, City, and Community Health sectors and the Executive Board plan to conduct worksite visits to address this ongoing problem. He reviewed the role of the steward and noted that in-depth steward training, as well as other valuable training, is provided by the CUPE National Education Department and that Local 15 Executive Members, Debbie Mohabir and Henry Lee are facilitators. He asked Parks, City, and Community Health members to consider becoming a steward in their workplace.

Facilitator Henry Lee reported that seven new stewards from the City, Vancouver, School Board, Parks, and Health sectors have recently been trained.

The President also reported that all sectors are either preparing for bargaining or are in bargaining. With multiple sectors and employers, it is a busy time for us.

9. Committee and Staff Reports**i) City of Vancouver**

Steve Salsman, Staff Representative reported that the sector is in crisis because of the lack of stewards available to attend meetings, and that it becomes even more of a serious issue when members are facing discipline. He explained that staff can attend the meetings, but based on legal advice, it is not ideal and becomes complicated regarding the Grievance Committee and writing the report. He offered his assistance to members considering becoming a steward. He also reported that the bargaining committee is a keen and hardworking group, who have met numerous times and have reviewed various sections of the collective agreement. In response to a question from a member, the importance of filling out the survey was discussed at length.

ii) Vancouver School Board Bargaining Committee

Debbie Mohabir, Bargaining Committee Chair, reported that the committee has met with the employer several times and have run into some difficult situations and challenges. The last day of bargaining scheduled is December 8, 2022. When more information is available, an information bulletin will be circulated to VSB members. If an agreement is not reached, dates will be scheduled in January. The committee is working very hard to make the ratification deadline of January 25, 2023, working twelve-hour days in some cases. Ontario education workers was also discussed.

Kirsten Larson, Parks Sector, expressed interest in becoming a steward.

10. Financial Report

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the Financial Statement ending September 30, 2022.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to receive the Financial Statement as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

11. Nominations, Elections, and Installations

No nominations, elections, or installations.

12. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

13. New Business**i) 2023 Proposed Union Budget**

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the proposed 2023 union budget highlighting changes from the 2022 budget and thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed 2023 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and the Executive Board.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Langara Ratification of Proposals Meeting

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to destroy the ballots from the Langara Ratification of Proposals meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

iii) Chat Feature – General Membership Meetings

Starting in January 2023, the National Representatives will monitor the chat. Questions will go to the National Representative and then funnel to the President.

14. Announcements and Good and Welfare

It was reported that Joanne Griffin, retired VMREU/CUPE member (1974-2011) passed away suddenly.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.