

SD40 Board of Education
811 Ontario Street,
New Westminster, V3M 0J7
By email: boardofeducation@sd40.bc.ca

To the New Westminster Board of Education,

This letter is in follow up to our December 5th collaboration meeting held between DPAC executive, the Board of Education, and Superintendent Hachlaf. DPAC is very appreciative of the efforts and time committed by both the Board of Education and Superintendent Hachlaf to attend and participate in collaboration meetings with DPAC this year.

The purpose of this meeting was to begin laying the foundation for a collaborative and trusting working relationship. Our primary takeaways from our first collaboration meeting are:

- we are generally aligned on our primary priorities and goals, especially regarding student safety; and
- that we can look forward to continuing the work of achieving trust between DPAC and the Board of Education.

Two very important conversations we wish to continue with the Board of Education regard long and short term capacity planning in our district, and transportation issues particularly for Queensborough students attending NWSS, and West End students attending FRMS and EGMS. We await confirmation that the Board of Education has sent a letter to MLA Singh regarding bus transportation for Queensborough students attending NWSS, as committed to at this meeting by the Board.

However, there are other issues on which we are hoping to work towards consensus between DPAC and the Board of Education include:

- improved communication from the District, Board, and school administration to students, parents, caregivers and guardians when concerns and issues are raised;
- early and good faith consultation with families and students impacted by changes to facilities or operations of the district, such as the removal of child care centers, or alternative programs; and
- the importance of maintaining transparency at, and accessibility to Board and Committee meetings.

As mentioned in our meeting, early and good faith consultation is considered by DPAC to be consultation that occurs prior to decisions being made by staff or the Board and feedback received through consultation is considered in the decision making process.

DPAC will always act as public advocates for all students and families in the district, and as such, will continue to bring comments and questions to regular Board meetings as well as Committee meetings. Additionally, we commit to engaging in further detailed or nuanced discussions with the Board of Education through our collaboration meetings.

We look forward to scheduling our next collaboration meeting with you, and the continuation of our joint work towards a trusting relationship.

Sincerely,

Laura Kwong, DPAC Chair and the DPAC Executive

CC Superintendent Hachlaf