

17 April 2023

Hon. Aman Singh, MLA

12560 Bridgeport Rd

Richmond, BC V6V 2N5

Re: Dedicated busing promise for Queensborough students attending NWSS

Dear MLA Singh,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with parents and caregivers at our February DPAC meeting. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to share directly with you the concerns and issues facing families in your riding. Specifically the concerns relating to safe and reliable transportation for students living in Queensborough and attending New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) and the promise you made in 2019 for a free and dedicated busing service for the students of Queensborough. This campaign promise garnered support and votes from your constituents at that time.

We understand that putting together a delivery model and securing provincial funding to delivery on your campaign promise has been challenging. However, every day over 400 students in Queensborough are still without safe and reliable transportation to school. In making this promise, the New Westminster school district was absolved of finding a solution to this transportation issue shutting the door on a possible solution from the school district. The students and families of Queensborough are now completely relying on your fulfillment of the dedicated busing promise.

While attending our February DPAC meeting, you stated that you have explored a number of private busing delivery providers as well as public and determined that the most feasible option is for a TransLink operated service. We ask that you advocate for provincial funding to be provided as soon as possible, and for an agreement on the delivery of dedicated busing to be struck between TransLink and the New Westminster School District. Students and families of Queensborough have put their faith in you and your ability to fulfill your campaign promise, and we now ask that you make the required efforts to push this through to fruition.

Sincerely,

Laura Kwong

SD40 DPAC Chair

Attachments

October 25, 2021 Letter to MLA Singh

CC TransLink Board
MLA Jennifer Whiteside, Treasury Board Vice-Chair
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent SD40
SD40 Board of Education

October 25, 2021

Dear Honourable Aman Singh (MLA, Richmond-Queensborough)

On behalf of the District Parent Advisory Council for New Westminister (SD40), representing parents of over 7,000 students, I am writing to urge action on your [2020 election campaign promise to bring free bus service for Queenborough students to NWSS](#).

As you are aware, bus service for Queenborough students has been a long-standing issue in our district. To reach the only public high school in New Westminister, students either walk across a busy bridge, get rides from their parents or take multiple transit buses that are often so full that they don't even stop.

Your campaign promise was very much welcomed by your constituents, parents, students, our Board Chair and District Leadership. Since the October 2020 election, we have yet to see any progress on this commitment and request that work begin immediately to make this important bus service a reality. We would welcome a meeting with key stakeholders, including Translink, to work out the details of the bus service and to explore how other critical transportation needs for students in the West End could be addressed with such a service to further enhance its viability and benefits.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Carlsen
Chair, SD40 District Parent Advisory Council
newwestpacchair@gmail.com

CC:

Hon. Minister Jennifer Whiteside, MLA for New Westminister
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent New Westminister School District
Gurveen Dhaliwhal, Chair, New Westminister Board of Education
Anita Ansari, Trustee, New Westminister Board of Education
Dee Beattie, Trustee, New Westminister Board of Education
Danielle Connelly, Trustee, New Westminister Board of Education
Mark Gifford, Trustee, New Westminister Board of Education
Mary Lalji, Trustee, New Westminister Board of Education
Maya Russell, Trustee, New Westminister Board of Education

Reference:

<https://www.newwestrecord.ca/local-news/ndp-candidate-promises-free-bus-service-for-queensborough-students-to-nwss-3128895>