

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
City of New Westminster Council
By email: pjohnstone@newwestcity.ca, clerks@newwestcity.ca
9 June, 2023

Dear Mayor Johnstone and Councilors,

Re: Support for EGMS's Monkey Rebel Club and New Westminster as a 15 Minute City

The New Westminster District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC) is writing to express our enthusiastic support for the advocacy from the Ecole Glenbrook Middle School's Monkey Rebels club. Following their thoughtful and engaging presentation at School District 40's Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting, we felt compelled to lend our voice in support. We endorse the vision for New Westminster to become a 15 minute city as it fully aligns with the principle that every student should be able to attend their neighbourhood school.

The philosophy¹ of 15 minute cities ensures equitable access to essential services across neighbourhoods, including schools. By adopting this framework, we can foster a stronger sense of community, create safer neighbourhoods where families feel connected and supported, and alleviate transportation and traffic issues around schools. A 15 minute city is by design more equitable and resilient, as it is a people focused framework that maximises the utilisation of both space and time.

The New Westminster DPAC wholeheartedly supports the vision of transforming New Westminster into a 15 minute city. The resulting safer neighbourhoods, shorter commutes, and stronger community connections will all contribute to the well-being of students and families in our city and school district. We thus encourage the City of New Westminster to consider these benefits and prioritise the development of neighbourhood schools as part of a 15 minute city vision.

With kind regards,

Laura Kwong
SD40 DPAC Chair

cc SD40 Board of Education
SD40 Superintendent Hachlaf

¹ Allam, Z., Bibri, S.E., Chabaud, D. et al. The '15-Minute City' concept can shape a net-zero urban future. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 9, 126 (2022).