

New Westminster DPAC

School District 40

Date: February 16, 2023

Location: Queen Elizabeth Elementary /Zoom Virtual Meeting

Time: 7-9 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Laura Kwong (Chair, Ecole Qayqayt Elementary)

Minute Taker: Cyrus Sy (Secretary, New Westminster Secondary School DPAC Rep)

Executive: Kathleen Carlsen (Vice-Chair, NWSS), Renee Mosi (Treasurer, NWSS), Cyrus Sy (Secretary, NWSS DPAC Rep), Sue Kenny (MAL, Queensborough Middle School & Queen Elizabeth Elementary DPAC Rep)

Regrets:

Guests: Aman Singh (MLA Queensborough-Richmond), Maya Russell (Board Trustee), Karim Hachlaf (Superintendent), Nancy Brennan, Consultant for Programs of Choice Review

Parents/Guardians (via Zoom): Larisa Ciprian (Skwo:wech Elementary, DPAC Rep), Lara Jansen (Herbert Spencer Elementary, DPAC Rep), Heather Kamitakahara (Connaught Heights Elementary, DPAC Rep), Laura Le (EQQE), Doug Herasymiuk (FW Howay, DPAC Rep), Grace Steyn (EQQE DPAC Rep), Trish Robinson (Ecole Glenbrook Middle School, DPAC Rep), Laurel Brewster (Hume Park, NWSS)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:06	Welcome, Call to Order & Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance	
	Approval of Agenda MOTION TO APPROVE: Kathleen, SECOND by Sue Kenny , CARRIED	
	Approval of January 19 Meeting Minutes with Kathleen's Edits MOTION TO APPROVE: Laura K, SECOND Sue Kenny, CARRIED	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Reviewing student codes of conduct v. ERASE tool will ask if submitter wants to remain anonymity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Board Trustee Update - Maya Russell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any update on the demolition of the high school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work is very slow due to volume of material that needs remediation ii. Much closer to more significant renewal iii. Because its a formal burial ground, there won't be formal sports fields ○ At our last NWSS PAC there was a lot of discussion around safety. ○ Re: Publishing Metrics on Safety and effectiveness of security/safety measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Metrics and data are important, but the right measures must be used to capture the whole story ii. The board is supportive of assessing the impact of safety initiatives and is working on improving incident reporting and tracking mechanisms for consistency across schools. They also mention an upcoming update to the board on safety work. 	Maya
	<p>Guest Presentation - MLA Aman Singh (Richmond-Queensborough)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question for MLA Singh - will he support the BC Single Mother's Alliance call for free transit for youth up to age 18? A: Our government is a believer in active transportation. Will take it back to the Minister of Transportation and is happy to advocate. ● Acknowledges the importance of improving transportation for Queensborough and has been advocating for it since they were elected. ● They have had meetings with various ministries, including the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry responsible for Translink, and the Minister of Education. ● Working towards securing funding for a new bus service, and the government has helped Translink to close their funding gap. ● "It's going to happen", but it's a matter of time. ● MLA Singh suggests that a letter from DPAC to Translink could help expedite the process. ● The speaker is pushing and is committed to continuing their efforts. ● Has the funding for a dedicated NWSS bus been approved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with Minister for Transportation (responsible for Translink) and Minister of Education 	Aman Singh

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Met with Mayor's Council board chair ○ Will be pushing it as much as possible. "You have my solemn promise that we will continue to work on it" ● How is this dedicated bus service going to be delivered? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lynch Bus Services and two other private bus services have been approached to get quotations for a bus service. ○ However, preference is Translink because they have the expertise and have done it before, and the buses are located nearby. Parents' preference is also Translink. ● What would be the timeline for the dedicated bus service? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As soon as we can get it. Putting as much pressure as possible ○ Write letters to MLA ● School District Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The speaker has had conversations with the former minister and Mr. Richard Singh about the growth in the area, including Queensborough, and has been advocating for Queensborough and Hamilton. ○ They discuss the pressures that schools in the area face and state that the Ministry of Education now has the largest capital budget in history. ○ MLA Singh encourages individuals to reach out to their office to arrange a meeting after the budget comes out on February 28th to discuss the funding for education in Queensborough and expanding the bus service. ○ Rapid growth in QB is a municipal issue but has a good working relationship with the mayor and staff. ○ They also mention a one-time fund of one billion dollars for communities all over British Columbia to add to their local services and discuss their plan to meet with the mayor to push for Queensborough's share of the funding. ○ Encourages individuals to suggest projects for the city to use the funding for. ● Growing Communities Fund - projects in QB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good relationship with City Councillors and Mayor ○ Meeting with City to to get funding with adjustment ○ Uptown New Westminster doesn't require same level of funding as QB which doesn't have the same level of infrastructure ● Can students in programs of choice be included in the busing service? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bussing service and specifics can be decided by the district ○ Programs of Choice students are not covered by the special bussing. ○ School districts are responsible for providing transportation services and can choose to implement it however they want ○ New Westminster School District currently only provides transportation services for students with special needs but that can be expanded. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service would go from QB to New West twice a day. 	
	<p>Special Guest - Nancy Brennan (Consultant for Program of Choice Review)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associate Superintendent for Programs of Choice ● French Immersion, Montessori, Home Learner's, ● What do you think is working well? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HL Program (Chelle) - flexibility, allows them to get the education they want <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gives families who don't fit brick and mortar ■ There has been a lot of uncertainty around the HLP ■ 140 students roughly (half reside in new west, half reside outside of district) ■ Everyone goes by first name, small staff, family oriented ■ We have families of 5 or 6 through different generations ■ The program has an opportunity to grow; not many blended programs are offered in BC - both in-person and home. ○ Nancy will be scheduling meetings with parents across the programs ○ Montessori <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hard to get teachers with a strong background ■ Some question over whether it could be expanded to Middle School ■ In other districts, Montessori goes to Grade 7 because elementary in some areas go up to 7th grade ● Nancy notes that her job is only to support and grow existing programs. Job is not to say which programs should close. Will be making considerations, not recommendations. ● Decrease in LFI has been seen across other districts. ● Growth of existing programs is difficult ● It's difficult to overcome perception and lack of understanding for what FI is. Many parents think FI is an enrichment program. <p>Laurel on HLP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Niche program that has provided kids ability to thrive ● Program is very inclusive and accommodating to all students ● There is no student that doesn't fit in regardless of their situation 	Nancy Brennan
	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letter to TransLink Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Translink has replied and will be doing some data collection over 3 key routes in the coming weeks ○ Reviewing capacity ridership levels. ● Letter to City of New Westminster ● Letter to VisionZero BC Grant Funding Committee 	Laura

	<p>School Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Skwo:Wech Elementary (Larisa) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successful Valentine's Day Bake Sale ○ PAC Chair will be writing a letter to council in support of expanding school zone limits; asked if there was any interest in writing a joint letter with other parent advisory committees. ○ Chair responded that DPAC already sent a letter on the topic, which was well-received, and a notice of motion has been made by Councillor Henderson. ○ DPAC can help write another letter and welcome other PACs to sign on. ○ Asked a question about sharing a movie license ○ Answer: ACF films ● Qayqayt (Grace) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Just completed a successful readathon February and had over 85,000 minutes read ○ Online Safety seminar is planned with Herbert Spencer ○ Spring event is being planned ○ Biggest challenge is rebuilding volunteer community ● F.W. Howay Elementary (Doug) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Glowing hearts family dance was very successful, and well attended ○ Good organizing tool to get new parents to volunteer ○ Getting volunteers for events is better than those volunteering for PAC ○ Succession planning PAC chair underway as current chair and secretary will be leaving after next year ○ Neufeld Fundraiser is very effective and planning to run it again a second time ● Connaught Heights Elementary (Heather) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Just completed a Readathon, was very successful ○ New magician coming for family night ○ Vasiaki Night being organized ○ Looking for ideas for parent speaker ○ Planning a family dance ○ May 5th for Rock and Bow Dance Party ○ Planning a spring carnival, but difficult to get volunteers ○ Someone needs to step up for the PAC chair position ● Queen Elizabeth Elementary and QMS (Sue Kenny) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion to get volunteer via Welcome to Kindergarten event ● Hume Park Home Learner's (Chelle Ostlund) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning a Butterfly Hatching Program and chicken hatching 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Booking a day trip to Camp Sasamat for May (95% of school comes!) ○ Field trips planned for Burnaby Art Gallery and Fort Langley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NWSS (Cyrus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The highlight of the last PAC meeting was a presentation by the Student Voice group about their student survey. ○ Majority of students felt safe, but had suggestions for improvements, including issues with washrooms and lack of blinds in the school. ○ There was a request to bring back the school resource officer to enhance safety. ○ Discussion about measures like cameras and collecting data on safety incidents took place. ○ Fundraising efforts, such as a local pizza shop offering pizza at the last PAC meeting, were also discussed. 	
	<p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Zone Speed Limit Times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letter submitted, and well received by City Council ○ City Council is planning to bring a motion in support ○ Other PACs are encouraged to write letters ● Advocacy to City of New Westminster on OCP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DPAC agreed to let District/Board advocate 	
	<p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2023 Budget Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If PAC has any specific requests please send it to DPAC chair before April 13th. ● Request to SD40 for Funding <p>MOTION: DPAC to request \$2,500 from District to help cover operating expenses.</p> <p>Moved By: Laura K Seconded By: Sue Kenny MOTION: CARRIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Burnaby New West Walkers Caucus advocacy request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Walkers caucus is coming into the grade 2-3 class to educate parents or students who can educate their families in their language. ○ A letter of support was sent previously. ○ The Walkers caucus is now asking the government for funding to supply 3 reflectors per family, instead of 1, so that children can share with their siblings and parents. ○ A motion is being made to write a letter in support of the 	

	<p>Walkers office's request for government funding.</p> <p>MOTION: Write a letter in support of Walkers Caucus to request government funding to supply reflectors to families.</p> <p>Moved by: Kathleen Seconded By: Laura MOTION: CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: DPAC to write a letter referencing previous letters to MLA Singh to advocate for Queensborough Bus Transportation</p> <p>Moved by: Laura Seconded By: Grace MOTION: CARRIED</p>	
	<p>Adjournment: 9:32 by Laura and Doug</p> <p>Next Meeting: April 20, 2023 @ 7pm</p> <p>At: Zoom, Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary</p>	