



BOARD OF EDUCATION SD NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)

Combined Education & Operations Policy and Planning Committee

Tuesday, December 5, 2017– 7:30 pm

School Board Office

Location: 811 Ontario Street, New Westminister

AGENDA

Item	Action	Info	Presenter	Attachment
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The New Westminister School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nations, as well as Coast Salish peoples on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play, and we do or work.

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|------------------------------------------|---|---|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of the Agenda | X | | J. Janzen | |
| 2. Reports from Senior Management | | | | |
| a. Operations Update at October 31, 2017 | | X | K. Lorenz | <i>Encl Pg 1</i> |
| b. May Day Task Force Survey Results | | X | P. Duncan | <i>Encl Pg 5</i> |
| c. Value Statements | X | | P. Duncan | <i>Encl Pg 94</i> |
| d. Monthly Budget Review | | X | K. Lorenz | <i>Encl Pg 102</i> |
| e. SOGI Update | | X | C. Nicholson | <i>Encl Pg 104</i> |
| 3. General Announcements | | | | |
| 4. New Business | | | | |
| a. City Committees | | X | P. Duncan | <i>Encl Pg 105</i> |
| 5. Adjournment | | | | |

Duty to document

At the October 24th board meeting the board made the following Resolution:

THAT the motion regarding duty to document be referred to staff, and staff asked to inquire with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner if they have available, or could refer the Board to, any guidance or resources that would be applicable to developing a duty to document policy.

Attached as Appendix A is a copy of the letter that was forwarded to the Office of the information and privacy Commissioner. We have received an acknowledgement of the letter from the Commissioner's office and are anticipating a reply shortly.

Business Company

The following motion was also at the October 24th Board Meeting:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 40 (New Westminster) as the sole shareholder of the School District No. 40 Business Company take steps to dissolve the Business Company;

AND THAT the Board of Education direct the Secretary Treasurer to pay all outstanding liabilities of the business company to a maximum of \$40,000;

AND THAT the Secretary Treasurer be asked to take all necessary steps to minimize costs to dissolve the business company by requesting the Ministry of Education waive the reporting requirements under the Part 6.1 of the School Act.

Attached as Appendix B is an email sent to the Ministry requesting the reporting requirements of the school act be waived. We have not yet received a reply from the ministry but in the interim all other required steps to wind down the Business Company are being undertaken. We plan to hold an annual general meeting of the business company in January and will then be in a position to apply for dissolution once the requirement to prepare financial statements has been resolved.

Capital projects and Planning

McBride Elementary

The Ministry has requested an update to the McBride Project Definition Report using the latest enrollment projections available. Staff are working with a consultant to revise the PDR as quickly as possible and

anticipate having the revised version into the ministry before the holidays. We expect that the revised enrollment numbers will result in the addition of 3 classrooms to the proposed replacement option.

Long Range facility Plan

The District is renewing its Long range facility plan. We have received a proposed scope of work from Cascade Facilities Management Consultants Ltd, and are in the process of reviewing the outlined activities. We are aiming to have the Long range plan completed in time to inform the 5 year Capital plan that we will be submitting to the ministry in June.

Respectfully,

Kevin Lorenz
Secretary-Treasurer

APPENDIX A



New
Westminster
Schools

School District No. 40

November 20, 2017

Office of the Information and
Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9A4

Attn: Drew McArthur, Information and Privacy Commissioner

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education for School District 40 (New Westminster). At a recent board meeting trustees expressed a desire to explore the possibility of establishing a duty to document policy in order to strengthen its ability to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

I have reviewed the guidance documents available on the OIPC BC website and cannot find information directly applicable to developing a duty to document policy. The Board would like to inquire if the Office of the Information Privacy Commissioner has available, or could refer the Board to, any guidance or resources that would be applicable to developing a duty to document policy.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Board for your time. If I can provide any additional information to clarify what the Board is seeking please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Lorenz
Secretary Treasurer

Kevin Lorenz

From: Kevin Lorenz
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 5:50 PM
To: 'Aaron, Ian EDUC:EX'
Subject: School District 40 Business Company.

Hi Ian,

At their last meeting our board passed a motion to wind down the school district business company. In addition to passing that motion, the Board directed staff to inquire with the Ministry about the possibility of waiving the annual reporting requirements of the School Act.

Given that the business company has been dormant for the past two years the Board is hoping to avoid the unnecessary expense of preparing audited statements for years when the business company had no activity, and would like to dissolve the company after having the 2014-15 statements prepared.

If waiving the reporting requirements is a possibility could you please let me know what steps if any, the ministry would require the board to take to formalize that request.

I have included the full board motion below for your reference but would be happy to provide any additional information your require.

Regards,

Kevin.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 40 (New Westminster) as the sole shareholder of the School District No. 40 Business Company take steps to dissolve the Business Company; AND THAT the Board of Education direct the Secretary Treasurer to pay all outstanding liabilities of the business company to a maximum of \$40,000; AND THAT the Secretary Treasurer be asked to take all necessary steps to minimize costs to dissolve the business company by requesting the Minister of Education waive the reporting requirements under the Part 6.1 of the School Act.

Kevin Lorenz
Secretary Treasurer



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Supplement to: Combined Education/Operations Policy & Planning Meeting

Date:

December 5, 2017

Submitted by:

Pat Duncan

Item:

Requiring Action ☐

For Information ☒ **X**

SUBJECT:

Findings of the New Westminister Schools' 2017 Public Feedback Form on
the May Day Task Force Recommendations

Background:

At the October 24th, 2017, Regular Board Meeting the following motion was passed:

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) send out the May Day Task Force recommendations for public consultation."

A feedback form on the three May Day Task Force recommendations was posted on-line and made available for public participation from November 13 to 27.

Information and links inviting students, parents and the public to participate in the survey were posted on the New Westminister Schools website homepage, on the New Westminister Schools Facebook page, and on its Twitter feed which is featured on the homepage of all elementary and middle school websites in the district. Digital advertisements ran in the New Westminister Record daily throughout the course of the survey and two print ads were published in each of the two weeks that the survey ran. Parents were invited to participate through email sent by school principals, through invitations disseminated through Parent Advisory Committee notification processes and through the District Advisory Committee. The New Westminister Teachers' Union and CUPE were also invited to alert their membership to the survey.

Attached, please find a report on the findings from the public feedback on the May Day Task Force Recommendations.



Findings of the New Westminster Schools' 2017 Public Feedback Form on the May Day Task Force Recommendations

December 5, 2017

Findings of the New Westminster Schools' 2017 Public Feedback Form on the May Day Task Force Recommendations

This document presents the findings of public feedback on the May Day Task Force Recommendations concerning the school district's participation in the annual celebration of May Day in New Westminster. The district ceremony takes place during a school day in Queen's Park and is one of several community and city-run events celebrating May Day. The survey ran from November 13 to November 27, 2017.

The May Day Task Force Recommendations

The May Day Task Force was commissioned by the Board of Education to review the scope and nature of the school district's annual May Day celebrations. The Task Force included parent, teacher, staff and trustee representatives who, after 18 months of deliberations, reached consensus on three recommendations. These were put before the Board at the October 24th, 2017 Regular Board Meeting. Trustees at this meeting passed the following motion: "That the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) send out the May Day recommendations for public consultation."

The recommendations were as follows:

Recommendation #1: *For 2018 and 2019, May Day celebrations should be school-based. Further, the May Day Task Force recommends that on the 150th anniversary of May Day in 2020, the School District support the May Day Celebration Ceremony at Queen's Park.*

Recommendation #2: *The District should discontinue the practice of selecting a Royal Suite. The Board should support the transferring of responsibility for the Royal Suite to a community organization.*

Recommendation #3: *The board should endeavour to transfer responsibility for organizing the May Day celebrations in Queen's park outside of school hours to a community organization who could then decide how best to continue the tradition. In this way, for example, those community members who are particularly keen to keep alive the institutions of the May Queen and Royal Suite could formulate their own selection methods, costume requirements and ceremonial 'duties'.*

The Feedback Form

A feedback form on the three May Day Task Force recommendations was posted on-line and made available for public participation from November 13 to 27.

Notification: Information and links inviting students, parents and the public to participate in the survey were posted on the New Westminster Schools website homepage, on the New Westminster Schools Facebook page, and on its Twitter feed which is featured on the homepage of all elementary and middle school websites in the district. Digital advertisements ran in the New Westminster Record daily throughout the course of the survey and two print ads were published in each of the two weeks that the survey ran. Parents were invited to participate through email sent by school principals, through invitations disseminated through Parent Advisory Committee notification processes and through the District Advisory Committee. The New Westminster Teachers' Union and CUPE were also invited to alert their membership to the survey.

Participants

The feedback form asked participants to identify as a parent of a current New Westminster School student, a current student of the district, a New Westminster resident, or as a non-New Westminster resident. Names and emails were required for each response to ensure the integrity of the process; participants were notified that identifying information would not be released to the public.

The number of total respondents in the survey was 789. The numbers of respondents by category were as follows:

- **Parents: 425 (53.9%)**
- **Residents: 213 (27%)**
- **Non-residents: 111 (14.1%)**
- **Students: 29 (3.7%)**
- **Unidentified: 11 (1.4%)**
- **Total: 789**

Responses to the Recommendations

Students, parents and community members were invited to provide a response of agree/disagree/undecided in relation to each of the three recommendations, as well as their comments. A brief rationale for each recommendation was included. (See appendix: New Westminster Schools 2017 Public Feedback Form on the May Day Task Force Recommendations).

Comments

The comments below have been disaggregated in the following categories: 1) current student of the district, 2) resident of New Westminster, 3) non-resident of New Westminster, and 4) parent of a current New Westminster School student. A small number of respondents chose not to identify themselves and have been put into the category of “other”. All comments are presented below without any corrections or edits.

Statistical Results

May Day Task Force Committee Recommendations #1:

For 2018 and 2019, May Day celebrations should be school-based. Further, the May Day Task Force recommends that on the 150th anniversary of May Day in 2020, the School District support the May Day Celebration Ceremony at Queen's Park.

Responses:

	Students		Residents		Non-Residents		Parents		Other		Total	
		%		%		%		%		%		
Agree	5	17%	67	31%	42	38%	208	49%	6	67%	328	42%
Disagree	23	79%	132	62%	60	54%	180	42%	3	33%	398	51%
Undecided	1	3%	14	7%	9	8%	37	9%	0	0	61	8%
	29	100%	213	100%	111	100%	425	100%	9	100%	786	100%

May Day Task Force Committee Recommendations #2:

The District should discontinue the practice of selecting a Royal Suite. The Board should support the transferring of responsibility for the Royal Suite to a community organization.

Responses:

	Students		Residents		Non-Residents		Parents		Other		Total	
		%		%		%		%		%		
Agree	10	34%	70	33%	35	32%	236	56%	8	73%	359	46%
Disagree	18	62%	135	63%	65	59%	145	34%	3	27%	366	47%
Undecided	1	3%	8	4%	10	9%	43	10%	0	0	62	8%
	29	100%	213	100%	110	100%	424	100%	11	100%	786	100%

May Day Task Force Committee Recommendations #3:

The board should endeavour to transfer responsibility for organizing the May Day celebrations in Queen's park outside of school hours to a community organization who could then decide how best to continue the tradition. In this way, for example, those community members who are particularly keen to keep alive the institutions of the May Queen and Royal Suite could formulate their own selection methods, costume requirements and ceremonial 'duties'.

Responses:

	Students		Residents		Non-Residents		Parents		Other		Total	
		%		%		%		%		%		
Agree	10	34%	70	33%	40	36%	238	56%	10	91%	368	47%
Disagree	17	59%	135	63%	59	53%	142	33%	1	9%	354	45%
Undecided	2	7%	8	4%	12	11%	45	11%	0	0	67	9%
	29	100%	213	100%	111	100%	425	100%	9	100%	789	100%

Recommendation #1

For 2018 and 2019, May Day celebrations should be school-based. Further, the May Day Task Force recommends that on the 150th anniversary of May Day in 2020, the School District support the May Day Celebration Ceremony at Queen's Park.

Comments from Students on Recommendation #1

1. I like it at the park!
2. Answered with Benjamin's father's e-mail as Benjamin does not have one.
3. May Day should always be part of school. Any one I have talked to who has participated remembers MayDay more than any other school function.
4. Keep Mayday at Queens Park every year with all schools from the district involved. The children should learn about our history and traditions and embrace them.
5. May Day is not simply the dancing of the folk dances and May Pole dances but being apart of a community. By being able to dance in Queens Park in front of your friends, family and other New Westminster residents, the feeling of joy when being able to share what you have been dedicated to working on for so long, a justice and feeling that can't be expressed the same if instead you share these beautiful dances while in a crowded, loud, and unbeautiful school gymnasium.
6. Meeting other kids at the other schools was an incredible experience for me as it was nice to see familiar faces at middle school the next year.
7. I want my kids to do May Day and for them to experience it. Also it's been around for 150 years we shouldn't get rid of because it's tradition
8. I truly disagree because it is absolutely entirely ridiculous to not have this community celebration with all of the students from different school together in Queen's Park. It was very nice to make new friends from around the city. It is absolutely a horrible idea to try to keep the tradition alive that has been in our city for almost 150 years. This celebration should continue for all students no matter what country or culture started may day as we are all a community and we should all celebrate each other's cultures at different events in our city.

Comments from New Westminster Residents on Recommendation #1

1. Making May Day school-based does not solve any of the problems of it being irrelevant to the new curriculum. It does not solve anything to do with how much time it takes to prepare the grade 3 and 4 students. Two of my own children were forced to participate in both grade 3 and 4, and they loathed it. they found it frustrating and boring. And bringing the full thing back as a 150 celebration makes no sense at all: why would we bring something back for a special party when we have already decided that this thing is boring, time-wasting and irrelevant?
2. I have participated as a grandparent of Elementary School aged children and feel this is well thought out and is a much better way of honouring the tradition. That said, my grandson was looking forward to the opportunity to be a Royal Knight
3. The lack of public engagement over the past decade or so has partly been due to the cutback of other events (track and field events, fewer bands performances, withdrawal of grades 6+).

4. The lack of student involvement relates to above. As previous events were scaled back (i.e. track & other sporting events, other performances), there have been less and less for students to relate and engage with, getting to the point where May Day is either dancing or watching other students dance.
5. Having May Day as school based events for 2018 & 2019, then bring back a district wide event in 2020 leave a bad taste for me. If the district sees enough importance to host a district wide 150th Ceremony, then why does it not see the importance to continue the events beyond that?
6. While I respect teachers ability to set their lesson plan, they must also respect the communities wishes regarding localized curriculum. When I went through primary school, preparing for May Day didn't just include learning the dances, but also learning about local history. We learnt about the first settlers, how the city got its name, about the people who built the city. We also learnt about those who lived in the city who were marginalized or worse, specifically Natives and Chinese."
7. May Day must continue to be a community event. The fact this is up for discussion is disgraceful. As a parent of a past Royal Knight, and volunteer I think this task force is ridiculous.
8. I believe that May Day is a tradition that should be continued. As a former student of LK and NWSS, I see tremendous value in May Day. Not only is it a critical experience that is necessary for building the unique community that New Westminster is, but it is also one of the fondest memories that I have from elementary school. I understand that it is taxing on teachers, and perhaps some community instructors could be brought in so that teachers may have some respite and prep time - however 15-35 hours is not a waste of time. It's an investment in problem solving (lets see adults untangle a may pole!), in community, and it's a physical activity that our youth desperately need. I don't remember much of what was taught in Elementary school. Most certainly did not prove useful in my undergrad at SFU. However I do remember May Day. It was one of the reasons why I returned to the Royal City. It brings the entire community together. It's invaluable, not disposable as the current rhetoric suggests. I ask that May Day be maintained for the foreseeable future and that if there are challenges associated with hosting it, that we address those challenges - not jump to scrapping the entire event. My favourite NWSS teacher had a poster in my french class - it read "Make an Effort, Not an Excuse". Let's make this work. Otherwise, we become just another suburb in an increasingly culturally sterile city.
9. As an ex student of NWSS and Lord Tweedsmuir, the continual (forced) participation of children in a glorified fertility festival is frankly disturbing and archaic. If you're going to force children into a festival that ultimately is the metaphorical passing of a young child to elders while other children dance around flowers and poles that are meant to represent genitalia. It's strange to me that this is something forced and only have memories of benign confusion as to why we were being forced to do this. Please consider discontinuing the forced inclusion of children in something they do not understand, or at the bare minimum have a honest conversation with children about healthy sexuality because they deserve to understand what they're participating in
10. I feel that by changing the event from Queens Park to school-based, the time spent practicing May Day dances would not be very much reduced. It would still be disruptive to combined classes (2/3, 3/4, 4/5), take away gym time from many students (even those not directly involved in May Day), and reduce the time spent on other academic activities. I do, however, feel this option is better than the current option in that it would provide significant cost-savings. I would also support a larger celebration for the 150th anniversary.

11. "Traditions are few. They are being lost. I danced in May Day, my kids danced in May Day. My Dad danced with my sister who was in the royal suite. Please save May Day, this is a New West tradition that should live on! And keep it school based to give equal opportunity to all children in public schools. Thank you
12. I agree that May Day events taking place on a school day should be school based. I believe this should continue in 2020. If a community based May Day event is planned in Queens Park on a weekend, anyone interested could participate or attend.
13. I feel that the May Day ceremony preparation will still take up too much instructional time, even if it is school-based.
14. School-based events would differ from school to school and would depend on how much the principal and teachers support the event. No continuity.
15. School based for 2018 and 2019 means that each school will do something different. Who will provide ideas/resources for teachers to do this?
16. I feel strongly that if May Day is such an important tradition in New Westminster, then it should be a community run event, and the community should be happy to take it on. Some sort of May Day assembly in the schools would be fine. However, I would not be happy to have my son spend 15 hours, let alone 35, to learn how to dance around the May Pole, unless of course that is something he is passionate about, in which case he could join the community-run events.
17. I believe that there is enough evidence from the results of the last survey, that it is very clear how teachers, parents, admin, and support staff feel about May Day. Although a school-based May Day would be a preferred option, it seems as though there should not be a need to continue these celebrations at all anymore. From reading the results of the last survey, there are enough negative comments on there that support cancelling May Day completely.
18. It's an important community gathering that would be lost if it were to take place only within schools.
19. I think the celebration should be community based
20. When I was in school May Day fit right into what we were learning. the dances were part of Gym and we learned how to write speeches and speak in public when running for May queen.
21. The May Day ceremonies should be school based and remain a very important tradition in our city
22. I would like to see the planning for the 150th event to include students and community more. More of a participatory event.
23. Why is the city trying to destroy May Day?
24. "I agree with parts of the background and parts of the background therefore I am undecided . As a retired teacher think the dance fits nicely into the PE curriculum and the history of mayday can fit into social studies ,the walks can be tied to social studies , science ,PE, art. Get with it teachers your thinking is far too narrow.
25. I agree that with the passive audience comment and many parents cannot attend. As a teacher from another district it was a big problem for me. Perhaps holding it on a weekend or early evening would be better and her in lies the rub like Christmas concerts and unions some staff would not want to attend so does that then lend it to a non school event?
26. Could it be on a volunteer basis like sports teams where a staff member and/or a parent teaches the dances at lunch hour and the students perform at the May Day event much like taking a team to an after school game?

27. It takes away funding in terms of senior staff time that is a concern as well as I know that \$\$\$ have been short the last few years.
28. My kids and my husband's family who grew up in New West remember more about Mayday than any thing else they learned in school that tells me it is VERY IMPORTANT!!
29. We need to preserve the best parts of what makes New West Special and having it given to an outside organization may limit the participation of many kids from the fringes of our community as centralized practices that are not close to home limit participation. I would not like to see this become a class event!!"
30. Should be community based. If they want it, they will support it.
31. It should remain a school based celebration on an ongoing basis.
32. This celebration has been around a long time and shouldn't be changed
33. My two children attended kindergarten through to graduation in the New West school district. They do not have fond memories of May Day and did not enjoy attending. I do not think they ever knew why May Day was held. I feel strongly that school instructional time should be devoted elsewhere.
34. All the investments of time, money and effort are worthwhile. Safeguarding valued intangible cultural heritage warrants yet more investment, not less. The annual central gathering in one place, the integration of the schools into the process, is part and parcel of this important cultural phenomenon. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts, and as such dissecting it would be like carving up a painting or moving every fourth bar from a musical score and placing it in another movement of the piece. A more holistic view of May Day is appropriate.
35. We love May Day
36. I think there should be much less emphasis placed on this colonialist event within schools
37. May Day is a vital part of New Westminster's history. It is important that the tradition continue, as well as the education behind it.
38. This has always been tradition and something I looked forward to in school. It was an amazing experience even though I wasn't voted into the party. Everything about it I liked.
39. I would like to see mayday be more inclusive and more like it used to be. Bring the races back, bring the bands back, make it a much larger city wide event
40. For the sake of the 150 anniversary I would support it for a few extra years.
41. "First, having 2 children go through the New Westminster School system, I find the estimate of 35 hours over an 8 week period, to be excessive. I find it extremely hard to believe that a teacher spends over 50 minutes/day for 8 weeks for practice. I was a very active volunteer at the schools with my children and that estimate is far beyond anything reasonable.
42. Second, if you were to take the 15 hour estimate, that is easily covered by the 20 minutes/day or DPA required by the current curriculum.
43. Third, the "" justification for taking the Grades 2 and 5 classes out of school for this day ""seems to be merely to act as an audience." statement is ridiculous. The BC Educational Curriculum has a strong component of 'Community' (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/overview>). 'Collaboration with Community'. I suggest, this is an excellent learning tool for many aspects of that component of the curriculum.

44. Finally, "" the committee found that the May Day ceremony as currently practiced elicits minimal student or public engagement and that organizers are faced with increasing difficulties in organizing parent volunteers to assist with transiting students to the park."" This is a poor excuse to discontinue a community heritage celebration with such a rich history. The volunteers are way to find if the leaders planning it are enthusiastic and pass that enthusiasm on to the volunteers. As for transportation? I have noticed over the 20 years I had children in school, that 'field trips' were increasingly thinned out, when they did go on field trips, they were driven by parent volunteers, or the PAC paid for the busses. I suggest that this is merely an excuse, and a sad one at that. "
45. "Mayday in Queen's Park represents ALL of the children, coming together from ALL of the schools, to a location where ALL of the people of New Westminster can participate. This coming together is the real benefit of teaching inclusion within a community. It doesn't matter that there is only one Queen and only so many dancers and that there are students that participate as audience only. There is no show without an audience. The audience therefore is also important.
46. In real life the children have to learn that not everyone gets to be the star all the time. It is more important to teach them to be good civic members and work with the rest of the community."
47. I love the ceremony and the history. I know it is often lost on people who did not grow up with it. Our rich history sets New West apart from most of the rest of this Metropolis. A watered down version done at the schools individually seems like a poor substitute.
48. I think Mayday is a huge waste of money and time, and the Royal Suite stuff and little girls in white dresses dancing with old guys is creepy. My daughters tolerated it and my son cried all the time he was dancing in the pouring rain. Those who like it can keep it up, but I would have been very pleased to opt out.
49. May Day was archaic when I was in school in the sixties. No one knew what it was for or why energy was expended on it. That sentiment holds true now. It is a useless waste of teachers' and students' time. Get rid of it now.
50. May Day should not be a school driven event, as it does not meet any Provincial learning outcomes. If the city wishes to continue this event, it should be organized by the city, not through the schools. Teachers and schools have way too much curriculum to cover without taking time out for this event.
51. One of the greatest joys of May Day is being able to interact with fellow schools. It's a camaraderie developed at a young age that hasn't left me 25 years later
52. Mayday is a tradition in New Westminster, born & raised here & do not want change.
53. Mayday is part of the fabric of new west please keep it
54. I remember as a John Robson student the excitement of participating in the May Day celebrations. It was an honour to live in New Westminster and be part of this special event. No other city did anything like this. New Westminster was and still is very special to me for keeping history. We are the Royal City let's keep it that way!
55. While teachers may feel it takes up time, so do all of the pro-d days that happen. This is an important tradition and if the school staff had more enthusiasm, so would the students.
56. How about an annual rotation. schools only do it once in however many year / number of schools participating. ie 8 schools 8 years. at the completion of 8 years a larger group

57. "The issues being raised here are poorly justified:
 - a. Taking students in Grades 2 and 5 out of classrooms to contribute to an event that fosters community and meaning within the city seems like it should be considered a priority rather than a burden
 - b. If there is minimal student, parent or public engagement with the event, changing its location or scale does not solve this issue
 - c. Understanding that cultural practices and ceremonies (which is what May Day is) is an integral part of the human experience. There are no other events that bring students from multiple schools across the city together, apart from sport events. However, unlike sports, May Day is a non-competitive celebration. It's a fun thing to do and to be a part of.
58. I disagree that it would be worth the effort ESPECIALLY in grade 3/4 combined classes to have May Day be JUST at a school level. All that work and no big show? I don't see it.
59. Amalgamate into the curriculum
60. I would prefer that the students of New Westminster not take part in the May Day celebrations period due to the difficult historical past that is related to the concept of May Day. Earth Day, Aboriginal Day, and various other more current and pertinent events take place around the same time and are much more appropriate events for children to learn about. My oldest child starts kindergarten next year and regardless of what the district decides, I will be very vocal with the district about doing away with the May Day festivities altogether. I do not think what May Day stands for is an appropriate reflection of society today.
61. It should be done more often than just the 150 yr anniversary
62. I tried to sit in the stands with my grandkids one year. I couldn't hear a thing. The speakers were directed in the wrong direction. Teachers were just talking among themselves. The kids were running around, goofing around. talking, yelling, playing on their electronics... paying no attention to what was happening. This is no different from any other field trip. Teachers and volunteer parents should treat May Day with at least as much respect as any other field trip. Be quiet and pay attention. Keep the kids under control and show respect. I moved to the field to sit on the bleachers another year. I could still hear the people in the bleachers MORE than what was being spoken into a microphone. Again, turn the speakers and tell the kids to sit and listen or at least be quiet for the sake of the rest of us.
63. If City Councilors and the Mayor can show up to every other function in the City, they sure as hell can show up at ""The longest continually observed May Day in the British Commonwealth"" (Wikipedia)
64. 4) Ask for parent and community volunteers to help out with the teaching of the dances. Make learning about May Day a part of the curriculum, like Social studies (or whatever it may be called now), history, art, PE... "
65. This question seems tailored to cloud the respondent with positive language and distort the intention of the task force true intention to subvert our community heritage.
66. May Day celebrations should remain as annual district-wide event at Queens Park and RETURN to original formatting which included Grade Ones participating as Honour Guard for their May Queen, older grades participating in relay races, police dog demonstrations, Lancer Dances AT Queen's Park etc. May Day is a unique and valuable asset to our schools and community. ALL teachers should be required to learn of our heritage and history so as to be able to properly teach, share and proudly promote our Royal City.

67. May Day should not only continue in Queens Park, it should be brought back to its original glory. It would be a tragedy to lose this tradition!!!!
68. I believe May Day should be kept at the current plan, schools prepare and participate at Queens Park each year. Yes, this is a tradition which students are given opportunity to participate in dance and represent their school in the May Day suite. Dance is part of the school curriculum and provides students opportunities to work cooperatively in a group setting. Students of grades 4 and 5 are included in the dances, only on a particular situation is a child unable to dance due to a cognitive, physical ability, or unsafe reason.
69. I am the parent of three daughters all of whom were schooled in NW and participated in May Day. I consulted with each of my daughters before responding to this survey. We strongly support May Day continuing as a school based district event. No other option would ensure that the incredible legacy of May Day continues.
70. Please keep this traditional, heritage event in place! It is such a big part of the history of New Westminster. My children and grandchildren have all participated over the years and we feel it is such a special cultural event that it should never leave!
71. Never get rid of History whether we agree with it or not. Amend but never get rid of
72. Take the time to make sure that all the past and present residents are given the opportunity to contribute their thoughts.
73. This recommendation strikes me as being very "Napoleonic" -- that is, it is very much like a "divide and conquer" kind of strategy. The point of May Day is that it is and has always been an inclusive and bonding event -- therein lies its charm and uniqueness. To isolate the schools from one another could lead to very inequitable 'events' at each individual school. With certainty, to do that would deprive the students of participating in and learning the value of having a larger community-identity; and moreover, it would do little to address the staff concerns about their time-allocation to the celebration. Indeed, May Day needs to continue as a community celebration that includes and involves all schools coming together for a day at Queen's Park Stadium.
74. This is entirely reasonable. I don't support the School District putting resources into May Day or requiring kids to participate.
75. "Keep May Day every year!
76. Teach its meaning in the schools and have it open to the entire NW community!
77. Build it up, enhance it! "
78. I am aware of schools elsewhere in the province that participate in a community May Day event, but do it school by school.
79. If this is indeed a community celebration, the community as such and as a whole should look for ways to involve more members other than the school. I have been a resident of this city and very little I hear from it. Besides, at schools, I wonder how much teaching time is involved in the planning and preparation of this event and if this event holds a real meaning to the students. What is the real purpose of it?
80. May Day should continue under the direction of both the School District and The City Of New Westminster
81. I believe May Day should continue as is, lead by the school district.

82. "This recommendation is very mis-leading. I disagree that May Day activities should be school-based at all. May Day in whatever form should be completely outside of the school. School time should not be used for May Day activities in any way, shape or form. I have always been opposed to the huge amount of time that was spent on both preparation for and the actual event. My own children all felt it was out-dated, boring, and actually quite sexist in it's ""traditions"" and I agreed. We often chose to take our children on an educational field trip day instead of participating in the event. We come from a family that has lived in New Westminster for 3 generations but this has nothing to do with tradition. I feel that school time should be used for education. The small vocal group that lobbies for May Day is just that - small and vocal. The silent majority of parents and residents feel it's definitely time for a change. Please turn this event out to the community to run and organize and keep precious school learning for more valuable lessons.
83. Your survey will not let me comment on recommendation #2 and #3. As I stated above - I fully support transferring this event to an outside community group to organize. The Royal Suite selection process amounts to a popularity vote in the schools and leaves many students upset. The concept of picking a ""queen"" is so out-dated and sexist and parading these girls around in white is just wrong on so many levels. My own girls recognized it for what it was when they were in grade school and decided they didn't want any part of it. I was proud of their decision. I am hopeful that the school district will continue to move in the right direction on this issue and not be swayed by those few strong advocates for the event. Thank you. "
84. I agree with Recommendation #1, if they must keep the celebrations at all.
85. Rent a bus to take the students to Queens Park as has been done in the past.
86. Where is recommendation number 2? Every year at Queens Park as the normal tradition.
87. A district -wide event is part of our heritage and should remain that way.
88. Teachers should be using gym time as the physical part of May Day. Using language and history time for writing about the history of May Day and what it means to the city. There is always a way for teachers to incorporate different events that come up from time to time so I fail to understand why this important part of our city's history is being challenged. The school board has cut and cut until there is hardly anything left it is a shame. There was races and a dance as well to include as many children as possible of all ages.
89. Keep May Day in Queens Park. Fire the task force.
90. Keep May Day in Queens Park. Fire the task force.
91. "In light of the task force's acknowledgement that ""the institution itself does not positively reflect the District's values of inclusion and diversity, owing to its anachronistic core notions of stereotypical gender roles and reliance on a selection method of casting one group of students ""above"" the others"", this should be sufficient to disallow the support from the school district. Unless major changes and efforts to immediately modify this event to include recommendations from member of diverse cultural backgrounds representative of our city , seek contribution from Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, and review it's activities and programing in terms of gender equality, this event should be immediately terminated."
92. Mayday should be made relevant to current practices and cultural development if it is to continue, effective immediately

93. Having been a former teacher in the district for more than 25 years, I believe that if left to individual schools, it could easily become a quick add on, (just to say we've done it) particularly in schools where new administration is not familiar with the tradition.
94. The 15 to 35 hours needed to practice the traditional May Day dances is time well spent. After growing up in New Westminster and raising our children here I can tell you that it is not each individual schools unique community that is important. We are all Canadian and we live in a city with some deep rooted traditions in this case May Day that make growing up and living here special.
95. May Day should be a community based event, if it is important to the community children and adults will participate and support the event. I do not support this recommendation because it will still require a huge amount of student time to learn the dances and host the event. It will require even more time for the teachers to organize and plan the school assembly. I do not think children should spend 25-30 hours learning only one type of dance. That is too much valuable instruction time that the students should be engaged in more meaningful learning instead of memorizing a dance.
96. COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVITIES GIVE THE CHILDREN A BETTER PERSPECTIVE ON BEING PART OF THEIR IMMEDIATE WORLD. IT AWAKENS THEIR PRIDE AND INTEREST IN OUR HISTORY AND TRADITIONS
97. Schools shouldn't be involved. It should be a community event and students who want to participate can do it on a volunteer basis.
98. Unless the employment contracts have been recently changes, I believe the New Westminster teacher's contract "bind" them to teaching the May Day Traditions to our children. Teaching the traditional dances and history is part of our elementary school curriculum and should not be the decision of the teachers to control. It is the decision of the Board of Education which is mandated by the School Trustees. I hope the Trustees listen to the community on this important topic for the Royal City citizens. Teaching culture and history is an integral part of New Westminster and it has value to all, if taught the right way. Teaching the May Day history and traditions impacts on all areas of education,.....ie English (writing, vocabulary, reading, speech training, spelling etc, Social Studies (History, Culture, Geography), Art - both visual and performing, Music, band and singers, choir, Physical Education (dance, cheer, acrobatics and formerly track and field or exercise training) etc etc etc.....there are many intangibles which are so obvious . . I know many New Westminster school teachers and they do not feel this is a burden to their teaching. They actually embrace the teaching curriculum!
99. It helps bring the community of New Westminster together.
100. I believe that the May Day tradition should be continued by the school district !
101. Not sure if this is properly explained. Is the district only supporting this for the 150th?
102. It's a community event, bringing all elementary school children together in one stadium.
103. You miss the opportunity for the schools to come together and build community.
104. Don't fix something that isn't broken!
105. May Day is a 147 year tradition that must remain part of the New Westminster districts school program
106. May Day must continue as has been for more than 150 years!
107. Leave the May Day Celebrations as they are it's part of New westminster's Heritage is Heritage not worth anything to anyone anymore

108. "I believe May Day would be lost if it was school based. You might have a few schools that would participate but it wouldn't be the same across the district.
109. I wonder if teachers and administrators are mentored in a positive way about May Day when they get hired in the district? Coming to a school that the staff are very negative towards May Day , it sure filters down.
110. When I was a part of the May Day committee we always had letters from students in the schools saying how much the ""enjoyed"" May Day and what it meant to them.
111. Positive changes have been made in the last few years, and I think there is room for may change, but to cut out the yearly gathering of the schools at Queens Park for May Day would not be a positive change.
112. If staff at the schools need help from the community with the students learning the dances, I think that could be a positive change, given that folk dance is part of the curriculum. "
113. Should not be held at each individual school, it is a community event and is important to the traditions of New West.
114. Do away with the whole May Queen aspect, put the focus on all children and a celebration of spring, remove the pagent-like aspects including adult men escorting the little girls.
115. Expand the May Day celebrations to celebrate a wider range of New Westminster's cultures and heritage. Move the May Day celebrations to a weeknight or weekend to allow more family and community members to attend.

Comments from Non-Residents of New Westminster on Recommendation #1

1. I feel it should be gone completely
2. Keep the May day celebrations as they have been in the past.
3. Having the May Day as a school-based event is still going waste instructional time.
4. Incorporate the MayDay cultural heritage into curriculum
5. MayDay is for the whole City to come together and celebrate the 150 year old Tradition and Heritage of the City as one. When we were children all practices were done during PE classes. Grade 3- student did the Maypole and Grade 4 Folk dancing.. I guess the Flowergirls were selected from the younger class- perhaps it was Grade 2's from the May Queens school I am not sure
6. Please return the May Day events to what they were for so many years, the last few years have gone downhill. I went to Herbert Spencer in the 1960's and participated in the May Day activities, and I think that it is something that I've always fondly remembered. It is a shame what is has turned into lately.
7. I believe children should be taught about the history of May Day...However the actual "May Day Event' should be at a time when the whole community can participate. ie....a weekend!
8. Absolutely should continue indefinitely as a whole within 'school district. It's our Heritage. School board should continue to support it with only mild alterations. If taken out of school boards hands...I'm quite certain this tradition will cease to exist and that would be unacceptable.
9. Keep traditions as they are

10. as a child i participated in many may days, and we practiced a lot at school, went to have rehearsals at queens park, then participated on may day, the whole experience IS' part of being educated and being part of your community and all these years later, in my 70s, i remember everything about mayday, and love all of it, it was a huge signature event of new westminster, i was proud of my city and proud to be able to be part of it, a huge event that zeroed in on 'us', the children, we were the important ones that day, everything was targeted toward us, our mayqueen, our performances, our parade, our mayday ball, then was talked about for days and days after, i do understand that most parents work now, that did not back in those days, so changes need to be made to accomodate that fact.
11. As I child/pre-teen I loved and looked forward to May Day each year as it was the only day to interact with students from other schools within the district. I was/is the only thing bringing any unity to the students in the district.
12. In my experience maintaining traditions is an important aspect of developing community. Maintaining traditions also provides security for our children as they grow. Our roots are key to our development as individuals and as a community
13. It is important to learn the history and special for the children to relive it. They now become the history of New Westminster.
14. I like the connection to history and community/place, which is a huge part of the new curriculum. However, I would like to see Indigenous dancing traditions and Indigenous participation. I feel strongly that there are many similarities and ties to May Day celebrations and Potlatch celebrations and I would ideally like to see a merging/partnership between them both. I also feel very strongly that adults speak WAY too much at May Day and we need to hear just student voice and have the audience and New West students as a whole much more involved.
15. I believe that having the event take place at Queen's Park does a better job of celebrating the history and the city of New Westminster. I grew up in New Westminster and participated in May Day celebrations throughout my 12 years of public school there. I remember it being very, very exciting to earn the honour of performing before such a massive audience in both Grades 3 and 4. I was not the kind of person who would have ever been May Queen but I got to shine as a member of the team of dancers. I am also a teacher and I believe that if it was just left to individual schools to celebrate, the importance placed on the event would deteriorate over the years to come. I currently live and work in Asia, where every Asian culture has such national pride, highly visible through dance, costumes, food and other cultural traditions. Canada is such a young country that is lacking in such traditions. Taking May Day away from New Westminster would deteriorate the city/province that much more in this respect. I understand that teaching time is taken up by this event, however, it should be made a formal part of the PE and fine arts curriculum. B.C. has made a change in their K-12 curriculum to make the learning more authentic and meaningful for students. May Day provides a valid, authentic purpose for learning. Furthermore, the history of May Day should also be acknowledged and studied more in-depth in the schools. It does not have to be an "add-on", but rather a focal point of student learning.

16. Maybe some pro D days should be less. What makes May Day special for all New Westminster students is, togetherness and makes New Westminster differ from Bby and Vancouver. New Westminster has a proud history on its own. When I was a student in New Westminster, I looked forward to May Day every year. I feel those that want to change May Day and or Stop it, has no attachment to the city. Where is the pride? I realize it's work, but as my teachers always told me, nothing good is done if it does not take work. I feel if this is changed New Westminster will loose her identity. Shame on the Young Mayor and his trustees.
17. Having been born and grown up in New Westminster I feel it is a very important part of our city history and is a wonderful chance to install a feeling of civic pride in students. When I grew up there were relay races run and the grade 8 band played, the pageantry of May Day and the chance to cheer for your school are memories that last a lifetime.
18. This is an entire school-wide/community tradition
19. Although no longer a resident of New Westminster, I spent my entire schooling within this school district, participating as a dancer in grades three and four and later in the band. One of the wonderful aspects of May Day is bringing all the elementary schools together in community. Individual school-based May Days would entirely eradicate this opportunity. Anyone who is free to do so may come to May Day at Queens Park; the event has always been extremely inclusive. Furthermore, May Day fulfills curricular objectives. The time taken to prepare the dances has always been so, and the teachers over these many years have managed it. I learned them during P.E. (Maybe invite "alumni" to work alongside the teachers in instructing the dances? This would serve to impress upon the students the longevity of the festival.) As for the "merely an audience" objection, learning to be a courteous audience is a value that has life-long merit and a social skill to be taught. We are audiences all the time whether it be at a musical concert, theatre performance, professional workshop, or a sports game.
20. Born and raised in New Westminster and did participate in the May Day Celebration. I have very fond memories from that time that I pass down to my daughter especially the year Queen Elizabeth came to Celebrate with us!!!! THAT'S AN AWESOME time for the whole Country.
21. May Day is a continued celebration of Colonialist patriarchal traditions that do not reflect the pluralistic culture we now live it--find a new way to celebrate a blended culture.
22. Learning we can be part of a community-wide project and participating in historical traditions has no pedagogical value? Could be one of the best take-aways we had! The world needs more coming together, not less.
23. Keep it like it is.
24. The 'time out of "class"' is well worth the comradery and wonderful memories that are created. Only be sure it is expanded to include new cultural aspects such as dances parade floats etc.
25. I understand the comments that May Day ignores BC's other cultures but I don't think that is a reason not to acknowledge and celebrate the British in British Columbia. I remember with fondness watching May Day as a child (1970s) and I couldn't wait to be in grade 3 and 4 so I could dance the folk dance and May Pole. I don't understand the reluctant audience of today as described in this report. Perhaps the speeches should go but keep the dancing and add a tug a war or relay races.

26. As a student, parent and educator in New Westminster for over 30 years, I am here to tell you that the traditions of the May Day celebrations are an integral part of the the community. I participated in the May Pole dance as a child, and those memories resonate with me to this day. I would tell my students the story of when I was not chosen to be in the May Pole dance, my father went up to the school, the one and only time, to support me in my quest to be part of this amazing tradition. My children were both part of the traditions and my daughter had her picture on the front of the Record that year. Great family moments to remember. Each year I taught the Folk Dance or the May Pole Dance, I instilled in my students not only the traditions of May Day but tied it to the history of New Westminster. The building blocks of what makes it a city to be proud of living in and part of. The dance itself taught my students self discipline and , even the most challenged students, benefitted from the experience. After May Day, we would reflect on the experience and each and every child expressed how much they loved it and that they would remember it for the rest of their lives. They enjoyed being part of a community and seeing the vast scale of the event including all the schools in New Westminster. They valued the BIG picture. Yes, little 8, 9 and 10 year olds understand the importance of this significant celebration. So please, let the revels continue for our future generations.
27. May Day teaches our kids about our heritage and respect for tradition. It helps to create civic pride. Dances should be taught as part of P.E. as they always were. If this is properly taught it and with the help of the City and Hyack Society properly promoting this it would encourage more public participation. By saying this is not important you are teaching kids that heritage and respect of history and tradition are not important. Civic pride starts to become no existant and people start to not care about their city. If the School Board and Teachers can't see the value in this maybe its because they were never taught it. Which is why it is now seeing they dont value how important this is.
28. I believe the school's involvement should end immediately
29. I danced the may pole for the Queen when she visited in 1967 It was a memory that still stands out as a proud day for me. My teachers not only taught it to us but seemed very happy doing so. It also brings school pride to all involved I know times are changing but I feel Tradition is something we should not throw away
30. Must be community based
31. It should be eliminated for good!
32. The celebration is to bring the community together. Some could be school based and some community.
33. I don't know enough about the event so I choose to decline.
34. May Day should be taken out of the schools now
35. This takes away from the spirit of May Day. May Day was one of the highlights of my youth. I still remember how proud we all were to perform the folk dance, may pole dance and run the relay race in front of the whole city. The music still plays in my head when I think about May Day.
36. I was a student in New West from Elementary school through high school. May Day was a an exciting event that we all looked forward to. It brought the schools together, fostered school spirit and created very fond memories for me as a graduate of F. W. Howay Elementary. The tradition needs to carry on!

37. "I support the continuation of May Day as it exists as a community event with school involvement. I was raised in New Westminster and danced the May Pole in 1959 as a Herbert Spencer student. The Queen came that year and we were given the choice to dance for her during the holidays. Many did. I went with the Brownie pack in the summer but not because I didn't like the dancing. I always loved the bands, speeches, the ball, the midway, and waiting for the cannon noise telling us there would be no school. Some poles always got tangled and the children, teachers, parents and others always laughed and seemed to think that it was all part of the fun. I don't remember the preparation taking that much time but I have a child's memory.
38. I appreciate the teacher's concern about time from the busy schedules and I agree that we have to adapt for modern times and a multicultural society. However, other places in the world continue to have spring and May Day celebrations. May Day is a secular celebration for all to enjoy much like Halloween and Thanksgiving. Even in my childhood the audience consisted of other children and parents, although many more mothers stayed home in those days. This is to be expected. Generations of children have been ""bored"" at events they later appreciate. I understand that more teachers are being hired at this time which should hopefully free up more teacher time for preparation.
39. I understand that some think this event is elitist and colonial. I submit that it is a celebration of a tradition.
40. I presently live in Nunavut where the Inuit enjoy square dancing which was introduced by the whalers and Scottish workers and has now become part of Inuit traditional recreation. Society evolves and there is a place for history ."
41. Instructional time to teach folk and Maypole dances support arts and culture. I am concerned that children of European and British descent are being taught that their historical culture lacks worthiness while only cultural practices of Indigenous and other minority groups are allowed to be celebrated.
42. This is part of the History of New Westminster and should be maintained
43. It was district wide when I We to McBride school & we were "proud" to be in May Day
44. "To actually make a proper comment in regards to this statement i would need to write an essay! I absolutely disagree with changing May Day to an individual school based activity because May Day is a celebration of Community. It's the coming together of all and recognizing what a special City New Westminster is historically. This will never be achieved in the back yard of a school ground .
45. The teachers and task force have made the comment that the children from grades 2 to 5 are there to merely act as spectators then I say shame on them as educators! How about putting some heads together and brainstorming on how to improve the May Day experience for everyone. If the kids have a bad attitude towards this event it has come from the leadership.... kids learn by example and that is a definite fact."
46. Takes up too much Learning time at school.
47. The history of all the schools celebrating together at Queens Park should not be disrupted
48. I think each school has a sense of community, but May Day brings the whole City together as a community.

Comments from Parents of New Westminster School District Students on Recommendation #1

1. Let the community coordinate this tradition. It shouldn't take away from classroom time and resources.
2. I do not feel there should be any May Day support in New Westminster Schools
3. I would hate to see the death of a 150-year old tradition of having a city-wide celebration in Queen's Park. However, I understand the impact on teaching time, so I can see both sides.
4. The amount of instructional time lost to an event that no longer fits with the curriculum is quite high and should be curtailed. Taking two grades out of school for the day for an event that does not involve them is mind-boggling. Bringing the event into individual schools makes more sense to help reduce the amount of time spent planning, and to tailor the events to the individual schools' community.
5. I feel, on the whole, that May Day celebrations are archaic and unnecessary. If they must continue in some fashion, I support Recommendation #1.
6. I believe much less time should be taken away from their learning for May Day celebration activities.
7. I'd rather keep it the same because this is New Westminster's tradition. This makes me proud of where I grew up because I myself have participated in May Day growing up. It's nice to know my son is going to be a part of this as well. In the past there were more activity (ie. relay races!) This made it fun for all schools to cheer their team and enjoy a tradition that's been around for years. I know much has changed, kindergarten and grade 1 don't go anymore. To keep it to schools only. I'm not too keen on the idea because this is one of those times in the year where all the schools unite for May Day.
8. It is very unnecessary for students to participate in May Day celebration. They don't even know what "May Day" does really mean. Wasting their time, teachers' time and school's resource to just satisfy the small amount of people.
9. Our kids are struggling mathematics and many other aspects of the new curriculum - teaching them to dance around a pole for up to 35 hours is a complete waste of the teachers time and much needed classroom time.
10. Mayday should continue on as a day of celebration with student participation and community involvement. The 15 to 35 hrs is teaching the students about history and traditional in a non-conventional way. Doesn't this teaching method fit in with the new curriculum?
11. While I agree I think it's a shame that the district is just willing to abandon the history of this event wholesale. Last year the kerfuffle over the changes to the royal suite outfits was more to do with the arbitrary and dictatorial attitude of the committee. These things need to be transitioned to change. Its amazing to me that this all of a sudden attitude towards it has taken over whereas there could be a more kind and considerate phasing out of certain elements that would be more respectful.
12. I think May Day needs to be updated to ensure that it is a meaningful and inclusive celebration. Continuing the tradition at the school level seems like a good start to the compromise.
13. if teachers are so concerned about instructional time perhaps the so called "pro d" and half days should be eliminated. may day is not just about "being spectator" its about school spirit and community building

14. I further believe it should be a school based activity into the future beyond 2020.
15. This would allow each school to personalize the celebration based on the unique dynamics of its community.
16. I feel that the time and money that are spent on this ONE day could be much better spent
17. I feel May Day celebrations should discontinue altogether. It does not have any relevance to current times. The 35 hours of wasted instructional time can be best used to teach students the approved curriculum.
18. I feel it should be a community event put on by the city, not forced on the schools to participate. Teaching the dances takes away valuable instructional time, students don't enjoy the event. Kids cannot see or hear properly the numerous speeches that are of little interest to young students. It costs a lot of money for buses. Money that could be better spent on underfunded classrooms and limited resources. Some classrooms struggle to have basic books to teach reading yet May Day seems to be more important than that. It should be on the weekend, a celebration for the city as a whole
19. The student participation in the May Day Celebrations at Queens Park is now part of the New West History and tradition and should be kept alive. To simplify school participation, each teacher would nominate a girl and a boy as their class ambassador (based on good behaviour and grades), who will be representing them at the pole dance (which would be a lot easier to manage as opposed to the whole class participation in the dance). Pole dance practise would then be done during lunch hours or right after school (eliminating the extra hassle). The rest of the students would then only be part of the audience during the May Day Celebrations at Queens Park (no need to rehearse or practice walking to Queens park in advance as sitting area for each would be pre-arranged).
20. While I support Recommendation#1, I would like to see a traditional May Day celebration at Queen's Park to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. That doesn't mean that it couldn't follow Rec. #1 - perhaps the event could take place in the evening when more parents can attend, the 'audience' of students is voluntary and students don't miss all or part of a school day to present the event.
21. Kids look forward to these types of outings. Scaling it back to a school based event is just another example of schools being eroded to all work and no play.
22. Should remain at Queens Park
23. My son participated in grade two and enjoyed it. Although it takes time and effort I think it is a celebrated tradition worth preserving and sharing with the students and new Westminster community.
24. I do not understand why anyone would want to get rid of this celebration!
25. I think that May Day is an integral part of New Westminster heritage. It is heartbreaking to constantly see it on the chopping block. The kids should learn this rich New Westminster history.
26. Traditions are important, but it time to modernize this tradition. I think that making it school based will generate more interest from the students and make it more meaningful to them. Instead of just being about a dance, it might become about something more, new and different.
27. May Day has nothing to do with education and should not be taking up the already taxed bandwidth of the school district.

28. Mayday should no longer be a school-based or a district run event.
29. I have three sons that have gone through the May Day ceremonies my youngest children being 15 and 16 years old. They did not enjoy it and in fact felt that they were being forced to do something they did not like. It took up all of their physical education and music classes for quite some time preparing for the ceremony. I think it should be an OPTION for students to be part of OUTSIDE of the school day. Maybe an after school activity.
30. I do not see any benefit for the school district to participate. My son found extremely boring and did not want to go again the following year.
31. I agree that it takes up too much school time.
32. Will never forget how angry I was when my then 6 year old had to be out in the rain in a "sun dress" because the May queen was from her school. She was cold and wet and not allowed a jacket for no valid reason, just so all the little ones could look nice.
33. each school depended on resources & interest should hold May day celebration - May day should be revised as a whole - in current format I am positive children do not learn or appreciate why May day we celebrate!
34. May Day Celebrations should be discontinued. New Westminster should have track and field events for elementary schools instead.
35. "I am unclear on what "school-based" and "district-supported" means in this context? Is May Day not already school-based and district-supported? This needs to be more clearly worded.
36. I don't understand school teachers' complaints about May Day "taking away from instructional time". My two daughters, both of whom have done the Folk and Maypole dances, inform me that the dances are taught during Phys Ed class. Therefore, isn't it a gym unit? How does this take time away from instruction? And, with the new curriculum's focus on cultural studies, I think May Day and it's history, background and customs would be an excellent cultural and historical instruction unit. I don't see how or why it is considered to be a "waste of instructional time".
37. I would replace May Day with a more general "UN Day" with opportunities for students to express/experience their many (including indigenous) cultures.
38. I still think district wide is better, but school based is better than not at all.
39. While it is great for this annual tradition and ceremony to take place and be taught to the children..... Being just that the children become extremely bored at the event and tiresome of learning the dances at the school level which actually makes it become a mundane task for them. If you did a poll at their level you would find very few children actually enjoy and want to go to the May Day ceremony at Queen's Park so we need to ask ourselves what are they actually getting out of it if it continues.
40. Really I think there should be no school involvement with May Day at all.
41. I would even go further to suggest that, for 2018 & 2019, May Day celebrations be discontinued altogether; but as a compromise, agree to school-based.
42. My sons looked forward to May Day every year they were in elementary school. It was a chance for the entire school population to get together for a historical celebration. When asked my son felt doing it at the school would be boring and like an assembly and was worried that some schools would eventually cut it out too just like Christmas concerts, sports day, etc

43. "I appreciate the thought and discussion that has gone into this survey and consideration of the event. I support continuing with a May Day Celebration as a right of Spring, as a tradition that connects the students to the past and to the future. The schools spend a considerable amount of time celebrating diversity, which is good, and May Day is an example for the kids of a local cultural response. The Celebration does need to be updated and modernized in order to stay relevant. I strongly recommend that the May Day event include aboriginal cultural components. Every culture has a right of Spring and May Day can be used to bring cultures represented in the school together. I agree that the Royal Suite should be replaced with a contemporary response that acknowledges equity and inclusion issues. I support the School District organizing and controlling the Queens Park event. If other Community Groups want to do something, they are free to do so as a separate event. If the School District kids are involved the School District should have control over content or at least agree with the content. A few ideas to consider: Use the May Pole as an opportunity to teach folk dance and folk tales from various cultures represented in the District. Each school could participate with a different dance - some traditional and some modern. The audience could be brought in for songs that are developed for the event. Each school could create a Spring song and sing it together. The magic of the event for me was seeing the cohesion of the group working together. And yes, there is stress involved, but that is life. Putting on a big production and teaching the kids how to work through it - not by being perfect, but by letting go of the criticism and enjoying the event and being part of something bigger than themselves. Teachers don't need to spend 35 hours a week on this event. The kids don't need to be perfect. This can fit right into the new curriculum by empowering the kids to share in the event. The politician speeches, the 'halftime show' like advertisements are not needed. A brief presentation of some of the historical elements, prepared by the kids, would be great. The event should be connecting the kids to their relationship with Spring, about growth, rebirth and opportunity. Building on and modernizing the May Day tradition keeps a link to the past, an eye to the future and allows the current school cohort to contribute in a meaningful way.
44. ASIDE: The May Day Celebration already exists and to create a new one will be more onerous than modifying the old one. However, if there is so much community push back then an alternative would be for SD40 to have their own Spring Festival that joins all the elementary schools for a newly crafted event.
45. General comment: I think that most people don't have any idea of the significance of May day.
46. I do not support any May Day activities for students
47. I don't think it should be continued as a school-based celebration or as a district supported one. It should only be organized by a community group that still feels it is relevant and important to continue as a city tradition. I would however, be okay with a transition period leading up to the 150th.
48. "Should continue to be at Queens Park

49. I would like to see the district spend the 50,000 on a new celebration of diversity and inclusion in our community that does not include so much teaching resources. I would suggest replacing the event with a NEW event. Because as the mother of a grade 2 New West student (that has never participated in the May day celebration), the one aspect I do like is the coming together as a whole community and district. I strongly encourage the district to think of a NEW EVENT, that could include all the elementary and middle schools of New Westminster that reflects the new curriculum.
50. It's hard to answer this without knowing what the "school- based" celebrations will look like, but May Day needs to change, so this may be a good start.
51. This is a great community event and the teachers need to get on board
52. Not sure even participating in 2020 is relevant when missing two years. If so then I think that should be the last one.
53. always prefer smaller scale celebration in local school simply because of easier crowd control.
54. I don't see the value in participating in this event at all
55. The district wide event is a rare gathering of all of the schools. it should continue and be expanded. when I participated in May Day, the grade 7 girls also performed a dance that changed annually. Maybe the event should be expanded to be more inclusive, rather than chipping away at it until there is nothing left.
56. I don't find the whole May Day thing very compelling, but perhaps if it was school based it would be more interesting. However, overall i don't think it's very important.
57. I absolutely agree that the 150th anniversary should be held in Queens Park. I do think that the annual celebrations should be advertised and available to the public to view also. I would like to see celebrations in parks adjacent to schools if there is no way to transport students to Queens Park.
58. This is long standing tradition in New Westminster and I feel it should remain district based.
59. Born & raised in New Westminster, I participated in the May Day celebrations, I am traditional - I want to see my child participate in May Day @ Queens Park, the same as I did 30 years ago...
60. May Day is a cultural event that should be embraced. It is culturally a community event. Students learn a great deal by going to the bigger event, as it enables them to participate in front of a large audience, learn how to behave in front of others, and to experience someone else's culture.
61. A school based makes more sense, however the ability to bring all the students together from all the schools is a great community building event. Maybe that can be broken down into different events during the year between a single grade across the district. The more the students know each other from other schools before Middle school, I believe is a benefit. The May Day event is not a great event for kids to get to know each other across schools.
62. There is a benefit to learning the dances and from the kids I've talked to about it, it's one of the highlights for them when it's their turn to perform the dances. It's nice for the kids to get together with all the other schools, show school spirit, and then they perform as one. It's something the kids look forward to throughout the year - part of that excitement comes from gathering together as a larger group.
63. I like that there is a tradition that the entire district participates in, I think it adds to the community feel of new west. If it is taking too many resources to organize, then I would support a school based celebration over eliminating it.
64. The event should continue in Queen's Park

65. Multiple school events create memories and community. If it's just at the school it's just like any old school function. Going for a field trip and working on practicing for a special day is great for kids.
66. I find the wording of this confusing - aren't the two things mutually exclusive? The recommendation seems in contrast to the background information's stance. Anyway I'll put it into words - I don't think teachers should be required to contribute to this event. I don't think students should be required/pressured to contribute to this event. If families want to get involved May Day events, go for it, but I don't think it should have anything to do with school time.
67. There needs to be further discussion on what the 2020 May Day Celebration will look like. Reverting to the current model for the sake of the anniversary is unacceptable. I agree with the teachers that the time taken from the students' instructional time and the cost to the school district is unjustifiable, even in light of the 150 anniversary.
68. The amount of time required for student involvement and staff support for May Day is a serious concern, particularly if it is crowding out other work. This seems a reasonable recommendation to make the ceremony school-based for these years. I agree with this on the expectation that 2020 would be the final year for such extensive school involvement.
69. $15-35 \text{ hours} \div 8 \text{ weeks} = 1.8 - 4.3 \text{ hours per week}$ of dance instruction which is part of some physical education programs and I feel is important for the students. A District Wide event at Queens Park shows the students (and the parents) that the teachers care and are willing to teach them the importance of the history of this event. Again taking one full day out to teach the students about the history of where they live in my opinion is fair and is in line with an inclusive education. The statement "seems to be merely to act as an audience" is one person's statement that others have latched onto. This is a great event to teach children how to behave in public, how to support their peers, how to listen and respect others, and how to have school and city spirit. It works to build community in this wonderful city. Parent volunteers are hard to get for any event - look at how few people show up at PAC meetings - this is not something new to this event. I also wonder how many of the teachers polled actually live in this city. Although the idea that school based events would take less time and lead to great school participation is a good one, this leaves it up to an administrator to decide the importance of this event. Wouldn't it be disappointing to have one school have a fantastic event, tell others about it, then have another school only mention it because it was not important to the administrator of that school at that time. This event is part of the history of New Westminster. It's time children and adults learn about their own history, along with the history of others.
70. Important to carry on this tradition in the school system. Many ages get to be involved and I think that is important to participate and understand a tradition.
71. I would give more weight to the concerns of teachers regarding instructional time taken up by May Day prep and participation if it weren't for the large amount of time that is already being taken up watching movies (as entertainment) in class, as opposed to actual instruction taking place.
72. It's a tradition hard to lose. Having grown up in New West it's a part of the children's memory. Why can't we get the school spirit back in New West. Children are proud to dance and be part of history.
73. I wholeheartedly agree with the recommendation that the school district support May Day.

74. May Day tradition is an important part of New Westminster heritage and should continue on an annual basis.
75. A school based event would dilute and erode this traditional and long running event. It would not bring the children of this community together.
76. The money and time involved in preparing for May Day events that include very few students would be better spent elsewhere.
77. I do not think that the school district should continue its involvement with May Day. There are three years for the community to decide how they'd like this 150th anniversary to look, and to develop their own protocol around the event. If the teaching staff of SD40 consider this event to be unpedagogically sound, then the district's involvement should cease. End of discussion.
78. As long as the old men dancing with young girls element is taken out. In addition, the instructional time would be better spent not on dance instructions but on the meaning of May Day and why it is celebrated
79. The children do not understand the relevance of May Day in today's age, not something they look forward to and have trouble relating to the event.
80. I agree having the event planned at the school level is better. I do hope this Dorns permit the schools to cancel the celebration at each school independently.
81. "Having grown up in New Westminster, I have many fond memories of May Day as a child. What contributed most greatly to my enjoyment of May Day was being actively involved in it for almost every year of my education (grade 1 dance, folk dance for 2 years, maypole, track relays in grades 5-7, junior band and then senior marching band) I think that if we want to keep students and staff interested, they need to be involved in it. Therefore, some major changes will need to be made.
82. However, I have also been on the other end of things having taught both the Folk Dance and Maypole. It takes a lot of time. Perhaps if the dances were shortened and simplified, then staff would be less reluctant. I am very conflicted about this issue as I really value the history and tradition and I am afraid that if this is handed over to the community, May Day will become a thing of the past. "
83. I would like there to be support for all grades from k-5 to go and be 'an audience'. It can be a beautiful display and while I don't necessarily agree with the virginal young bride thing behind the day I think it can be adjusted and still remain intact. As a kid I loved doing the dances and then being in the track races.
84. May Day celebrations centre on the colonialist past of new west and celebrate persons who participated in killing indigenous peoples and eliminating indigenous culture. May Day has a history or May Day queens and then dancing with old men. This supports patriarchy and colonialism and should be stopped
85. 2017 was my child's first year attending May Day event. She was very excited to attend, however, came home with a little bit of disappointment. She said she couldn't see much, was too boring. I don't think children have to feel that way, if they are participating the event. On top of that, I think it's not fair for those, who spend a lot of time preparing for this event, if audience ever felt "boring"!

86. I don't see any benefit from students and teachers taking time out of the school curriculum to celebrate May Day. I think talking about what May Day is all about is all that is required during school time. I don't believe a "field trip" is required. The students don't participate and they aren't learning anything. You are wasting time, money and resources to all affected parties.
87. I agree having the event planned at the school level is better. I do hope this Dorns permit the schools to cancel the celebration at each school independently.
88. I agree that it is a big challenge to produce. However it is excellent to see (and for kids to participate) in something so big and the result is lovely to watch. Would love to see some way to modernize it. I do agree with perhaps alternating between school-based and district-wide.
89. I can see that the expense involved makes it hard to justify the size of the event as a yearly occurrence with all schools involved at queens park. Perhaps the gathering was a throw back to community of schools that people don't find important anymore. As a person who moved to new west and is raising 4 children who have all participated in the event I find it a special and unique tradition that my husband also participated in and that, once changed, will be difficult to resurrect. My children all found it to be an exciting day. Perhaps some of the ceremony could be simplified to make the event not so long as there are many speeches that the children sit through.
90. Agreed - anything that is effectively a "day off" during the school year and which uses valuable teaching resources and parent volunteer hours must be scrutinized for its value. In addition, we have MANY community building activities in the City that don't reinforce out-dated gender-segregating, organized labour promoting belief systems that we should be concentrating on.
91. As a parent who takes a day off to attend May Day events, I believe this is a celebration with a strong community building component that provides benefits to parents, students, and the community which would be lost with a school based event.
92. There are plenty of opportunities for schools to have their own individual events to build their communities. Having an event that ties the district together is unique.
93. I agree that the May day preparation takes far too much time out of the teaching schedule that could be better used in other ways. Also, because of the way the program is set up at Queen's Park, many of the children have a very small role in the actual program except for the year that they participate in the May Pole Dance, unless, of course, they are part of the Suite.
94. My daughter was forced to participate, and although she enjoyed dancing the first year, she cried every other time was to go to the celebration. Honestly, after 5 years, she got none of the tradition. I'm also VERY opposed to an entire school day being lost to this ancient tradition. If it is to be acknowledged at all, I would like it to be very minimal as it is not an integral part of the curriculum.
95. "May Day, as it has been celebrated for decades district-wide, is an opportunity for primary students to engage collectively in an historically significant community tradition.
96. It should be viewed not as extra-curricular, or a waste of classroom time, but as a bona fide teaching moment. To recommend it be an opt-in or opt-out choice, or school-based, is to wilfully abolish it.

97. It is disingenuous and selfish of teachers and school staff to complain that this century-old tradition — proudly unique to New West — detracts from curriculum time. So does the monthly professional day, and the now two-week-long spring break and the annual Christmas movie days when watching Elf passes for curriculum, and the early dismal days for parent-teacher conferences, and all the other wasted classroom time mandated by the BCTF and educators who seem to be constantly whining about every little thing that requires effort outside the collective agreement.
98. They don't like it? Too bad. The rationale supporting this recommendation is beyond lame. It reeks of professional ennui, yet another example of the creeping disease that is the culture of complaint.
99. Good lord, somebody in charge needs to grow a spine, and stand up for one of New West's few remaining shared traditions. "
100. Leave May Day celebrations for a community organization.
101. I would argue that student engagement for this event lies in the structure and preparation around the activity. May Day could be approached as a project-based activity. If there were a historical component taught in class, the actual event/dancing becomes one part of the entire project, etc. With this approach, I think there could also be further curricular alignment - phys ed, social studies, art... Having said that, i support the idea of May Day being school based - I think the intricacies of coordinating across district requires a lot of additional time/effort. Smaller scale = potentially more efficient here.
102. I think that the 2018 May Day celebration could be school-based. I would like to see each school given autonomy and choose how they would like to celebrate. After May Day 2018, send out another survey to see how it went. I don't think we should commit to 2 years if it does not go well at the school level. I would not like to see the 150th year be supported by the school district. If it is that important to the city and its citizens, then there will be people who can organize it, pay for it and participate in it without relying on hundreds of school children.
103. I grew up in NW and participated in May Day events all through Elementary School, so it would be kind of sad to see that go.
104. Too much time out of class/ very few kids engaged/ popularity contest
105. This is crazy idea. We need to stick with traditional May Day being held at Queens Park
106. What is meant by "the 150th anniversary of May"?
107. I think there are far better things we can be teaching our children with that many hours. an assembly, one afternoon, could teach all kids all they need to know and in a fun, more enjoyable way about May Day. use videos, props, still photos, guest speakers, highlight all the great things, then use the voluntary-community run approach to get kids who are seriously interested involved.
108. It should always be held at Queens Park. Schools do other events that are community based. MayDay is unique in that all schools get together for it and it is awesome seeing the kids cheering on their schools.

109. Although I'm a fairly new New West resident I see the May Day celebration as a wonderful community wide event that brings students from all the different elementary schools together. The opportunity for the students to participate in this this historical community event is worth the time and resources.
110. "May Day should definitely be kept as an entire community (not having each school have their own May Day at their own school). It is meant to bring the community together and the school children together. We all live in the community together and the kids will eventually go to school together (Middle school and high school). I did May Day in the 70's and I still have such positive memories about it. I felt like it connected me more to all of the schools/kids fro other schools and the community as a whole. The Parents are ALWAYS willing to help and donate their time for free, you just need to ask them. They could help with the practicing and prep for the dances, etc.
111. Whenever I go to May Day, I see so many people from the community attending to either watch their children or others (like elderly people) attending. Again, it brings us all together as a community. I love this aspect of this tradition.
112. Part of the fun of mayday is being a big event with all schools together
113. I want my children to interact with the greater community. Research shows community ties weaken with multiculturalism. This is just a fact. May Day is the perfect opportunity to strengthen community ties, and show newcomers some of New Westminster's heritage.
114. The school district should continue supporting the May Day event on an annual basis and the event should remain school-based.
115. This is an event for the entire community. Why wouldn't you separate the community and have different events rather than one large event. If we do that, then we might as well separate the Hyack Festival and pride celebrations into different groupd as well.
116. My two children are currently in grade 5 and 8 - they both have attended New Westminster public schools since kindergarten. They have enjoyed being part of the May Day celebration - as dancers and audience members. In my view, the time spent learning the dances is as valuable as other physical educational endeavours and more so given it involves mastering those dances, performing in front of a large audience, and participating in a long standing tradition. I have attended each year my children have danced, as have my parents and in-laws. We have enjoyed the event each time.
117. I think it is important to have unique and lasting traditions in the community.
118. I think we should continue with the Queens Park ceremony
119. May Day is a New Westminster trade mark, it should stay just the way it has been for years & years & NOT be changed!
120. I don't understand what you mean by "school-based". When my son was small, all the schools participated in the ceremony. Was that not school based?

121. "This is an event that has been participated by 3 generations of our family. This is a positive event that brings family, friends, neighbors, and schools together. Our society seems to be drifting from such events and this is very sad for the future generations. I have never been to a May Day that has not had limited participation from parents, community or diminished crowds. When you are walking around the event there are conversations of happiness, years of participation by family members and fond memories of schools that you attended or teachers that you still may have contact with etc...
122. This may seem like a social event, but this is also a learning environment for the students and the teachers. How do you handle yourself in this environment? How do the students respond to teachers in this environment? Respectful behaviour by student and teacher?
123. This is an event that is attended by elementary schools and middle schools and I cannot see this day interrupting the curriculum set out by the district. As for the city, the expense to put on this event I am sure has been supplemented by the city taxes that have been paid by the city taxpayers."
124. While it may be easier for the schools to undertake the May Day ceremonies at a school level, we are taking away a common shared experience of our young people on which they will later on form bonds with other people across their city not just within their small school catchment.
125. I think the effort to bring together students from across New Westminster to celebrate this long standing local tradition helps to foster community spirit and appreciation of the things that make our city unique in the lower mainland.
126. "As a parent, our 3 daughters fondly respect their experiences of participating in and attending and observing May Day Celebrations in Queens Park. While I may agree to some extent that the amount of preparation and time towards the Maypole Dances is a long and tedious task for school
127. Staff, the outcome needs to be acknowledged. These students are excited to finally be performing their diligently practiced moves for the community to see! They should understand the importance of this traditional event. There is no other organization who can even come close to running the maypole dancing program as it's been taught at the school district level. This is in fact part of our historical education and belongs where it's been all this time, in the hearts of the children. They need to feel the significance of this event while coming together with all other SD40 students as a whole, to realize the full extent and importance of this event. There isn't anything else remotely like it in all of Canada.
128. My solution is cut back on the dances so it isn't so long. Bring back the grade ones because the older students find them entertaining and love to see them in action. Make it fun for the students by introducing more games and challenges AT May Day.
129. As a resident, what is in this for the public if you take the event away from Queens Park? All the generations of residents in our city who attend May Day celebrations in Queens Park come to watch the children have their privileged turns to celebrate the way their parents and ancestors of our community did! By taking the student activities away from the public, you are destroying the entire purpose of this event in our community. I certainly wouldn't want to have my name written in the history books as someone being part of this "task force" to have taken away an annual long standing celebration from such a proud and strong heritage community!"

130. The celebrations should remain as they are -- a District-wide, school event as a part of the larger community event.
131. I do not support any mayday celebrations and think it should not be a part of the education curriculum
132. I believe that the same arguments in terms of time devoted by teachers and staff could be made for many school based events such as Christmas Concerts. Perhaps there is a way to rotate which schools perform the dances so that the whole District does not have to participate; that said, it is part of the curriculum.
133. I do not think that May Day requires a significant celebration in schools. It is not a provincial or federal holiday. If May Day is essentially about the significance of the tradition for the city, then consider continuing practice as is, with the final district event being promoted as the 150th celebration. This would give time for possibly the city or another community group to evolve the celebration.
134. I think the community should take over and this not become a school financed event
135. It's a community event. That's the point. It should happen in the community as it traditionally has.
136. I selected undecided because May Day should be taken over by a community organization and participation should be voluntary outside of school hours rather than mandated by the School District. The program is not inclusive of the community and it is a very grueling day for children in the audience who are not engaged in any meaningful way. Kids are left to endure hours of speeches from adults and I recall numerous times hearing kids being scolded in the audience for talking or getting restless yet there was absolutely nothing for them to do while sitting for hours. Meanwhile, the adults, parents talk the whole time. Moreover, some years kids were sitting in the hot sun for hours and I remember running back and forth to the bathroom to fill out waterbottles and finding some sort of makeshift way to keep sun off kids. It's one of the most poorly thought out events and has completely outgrown the sense of purpose. If May Day is considered by some individuals an important historical part of the City's fabric then it should be important enough for a group of concerned citizens to form a not for profit organization, fundraise for the program and actually organize it rather than making the School District organize and pay for it. And, it could also then be held on a day/time during the week that is accessible to the majority of the population (ie evening weekday or weekend). The Royal Suite should also be selected outside of the school by a not for profit organization and all of the orientation for the Suite should be held outside of school hours and not take up school time.
137. The May Day celebrations have become fairly boring, there used to be more engagement with the track and field events but these were done away with years ago. We have to think of ways to bring back student engagement.
138. This is a long standing tradition in New Westminster. It has evolved a lot over the years. All grades were involved at one time. the people and families look forward to this event every spring as these traditions are passed down. Generations and generations sharing this wonderful tradition. It would be a great shame to not have it to share.
139. I am OK with this change but only because of the upcoming anniversary. Otherwise I wouldn't want it in the school at all.

140. As a teacher/administrator in another SD, I was very concerned about the amount of instructional time devoted to May Day and lack of teacher autonomy to make decisions around these activities.
141. I do not support the amount of class time lost due to preparation for this event.
142. While I support dance and culture infused in the curriculum I believe it should be much more culturally diverse, not just one dance which represents one dominate and privileged cultural perspective.
143. After 2020 I think May Day activities should be cancelled. I don't think they continue to be relevant or of interest.
144. Please leave May Day alone. Keep it the same. In fact, please return it to the way it has always been. Held at Queens Park, with all schools participating, bring back the relay races, bring back the involvement of City Council, bring back the MC and everything else you have taken away. I've lived in New Westminster for 38 years, participated in May Day every year, as a student and as an audience member. My parents & Grandparents also grew up in New Westminster and have participated their whole lives. This is a true tradition that must continue.
145. It is worthwhile to keep the tradition alive in some form, but if substantial time and expense can be saved by holding it at a school level, then it is preferable to do so. However, I am pleased to hear that the 150th anniversary event will be held in Queen's park. Participants in the school May Day celebration should be provided with some sort of incentive to participate in the Queen's Park Community-based celebration which would be held outside of school hours.
146. I am unsure as to how a community event such as May Day became a school funded and held event. It should be transitioned back to the community
147. I feel that any May Day celebrations should be strictly school based, and a lot less time devoted to them, participation should be voluntary at the community level. Preparations for the 150th anniversary should move to either the city or private community group (Hyacks), and they should start planning now. I think that way too much instruction time is given to this, all the money spent on buses to Queens Park for the kids to sit there unengaged, could be much better spent. My son will not be learning the dances, and I will keep him home on May Day.
148. "The speeches were ignored. Nobody knew why we were there. To see our grade 3 students do a long-winded square-dance? If there is elected king and queen process, it's unclear how votes are cast, what nominations are based on -
149. grades? popularity?
150. Why not have a celebration that recognizes students on the honor roll or awards the students with the best grade average each year. Put their picture in the paper for a job well done and promote a future leader. That's worth clapping for.
151. I was slightly appalled at how unorganized it all was, how boring it was and how it was basically a field trip to queens park to stand in a line, then sit on the bleachers, chat amongst ourselves, and that was it! I thought there'd be a musical performance besides the national anthems! Do we not have band class in this district, a choir or SOMETHING to see? Why the lack of content? It was embarrassing that no talent could be shared in this notable day within the school district.

152. Nobody had any answers as to why we are doing this. The student who made the long and badly amplified final speech"" mentioned gratitude to the Queen for the land we live on. But then she added the cutest disclaimer about how we are ALSO grateful to the First Peoples, for sharing this land with us. (how awkward and ironic a celebration!) That was the best and only sincere moment that made sense in the entire production. "
153. I believe that May Day is a strong collective tradition in our community that should be upheld. I feel that some of the lack of student engagement is because some of the events that gave students the opportunity to participate (such as the track races, participation of the younger grades) have been stripped away over the years).
154. I would support this recommendation if the school puts in initiative and effort to make this special - it seems though that the recommendation is to reduce effort and work - which seems vague
155. "I disagree that the time spent to learn the folk and may pole dances is misspent. Learning steps in time with music is a basic skill that can be broadened over many genres. In addition, there are many other activities currently conducted within the school system that take away from core learning but can be described as providing holistic learning.
156. My youngest daughter is very excited to be learning and doing the may pole dances in spring of 2018, like her older sister, her mom and auntie, her nanna and great-aunt did before her.
157. I feel the 2017 celebration format was a great improvement over formats of recent years, and was much more student-focussed. The problem was that the sound system was not very good. If the stadium sound system were used so that everyone could hear, I suspect the Grade 2-5 classes would feel more engaged.
158. In addition, past years included all of Grades 1 to 7 in the district attending May Day. I don't know why it has been reduced to Grades 2 to 5."
159. Teaching the dances should be part of the physical / art education. Therefore it would not take away from teaching time. It is a community event. The students should attend and be part of the day. If the students are merely acting as an audience that is a failing on the part of the schools / city not to have the students more involved and engaged. Bring back the relay races that was always a fun part of May Day.
160. Clearly it is a great deal of work for the teachers in grade 5 and 2. There additional commitment to teaching the dances should be acknowledge and recognized in a tangible way. It would be a pity to lose the dances.
161. Being new to New Westminster, I fail to appreciate and understand he historical significance of this event. Having attended the event last year, I can say that it was impossible to hear any of the speakers during the event (due to a poor sound system and hundreds of disengaged and distracted children), therefore reinforcing my bewilderment around the effort and time that this event requires.
162. It would be a good idea to continue with school-based May Day until the 150th anniversary, then have a big celebration for the 150th, and after that update the celebration to respect present-day values of inclusion and diversity outside of the school district, for those who want to continue celebrating May Day.
163. I am teacher also in the district and far too much instructional time is taken for this event.

164. I feel that a more intimate school-based celebration would be more conducive to community building within each school. It seems a better use of time and resources if teachers could focus on the reason why the children are being taught maypole dancing, etc. (My teenager can't tell me why they participated in May Day, it was just "something they did every year". I think a school-based focus allows more time to share in preparation and comradery rather than the logistics of getting to an awkward location and focusing on the presentation rather than the history of the celebration and the spirit of the dance. I would scrap the popularity contest of the May Queen and First Knight, etc. That sort of selection process is not helpful to creating a community of peers. If it was open to the public then more people might be able to attend as spectators to the school closest to them. Sharing the details of the celebrations through documentation post May Day, I believe, would encourage city-wide community building. I would absolutely also include Qayqayt traditional celebratory rituals. I would expand on what that would look like, but I don't know seeing as I have never witnessed them. Odd, seeing as I have lived on their land for the past 17 years (and counting).
165. The only time that our students can really form their own community by all the school children being in one place at one time. It has been held since it started in our fine Stadium. Downsizing the event will take the appeal away from the children and community
166. This is one of the only events that has full community participation by having ALL Grade 2 - 5 students in New West participate. Let's participate in OUR heritage for OUR city and have our kids learn about May Day and take part in the longest running May Day celebration in the Commonwealth. The amount of time now devoted to Indigenous history studies in the classroom is huge, but our kids are not supposed to learn & participate in an historic event in our own city?? And especially in New West with our amazing history, Heritage Society and Heritage Conservation Area? According to my kids, they only practice the May Day dances during PE class, so this is NOT taking away from instructional time so teachers need to get on board - this is important to New Westminster residents and we want to have our kids take part in OUR HISTORY.
167. There are definite challenges with the current model but revisions can be made to make it more meaningful for spectators.
168. I'm not sure this would lead to better school participation. Wouldn't there be a need for more planning at the school level which would take up even more time? And there would be inconsistencies across schools. I think May Day would die out slowly this way. Perhaps come up with ideas on how to make the community event more engaging for the students.
169. My suggestion would be to bring back the more student involved events such as the track and field.
170. I feel that the May Day celebration should remain as it has always been. It is a day steeped in tradition. The students are not just an audience. It is an honour to dance the folk dance, and then the May Pole. The students are very proud of their school, and this is always clearly obvious at the May Day celebration in Queen's Park. It was even better when the relay races were held, and all the students cheered for their school. Tradition is being sucked out of New Westminster, it would be tragic to lose May Day in Queen's Park.

171. I feel May Day needs to remain a community event and celebration in Queens park. Bringing all the schools together is a wonderful and fun spectacle and build school Pride. Poor attendance in 2017 is likely because the community didn't even know what day or time it was on. I remember looking in the paper trying to find anything about May Day to tell my friends and family but could find nothing. It seems as though the celebration was almost sabotaged this year. Past years were far better attended and there were more performances by High school band, cheerleaders and hip hop group to keep kids interested.
172. As an alternative, abolish completely or hand over to community organization.
173. I understand how much effort this takes and the limited amount of resources available. Both my husband and I volunteered to take the kids to Queens Park last year. My daughter is now in grade 3 and I think she may feel disappointed that she didn't get to participate since she's finally of age to start doing so. However, I do see both sides.
174. Teachers have already indicated that there is little support for this as part of the curriculum and in terms of classroom resources. As experts in the field of educating our children, we must listen and respond appropriately.
175. District wide may day is silly indeed. Make it school based, or take it out of the school curriculum entirely and let the city take it over. Better yet, throw those resources toward a district wide Sports Day!! The district should NOT support a 150th anniversary, let the city do that - that's their job!
176. want to read the other recommendations before i decide on this one. Form should show them all on the same page. poor communications!
177. My child hates May Day celebrations. She has no interest in dancing. She is a tomboy and hates being forced to wear a dress. She does not understand why there is a popularity contest to be May Queen.
178. Recommendation number one is two parts, without reading this carefully you ask agreement for two questions. This is not transparent or easily understood. I AGREE with the following "For 2018 and 2019, May Day celebrations should be school-based" I DISAGREE with the following "FURTHER, the May Day Task Force recommends that on the 150th anniversary of May in 2020, the School District support the May Day Celebration Ceremony at Queen's Park"
179. May Day celebrations should be School District based, this is a community event and the schools are part of the community.
180. There are very few - are there any? - district wide events where all the students in New West get to participate as part of the greater community. The current "pared-down over the years" version of May Day is all that is left. Instead of further eroding the tradition that has bound generations of New Westminster school children, perhaps May Day should be revived to include greater numbers of students. Bring back the track and field events and allow the various schools to cheer for those participants in addition to the May Day suite. Bring back the high school concert band - or perhaps now the Middle School band(s) to provide the music for the folk and May pole dances. Revive the pride and spirit of the individual schools and the district as a whole instead of slowly killing off everything that makes New Westminster unique. We're the Royal City and it is these traditions that have formed us. Don't be the ones to trample everything we have held dear into the dust.
181. I support the continuation by SD40 until the dust has settled regarding the new format of May Day.

182. Getting the district together is the whole point of May Day! ALL the children together!
Furthermore, it should be ALL children grades 1-12! The older kids could act as wranglers to keep the younger kids settled.
183. I don't think this is a good use of school and teacher resources. Even having this at the school does not diminish the impact on teachers and time taken away from instruction, or deal with the problematic colonial/paternalistic history of this event.
184. May Day is an important cultural event in New Westminster, but like many important cultural events in New Westminster, fostering its existence should not be the responsibility of the schools. I support a gradual phase-out of the school's participation in May Day celebrations.
185. Make the 150th Big!! At QP yes!!! Keep 2018 & 19th at QP also....preserve our unique tradition!!
186. I support the continuation of May Day with adjustments. Participation in May Day speeches from all members of the May Day suite could be encouraged. This gives all schools a representative with a voice. If it is the May day dances that take too much curricular time, then modify that part of the celebration although I think for kids in Grades 3 and 4, it is a special time and they are the perfect age for participating in dances. Another suggestion is to include or alternatively provide a sports day to increase interactions across schools. This would get all kids participating instead of just a few select ones and would take very little school instructional preparation time and would encourage fitness and participation. I think with some creative thinking, May Day can remain a tradition for all kids in New West as a community building event.
187. May Day has always been a community-wide event. Both of my parents, and their siblings, who participated in May Day as students in the 1960's, continue to speak fondly of their participation in the events at Queen's Park. School must not be narrowly focused on in-school programs, but it should rather provide an opportunity for students to participate in their local cultural traditions. The instructional hours to teach children their own local history, culture and dance are most well spent, and should be continued. Participation, whether as dancers or as spectators, is beneficial to all.
188. Practicing for a school-based May Day still requires the same amount of time to practice if students are to actually know the dances. Only one day is actually being given back to instructional time, that of May Day itself. If the students don't get to present and perform their dances at May Day at Queen's Park with the other schools I don't think it will be so special, the tradition will die, and it will be both a shame and a waste. If they are going to practice and learn them (and dance is part of the curriculum) then let them perform!!
189. I agree with Recommendation #1
190. As child who attended May Day I always looked forward to getting together with all of the schools.
191. Traditions grow a community, and hoping this tradition remains beyond the 150th anniversary!
192. May Day need more students understand it.
193. Expand the May Day celebrations to include a wider range of New Westminster's cultures and heritage.

Comments from “Not Identified” Respondents on Recommendation #1

1. "We have very few community based events that tie in deep rooted tradition into today's world. I enjoy the fact that this tradition has been apart of New Westminster's history and have always encouraged my child's participation in it.
2. I would rather see the event remain a community day than change to a singular school based activity."
3. I have observed that in at least one other community that has May Day celebrations the schools might have involvement but it is school-based and less extensive than what I have seen in New Westminster. This seems to work well.
4. Expand the May Day celebrations to celebrate a wider range of New Westminster's cultures and heritage. Move the May Day celebrations to celebrate a wider range of New Westminster's cultures and multiculturalism. (Frank discussions of colonialism comes to mind.)

Recommendation #2

The District should discontinue the practice of selecting a Royal Suite. The Board should support the transferring of responsibility for the Royal Suite to a community organization.

Comments from Students on Recommendation #2

1. I really enjoyed May Day being part of school
2. I have been dreaming about running to represent my school at may day
3. I think the kids that give the speeches enjoy it and it's not about being popular. The kids that get votes are usually the ones who make jokes and make it funny.
4. All races are included as well as boys. Isn't that inclusion?
5. I was apart of the May Queens suite and it was the most fun and amazing time o have had in my elementary school experience. Getting ready with the girls before we walked on to the field, eating the exquisite dinners at the ceremony's after May Day, having our name announced and then being applauded for by your school and friends. I remember every moment I had while being apart of the May Queens suite. I don't believe that being May Queen do your own school but being chosen because your fellow students believe that you will represent your school with respect and honour. When the May Queen suite visited the Queens Park care home, I remember the smiling faces of the residents when they saw us in our white dresses, headbands and capes. The outfits that the May Queen suite wear is not a class system but tradition. Being able to continue the tradition and follow the in the past of all the May Queens before us.
6. I represented my school at may day. The experience of writing and presenting a speech in front of all of my teachers and classmates was a huge confidence builder and a challenging, rewarding experience. Everyone who participated was well received by all teachers and students and congratulated for show casing their courage and love for our school. Participating in the suite was an incredible opportunity that I will forever cherish.
7. I am completely and entirely opposed to this idea. The Royal Suite of May Day is important for all kids and everyone gets a chance to write a speech about themselves and their school which prepares them for middle and highschool. These speeches challenge the students and no matter what happens all the students are congratulated and thanked for doing such a great job in front of the entire school. Doing these speeches takes a lot of courage and bravery to speak in front of your school and I was very proud of myself even before I was elected as I got up and spoke in front of so many people and felt very proud of myself. This is a very important part of may day and you cannot take this away from the children in our city.

Comments from New Westminster Residents on Recommendation #2

1. The sooner the Royal Suite is out of our schools the better.
2. Not everything needs to be ruined by identity politics.
3. In spite of my grandson's opposition, I feel this recommendation is forward thinking and has given us a good basis for discussion
4. The Task Force is delusional. The suite represents ALL walks of life. I've seen boys who were very poor, all nationalities, new immigrants. Why rip apart tradition.
5. Again, I believe that there are better ways to do this. A points based system could be established for each class, whereby service, effort, and positivity in the classroom is rewarded. A 'lottery' is another way, with diversity requirements for the overall suite. There are other options than 'we want nothing to do with it'.
6. Over the years, it seems that fewer students are interested in taking on this role. It is also discouraging to see students who do have a great interest and who work very hard on their speeches not be voted in as they do not have the popular vote. The winners tend to be the students who have the greatest number school connections, regardless of their preparation, interest, or effort. If this task were to be transferred to a community organization, there would be the opportunity for multiple candidates from the same school or possibly none from other schools depending on interest. I think this would allow for the students who feel connected to May Day to best participate.
7. "Its tradition, what else needs to be said. Please keep May Day and its Royal Suite
8. This will allow those families who are extra-interested to be involved. It will gather more serious candidates.
9. Currently, anyone can run for the May Queen suite. It's an honour to represent your school. All the children get to vote for anyone they choose. This tradition is part of the heritage of each school and the history of our city for the past 147 years.
10. I agree with notions of gender roles however, maybe we need to emphasize that this is a very old custom and reflects what it was like 147 years ago. It would be an important discussion around how things have changed and why they have changed.
11. I agree with the sentiment that the Royal Suite is primarily a popularity contest. I also agree that the Royal Suite certainly does not reflect the values that I hold for myself and my son in regards to gender, in particular. The image of a young girl in a virginal white dress and her royal knight is outdated, bizarre, and frankly offensive.
12. Gender is increasingly complex, and as a unpopular girl who lost the May Queen election to the girl who spent a bunch of money on a poster, I agree that the Royal Suite is outdated. Volunteer Representatives/Ambassadors would be just as good. Additionally, we have the Hyack Ambassadors and the New Westminster Ambassadors too! Enlist their guidance!
13. learning how to write a speech and talk in public is an important learning experience. trying to teach our children to choose a representative based on qualification not popularity is also important. gender rolls will always be a debatable subject in todays times but there is nothing wrong with still choosing a queen and king. by taking away all gender rolls also causes confusion so there isnt a right answer for this one. I personally like the idea of the mayday suite.
14. Another tradition that should remain a part of the New West schools.
15. This recommendation is only useful if May Day continues.

16. I agree to a point, the Royal suite should be picked randomly from whoever wants to put their name in. It should not be a popularity contest like running for school board or Mayor.
17. "1) I was undecided with this recommendation, until reading the background.
18. 2) In my opinion, the process of voting for a schools Suite is one learning example of how the real world works. In an election or contest (election, applying for a job position, etc), there is only one winner. There are no awards for effort, no honourable mentions, no medals for participation. Of course with we are not that harsh to fifth graders, but the idea is still presented.
19. 3) The voting process should be used as an opportunity to present methods of voting. When I went through elementary school, the voting method used was first past the post. If this is still used, perhaps to make the process fairer, a different method could be used (i.e. ranked ballot) . If a different voting method is used, then teachers for the higher grades (4&5) to discuss why different voting methods are fair, and how they work. Using an updated voting method would also take away a part of the popularity contest feel.
20. 4) I do not see how diversity and inclusion are involved. A student nominates themselves, and their classmates vote. The entire process is the closet thing to a democratic election they (and I) will experience in school.
21. 5) I do understate the the characterization of the suite as a popularity contest, but it must also be realized that in many times students are ""popular"" for their involvement in the school community. A student who is a Library or classroom lunch monitor, or is involved in multiple clubs or teams will naturally be more popular than a student who sits in the corner off the library all lunch house (and I know, I was that library corner kid). So of course a student who is a lunch monitor, part of the intramural sports team, or engaged in many extra-circular activities is an ideal candidate for the suite, but then wouldn't that student be popular, and well known?
22. 6) Regarding the gender roles, and connection to royalty, I do understand the negative aspects, but any changes here have to have the input of those it affects, primary current and past members of the suite, and of the current student body. "
23. Populism is cruel.
24. I see no problem with continuing the current practise. Each school supports its candidate no matter how the person is chosen. No different than choosing a school president or class rep at the secondary level. Even school trustees are a popularity contest in the end. So far no one sees a problem with that process.
25. I disagree with the school district discontinuing selecting a Royal Suite they need to organize the selection of the school reps in the schools...as is the district does not have any responsibility of transporting the Suites on May day or Parade day as this is done by volunteers
26. What is May Day without a May Queen or King? As I child I never thought of it as a popularity contest, it seems only adults think of it that way.
27. I agree that choosing the Royal Suite is a popularity contest and not inclusive of sexual orientation and it reinforces old ideas of gender roles. When was the last time a disabled child was selected as a member?

28. Globally, the United Nations is taking steps to protect intangible cultural heritage, including festivals that incorporate highly prescribed gender roles. For example, central to Valencia's UNESCO safeguarded Fallas Festival is the selection of the Fallera Mayor, the "Queen" of the festival, and her counterpart, the Fallera Mayor Infantil, effectively a child Queen with a "suite" of traditionally dress girls. This Spanish cultural display is protected by the United Nations. The task force recommendation is out of step with the United Nations enshrining of intangible cultural heritage as a fundamental human right. The opinions expressed in the report about the May Queen Suite are superficial and lacking in scholarship into the local and global significance of spring festivals. Importantly, the UN specifically proclaimed that diversity cannot be invoked to damage or abrogate cultural human rights. I urge SD40 to conduct deep research into the UN's cultural heritage work before causing likely irreparable harm to an extremely significant historic phenomenon.
29. Why do you need to change things.
30. The royal suite helps to encourage youth to support and be actively involved in their community. Removing it would decrease volunteer hours and how youth value volunteering in their city.
31. This is 2 questions. One asks about discontinuing and one about transferring responsibilities. Very poorly worded. And the world is full of popularity contests like government elections. It's better to teach our children about real life.
32. Do not feel this type of exclusionary popularity based voting is good for elementary school students.
33. I agree with transferring the selection of the 'royal Suite' to a community based committee similar to that of the Hyack Ambassadors. I would encourage the committee to look at other forms of selection, that eliminate the populist element. Perhaps a 'blind' essay submission where ideas are more important than for presentation.
34. The "popularity contest" exists throughout life. They better get used to it. This is probably their first opportunity to exercise DEMOCRATIC CHOICE and accept MAJORITY BASED DECISIONS. This in itself is a valuable life lesson. This can be embraced as a teaching point. Keeping the practice of selecting a suite at the school level ensures maximum participation - their vote actually counts!
35. I agree that it can be a popularity contest but it could be changed so that any child whose parent signs a form allowing them, could be put into a random draw for the positions.
36. See my earlier comments. As well, Grade 5s don't need to be subject to popularity contests as part of their elementary school experience.
37. Get rid of it.
38. If the May Day is discontinued then this "royal suite" would no longer be an issue! The royal suite is an archaic practice, no longer valid or acceptable in this era. Please do away with the entire May Day performance involving the schools.
39. Whoever is coming up with these decisions is not a lifer in New West & should leave our traditions alone.

40. As a retired grade 5 teacher in SD40, I can tell you some hair-raising stories about Royal Suite selection and its effect on students, particularly the girls who don't get chosen. It's definitely a popularity contest. Although the ethnic diversity of the Royal Suite has improved over the years, students who are outsiders or who have special needs are given kudos for trying out but never selected. I've also heard comments such as "So-and-So's father bribed the Mayor, and that's how she got to be May Queen." I wonder what Wayne Wright would have thought about that had he heard it. However, I believe the gender roles argument is weak, unless you're talking about abolishing May Day altogether. In terms of divesting May Day from the district, it's not really relevant.
41. Don't let the pettiness of political correctness tamper with the atmosphere that May Day provides. If people don't like it, then they have the right to not participate.
42. Why do the staff's poor attitude get to dictate tradition? This tradition is important, plain and simple. If they have more enthusiasm, so will the students. This tradition was so important when I went to school at FW Howay... We understood the importance and our teachers were fantastic in teaching that this tradition was something to be proud of.
43. I agree with this. This does nothing more than reinforce the gender binary and gendered stereotypes. What does the Royal Suite do anyway? I would suggest one student from each school be voted as its representative, rather than two.
44. No. Just no. So many things that are just inherently ancient and wrong with this practice.
45. The s is ridiculous children need to learn early on in life that there are winners and not winners.
46. I strongly agree with this recommendation.
47. You are looking too deep with this. It is a time honoured tradition. If it is truly felt that the procedure is really too superficial, have the teachers and school staff choose a female and a male representative on merit and contribution to school spirit and activities. It is done this way in other communities around the lower mainland. Would also like to point out, there was no issue with this before the inception of middle school, and the the majority of the Mayqueen candidates were grade 6 and 7.
48. Our City heritage has been to include the Schools and City government as the partnership of those responsible for selection of the Royal Suite. This symbolizes our community growth and heritage. This partnership should continue.
49. The correct place to continue the selection of Royal Suite members is WITHIN each individual school in the district. Suggest putting a "positive" spin on the selection process and teach about the real-life process of "elections", a great teaching moment here!!
50. Keep as is - Rather than students choose or nominate, any child interested to be in the suite should put their name in and it should be a lottery draw. This eliminates the popularity contest and actually gives those who are shy a fair chance! If they are chosen, what a confidence booster the experience will be!
51. Yes, the May Day suite is a popularity event, so are many other situations, for example politics: picking Prime Ministers and Presidents. Students who want to be in the May Day suite, work hard to present a speech that shows their interest in representing their school that they like. The white dress is beautiful. The event is joyous, like weddings or festivals. Are we saying brides should not wear the traditional white gown?

52. Nonsense, the event is both inclusive and diverse.
53. I believe the children are excited about perhaps filling a role in the Royal Suite. I would like to see it continue.
54. This is school aged children and should be kept under the school umbrella . excluding traditions is not the way to proceed.
55. The selection process should be a lottery pick performed by a independent group away from the school administration, with financial assistance given, if required, to the selected representative.
56. "The candidates for the May Day suite are required to address their ""constituents"" (the student body) with a prepared speech advocating why they deserve to be voted representative of their school; the ""contest/campaign"" is open to any grade five student who wishes to participate and is as democratic and inclusive as any ""election"" can be ... by any measured standard or comparison.
57. I think the selection of a Royal Suite is highly inappropriate
58. Selection is a great learning experience ! Empower students to have a say / vote! This is a process that will have them understand politics, work dynamics etc. It's NOT a bad thing!
59. Why do they do that? How relevant is this for young students?
60. This should continue as a School function
61. I do agree that this needs to be updated, changed so not a popularity contest. This would be interesting to ask the students for input on. maybe change the focus - keeping something from the original May Day celebrations?
62. Do the teachers and staff, administrators and exempt staff even live in New West? Where's the community spirit in this wonderful event? As parents of now grown children that attended elementary school in New West and then NWSS, May Day was a fun event for the whole class and yes, the teachers that instructed the students in the dances did it with grace and cheerfulness.
63. Keep the royal suite. Fire the task force.
64. Keep the royal suite. Fire the task force.
65. This should be discontinued altogether. It is degrading and devoted of any meaningful purpose.
66. When I first began teaching in New Westminster, I found that the selection of the May Queen representative had become a popularity contest. I asked that we have the students complete an application form that required them to explain why they thought they would make an exemplary representative of their school. They were then required to deliver a speech at an assembly to explain their reasons to the student body. I used the voting process in the classroom to teach about election and the voter's responsibility to select , not their favourite, but the candidate that they truly felt would best represent them and their school. When we finally added boys to the equation we followed the same procedure. In fact, I do not believe that the Royal Suite reflects stereotypical gender roles as it is not male dominated and culturally , the suites are very reflective of the diversity in our classrooms.
67. The fact is that many aspects of life are indeed a "popularity contest" Please teach the current generation of students some real world concepts. People struggling with gender identity will not be helped by abolishing the current most common roles.
68. I agree that the royal suit does not appear reflect values of inclusivity.
69. The selection of the Royal Suite and May Queen do not reflect the District's focus on inclusivity and diversity.

70. CHOOSING REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR SCHOOL IS A FUNDAMENTAL LESSON IN DEMOCRACY ANY CHOOSING BY VOTE. THEY GAIN SCHOOL PRIDE IN BEING PART OF THEIR LARGER COMMUNITY AND OPENS THE REALIZATION THAT ALL THE OTHER CHILDREN ASSEMBLED TOGETHER AT MAY DAY WILL, ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE BE THEIR CLASSMATES AT NWSS. THE EXPERIENCE EXPANDS THEIR LOCAL HORIZON.
71. "It is obvious to me the people who wrote these questions do not even know about the process for selecting the Royal Suite Members. May I ask if the people who wrote these questions even live in the City of New Westminster. If they do, perhaps they have never participated or been involved in the entire May Day process, planning and celebrations.
72. The Royal Suite representatives are selected by their peers after the candidates present a speech in front of their peers. It is an election from their peers. It is not a popularity contest! Rather, it is based on a system which trains the students for future public life. Please read about the process before making your questions. The candidates are chosen to represent their schools "through a public/peer election process" similar to a vote taken by the citizens of our community to elect the School Trustees. The topic of inclusion and diversity is irrelevant in this discussion. To my knowledge, no one is ever banned or excluded from applying to run. It is their choice. They can run to be the May Queen suite representative or the Royal Knight representative. There is no prototypical gender roles.....that exists only i""n the minds"" of those who don't understand what May Day is really about. Again, any child can run for election.....similar to any child can play any sport or participate in anything they wish in this world, as long as it is legal and they have the physical/mental ability to participate.
73. I would ask the names of the person or people who wrote these questions be identified so they can be educated on how this selection take place. "
74. This has been a tradition since I was in N.W. May days in the late '70's and early '80's and should definitely stay tradition.
75. I agree there should be a selection committee
76. It's a perfect opportunity for children to learn about public speaking and running to represent their school and their peers
77. "The event celebrates the history of New Westminster.
78. If it is taken out of the schools May Day will disappear "
79. I do not accept the 'value of diversity'. This is a white country and should remain so. Diversity is a lie spread by the wealthy to further enrich themselves at the expense of Canadians. Immigrants must adapt to our values, not vice versa.
80. "I believe the District should still continue with the selection of the Royal Suite.
81. Once the selection has been made, then the Community members can take responsibility as done in the past.
82. If the District/staff ect. feel it's a popularity contest and doesn't support the District's values then why not have a draw, with the students names. I still think it is a benefit to the students that want to participate to make a speech why they feel they would be the best to represent their school. "
83. The selection of the Royal Suite and May Queen do not reflect the District's focus on inclusivity and diversity

Comments from Non- Residents on Recommendation #2

1. It is very intense and frustrating
2. Keep the selection of the royal suite as has been tradition of the city.
3. I disagree that schools should discontinue involvement. I do agree, however, that the choosing of representatives can be a popularity contest; however, rather than eliminating the practice, how about changing the nomination process so that the Grade 5s being elected are nominated in such a way that takes diversity and inclusion into consideration (maybe by teachers). And go ahead and get rid of the white dresses and capes - maybe each school gets to design a cape of a different colour for their representatives, male or female.
4. The selection of a Royal Suite should not continue at all. This practice is out dated.
5. The elections show real life. Like real politics. They also give pride to a school for their rep
6. I think the City and Mayor should still support the Mayday Suite selections process in the manner as it was in the past . It seemed to work well in the 1950 and 1960's with no problems. The kids were very proud and excited when the Queen was selected from their school. I just want to see Mayday continue and Preserved for the next 150 years and be "watered down" and systematically taken apart. Heritage is important & Mayday is the Heart of New Westminster !
7. Please return the May Day events to what they were for so many years, the last few years have gone downhill. I went to Herbert Spencer in the 1960's and participated in the May Day activities, and I think that it is something that I've always fondly remembered. It is a shame what is has turned into lately.
8. It seems to be quite an honor to be part of the May Day festivities....If it were to continue it should be by name drawn from a hat!
9. Nonsense to trivialize this as popularity contest. All things voted upon are based on popularity for various different reasons. Integrate some political lessons on voting and campaigning as an alteration rather than discarding this 147 year old tradition. These are children...children. They just don't dissect this like adults. The benefits far outweigh the negatives. A Royal Suite is paramount to the whole tradition and what makes it so much fun for the kids. Have the kids campaign, then make a short speech to school....where the kids can vote based upon the speech and that will mimic what they face as adults.
10. Draw names from a hat
11. any maydays i was part of never ever considered it a popularity contest, of course the mayqueen was voted in, but that was exciting and valued and looked forward to. this is 'tradition', not rule of law of how to do everything in this day and age, a fun day for all the children, a traditional series of events that have been done for many many years, tradition doesn't explain how life is 'now', it tells how mayday was at the beginning and continues to be to this day, and should continue to be.
12. Selecting representatives from our peer group helps to develop a sense of community and it also provides the security of knowing that our opinion is important
13. Of course it's a popularity contest. Every vote like that is - check out politics. This relation is the same as giving out ribbons to all those that participate in any event. Someone has to win. Acknowledge that and stop dunning down and shielding little Johnny. Children need to learn reality.

14. I like having student representation and the building of ties with community and history. I would like a single representative from each school, male or female, so that gender and gender identity is a non-factor, and the labels of "queen" and "royal knight" changed to "representative". In the spirit of reconciliation, I would like to see Indigenous history and an indigenous representative added, and indigenous dancing included.
15. Rather than eliminate the Royal Suite, their role and what it takes to earn that role should be revised. What do candidates need to do to be chosen as their school representative? Again, this could be an inquiry-based "project" for each of those students to work on at school. They could research the history of May Day, interview people from the community and express the relevance and importance to them. All the skills required for this type of a learning inquiry are the skills we are teaching our students at school. As well, elections and voting are a part of life, a part of being a community. I think the decision was well made to include boys. As well, I refer to my previous comment about traditions, traditional dress...you don't see Japanese and Korean women opting away from a kimono or hanbok for pants and a t-shirt!
16. It's the adults who make it a "popularity contest" I think the adults need to grow up. I was never chosen for May Queen or Royal Suite. I was so happy when our school had the chosen May Queen. It's pride in your school. Not the person. It's all how it's presented. Maybe the adults need to not get their feelings hurt.
17. The idea behind students choosing is to give them a chance to be part of May Day to have a choice in decision making. And what should be brought back is announcing the May Day suite from city hall and broadcast to each school.
18. the task force findings are largely based on non-residential staff responses...May Day is an inclusive tradition, not a 'popularity contest.' Each child chosen from an individual school is an ambassador of that school, and the assigned roles in the suite are drawn, not voted on.
19. Until sports teams in the schools stop having try-outs, I consider the concern of one being excluded (i.e. May Queen and Royal Suite) somewhat hypocritical. There is so much in society that is not inclusive: election of school trustees, for example--or any other political figure for that matter. Not everyone who applies gets the job. Not everyone gets accepted to their university of choice. Not everyone gets that apartment or house....Sometimes I wonder how the emphasis on inclusion (well-intentioned as it is) prepares students for the reality (of exclusion) that awaits them in the future. That being said, if the contest is so problematic, invite the hopefuls in each school to enter a draw. Then have the customary draw for the May Queen and Suite titles.
20. As a minimum, the selection of a Royal Suite should be done on a random 'lottery based' selection system. Having young Grade 5 children select the most popular male and female seems to be counter-intuitive to any effort to foster an inclusive nature.
21. This practice of celebrating one boy and one girl simply maintains the notion of a King/Queen monarch. Again a continued and tired Colonialist model of social order--move into the 21st century please stop the voting and have the suite chosen by random draw of names from a group of volunteer participants
22. Good grief! That we should share in the enjoyment when someone else is briefly the center of attention is a life lesson, not some form of torment!

23. The Royal Suite is what the Royal City is all about. Although the practice may appear archaic, I believe the changes in the past years have been positive. This opportunity allows individuals to play a leadership role. At Herbert Spencer, the competition helped build public speaking skills over popularity and I was always impressed with the choices made by the student body as to who their representative would be. The choices made were thoughtful and always right on the money. Keep the tradition.
24. Having been a former May Queen suite person from my school in 1960, it was exciting, fun and not all based on popularity. The kids get to meet new people, interact with adults and learn new traditions.
25. Why change things after so many years.
26. So adjust it to be more inclusive and not so "British oriented"!! Instead of &/or along with 'voting' include such things as grades, sport or civic accomplishments...
27. This is the part of May Day that may be outdated.
28. If this is transferred to the responsibility of an community organization, what would this look like?
29. I don't fully understand this part of the resolution. "The Board should support the transferring of responsibility for the Royal Suite to a community organization." Would this organization decide the royal suite?
30. Continue Royal Suite voted by schools and wearing traditional white
31. Would the participation of all the grade 5 students still happen? It would still be a popularity contest.
32. This is indeed a popularity contest. Furthermore it sends the idea that only the elected are special. I simply don't like this idea.
33. These decisions seem like they are being made by people who didn't grow up in New West. May Day is the glue that binds the city together, even those of us who do not live there anymore. Tradition doesn't need to be dismantled.
34. I think the individual schools/students should continue to pick their May Queen/Kind representative and not a separate organization.
35. I do see the argument for practices that do not align with present procedures of inclusion although I do not remember feeling badly about not being the May Queen. The suite is simply a representation of past celebrations . Perhaps the positions could simply be chosen by lottery with every student's name in the drum for the draw.
36. Rather than voting, the members of the Royal Suite could be chosen through a draw of names from all of the class members. There you go; both diversity and inclusiveness are taken care of.
37. Children should learn the History !!!
38. We would all listen impatiently to come for McBride schools name to see what position our school would have in the royal suite. My aunt was may queen in her day & im very proud of that
39. "Again here we are trying to dismantle a celebration and tradition that has carried on for over 100 years! Traditional celebrations are not open to change... they are not up for debate with the changing tide of humanity. They are not up for discussion as to whether or not each sector of society gives the "go ahead thumbs up" or not. Can you imagine if you look around the world and took a look at all ceremonial celebrations and traditions and removed all which may or may not offend certain groups in society... whatever they represent ... ask yourselves what would be left???? This whole concept disrespects culture and heritage.

40. Allowing the kids to vote for the best candidate in the school to represent them is life..... it's real life... choose a person they would like to see represent them. We do it as adults in our own cities for all our political reps. Who would be the best candidate for Mayor? Who's the best candidate to run our Country?? We go to the polls and choose.... is there something wrong with that?? What about the sports teams at school and or professional... someone is voted team captain or MVP.... why? Because they are leaders and showing leadership... is that a popularity contest too? Should the school system vote on doing away with team captains because it may offend someone who will never be the team captain?? Where does this all end?? "
41. I think traditions can evolve, maybe there can be a May Queen and King. Maybe instead of a popularity contest, they could be chosen based on different criteria. Kindness toward others, student leaders, or kids that make a difference. Maybe the elders in the community can vote on who they think should represent their community. Let's not take the competition out of everything.

Comments from Parents of New Westminster School District Students on Recommendation #2

1. Again, a question pitting a proud tradition against other important values. Difficult to decide. The way my daughter (who never competed to be May Queen) described the selection of the Royal Suite, it sounded more like a pedagogically sound public speaking contest than a popularity contest.
2. Popularity contests at the elementary school level should be done away with.
3. Yes, it is a popularity contest...not acceptable.
4. The idea of the Royal Suite is antiquated and a popularity contest. Last year our Royal Knight won by default.
5. This is tradition. I don't want to break tradition
6. Students don't need the Royal suite to represent them.
7. the Royal suite should be discontinued period
8. It is impractical for an outside group to organize the Royal Suite
9. The board should discontinue the practice of selecting a royal suite and not transfer responsibility.
10. I don't agree with having popularity contests but our children, at this point, have so little opportunity to do these kinds of community events, to get up and make their case for student support, to put themselves out there. Everything is about not allowing students to stand out. Plus I find it offensive that teachers don't want to deal with the extra work. Make it mean something then rather than just denying it. It's part of your job. Maybe try doing it with some enthusiasm. Again - I would hate to see all this scrapped without allowing an alternative be in place. In other words a community organization LEAD BY CITY HALL should be in place first for children who want those opportunities rather than just ignoring that and letting it die which is what you are actually trying to do.
11. The Royal Suite has tones of a popularity contest at times and is very, very outdated and out of touch.
12. having a school Representative is important- perhaps a draw verses the vote would allow students to feel more engaged and opt in

13. The method of select can change but schools are best placed to get a representative sample. Ask students to put their names forward and draw them from a hat, remove the contest if this is an issue for the school district (it is not for most kids). But where do you collect the full collection of kids from all backgrounds in New Westminster. This needs to be school based activity.
14. Perhaps there are more meaningful ways to engage students in leadership opportunities and cultural events in the community. Ways that do not come down to a 'popularity contest'. My son was part of the Royal Suite and as he reflects on it now he is not sure it was worth all the time and energy by a great number of people. The purpose of the students' involvement was not clear except to carry on events that had been done in the past. This does not seem to be a good use of educational time.
15. It is totally a popularity contest, and more so for the parents then the kids!
16. Discontinue the Royal Suite altogether. I agree its a popularity contest. No relevance today.
17. It should stay at the school as tradition dictates. Also insures fairness for all district children that are eligible.
18. this is a traditional ceremony that has gone on for many many years. we now support all kinds of multi cultural traditions whether we like or not. this is part of our cities heritage
19. Teaching inclusion can be done without eliminating fun events. Teaching kids about voting systems is a much more practical and valuable lesson than a lot of the history lessons they currently get in school. Even if it does end up being a popularity contest, that in and of itself can be another valuable lesson about the current atate our our society.
20. Thank you for your honest self-criticism. It's a tradition whose time has passed.
21. Should remain school based
22. I don't like the idea of a Royal Suite at all. Kids don't need popularity votes at that age. Taking selection out of the schools is little different than putting lipstick on a pig.
23. Why would you want to change this...
24. What is the harm in letting the children vote for a representative from their school? This child must prepare a speech to elicit votes from their peers. It teaches them preparation and public speaking at a young age.
25. The Royal Suite is promotes gender stereotypes and is gender exclusionary to many students.
26. The royal suite is an elitist practice that should not be perpetuated. It is a vestigial practice of a misogynistic era and petty darn creepy.
27. The Royal Suite should no longer exist in any shape or form. Those who support the Royal Suite are living a bygone era. Many students, our children included, had no desire to compete or put their name forward for something in which the girls are forced to wear white dresses and the boys to conform to the role of a consort. In addition, the concept of a Royal Suite is not inclusive nor does it support a SOGI friendly environment.
28. As I said in my earlier comments I believe this should be an after school activity for those who choose to be involved.
29. finally!!
30. "While I do agree that allowing the students to vote for their May Suite reps does make it a "popularity contest", I do see the value in teaching children about the voting process. Maybe there is a way to teach about voting that would encourage our children to vote more for merit, and less on who the most popular choice is.

31. Another option for choice of the May Suite reps would be to do it more like how NWSS selects its valedictorian, where interested applicants gather support from teachers, have interviews with a small committee made up of teachers and principals, as well as making a speech. I like how NWSS does this and it results in a fair process and selection of a strong and deserving candidate."
32. Anachronistic. Find other ways to provide positive models and opportunities for service-based leadership and public display; not just pomp and posing
33. Having two children go through the New West District, I would have to agree that at the children's level the Royal Suite has become nothing more than a popularity contest between the Gr. 5 children.
34. This "tradition" is divisive and destructive and undermines the school district's values of equity and inclusion. It's an anachronism that is wildly out of place in a modern education system.
35. It is a popularity contest and inconsistent with values of equality.
36. Again this is tradition and while it may seem like a popularity contest it is also a way for those wanting to try out to practice public speaking. Not everyone wants to do it but there are many kids who do and they should be allowed to shine a bit. Speeches and voting are how we form government etc which can also be based on popularity
37. Ridiculous waste of time & outdated
38. I agree that the Royal Suite should be discontinued. I disagree that it should be transferred to the Community organization. It should be discontinued and a new concept of Royal Suite should be created that supports inclusion.
39. I don't see the harm in selecting a Royal Suite; however, I get the feeling that many people - myself included - don't know much about May Day and are unclear of the purpose of it.
40. I don't support student involvement in May Day activities whatsoever
41. Popularity contest in my opinion are not inline with the New West School district policy of inclusion
42. Yes! Lose the Royal Suite!! Awful, outdated, poor role modelling especially for our daughters. If you change nothing else, change this!
43. I completely agree with this. As a music teacher in New West I have had students who talk to me about May day and they have let me know that this is completely a popularity contest. They are supposed to have speeches and the "best speech" is supposed to win, but it comes out that it's the most popular students who win.
44. Totally agree with the recommendation. The practice is arcane.
45. I think a Royal suite is still fun but perhaps a random draw of all interested parties is better than the popular vote.
46. As someone that did not grow up in New Westminster but has witnessed this procession in the May Day events as a parent of daughters, this part of the whole ceremony leaves me with a sick feeling in my stomach each year and I always leave wondering why is this still happening?! Why is that part necessary?! How much time is wasted in school deciding the royal suite representatives and how upset are the students that aren't chosen? As a teacher, I am grateful that my school district does not run this type of ceremony and I am happy to have this opportunity now to try and get rid of it in New Westminster.
47. That whole Royal Suite thing is weird and makes me quite uncomfortable. Some sort of virginal procession. yikes.
48. Or, no royal suite at all.

49. I strongly agree with this recommendation!!!
50. I would like to see the Royal Suite chosen on merit. I feel that students who are chosen to represent their school should be active in their school community as well as in their local community.
51. I believe this is something the New Westminster grade 5 students look forwards to, and should remain the responsibility of the district. It is a tradition in New Westminster I stand behind.
52. See previous answer. Life is about competition and needing to try. The effort and skills the children, who apply to be part of the royal suite, acquire is immeasurable - Public speaking, speech writing department, leadership and participation are only a few.
53. What about teachers/ staff recognizing 2-3 Grade 5 kids in their school for their community work, or responsibility or efforts shown at school, and the children are recognized across the district in one event....recognizing kids that are working towards a positive, inclusive, community culture?
54. I love tradition, but I have to admit this is one that made me raise my eyebrows when we moved to New West. I agree about the stereotypical gender roles.
55. A more removed body for selecting the Royal Suite is a good idea. It is little more than a popularity contest now.
56. Gender roles are changing, and we should be sensitive to this. But removing everything gender specific may cause harm as well. Everything doesn't need to be gender specific but I feel like it's ok if some things are. Something I think of is fathers/mothers day. Families come in all shapes and sizes, if a family doesn't have a mother or father in their lives celebrating may be harder for them. This doesn't mean celebrating fathers/mothers day should be removed for those kids who have a harder time.
57. Absolutely this should be discontinued. It's a patriarchal and outdated practice that reinforces harmful stereotypes to our children. I would hope, with the current focus on SOGI policies and the general modern milieu of education, that this has no place in a school event. I cannot emphasize enough how strongly I feel about this.
58. I absolutely agree with this recommendation and that the Royal Suite does not reflect the District's values.
59. "The children I have spoken to are excited about ""running"" for the Royal Suite. This is a great learning exercise in government, elections, and gives students great opportunities to try public speaking, improve leadership, encourages voting, and promotes a bit of healthy competition. (which is in every aspect of adult life)
60. I have heard discussions about the white dresses and feel the students should be able to wear a dress of their choice. I also know a number of girls who are eager to try to be the May Queen and want to wear the white dress - despite the controversy last year.
61. Re: inclusion - it does not have to be a female May Queen or a male Royal Knight. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have and to show others around the world that we are open to accept all nominations. Years ago no one ever fathomed the USA having a black candidate let alone a president. Yet Obama ran, people voted, and he became the 44th President; leading the way for others who are seen as ""different"".

62. Rather than a popularity contest, is it possible to select randomly a male and female student. While I agree with the idea of ensuring equity in the selection and avoid the popularity contest, I think discontinuing tradition is a way to loose our heritage. I don't believe there is anything wrong with maintaining traditional activities that may have had stereotypical gender roles. Given our new climate, new traditions can be created, rather than change or disband old ones, to support the diversity and inclusion values.
63. To my knowledge, there is no impediment to transgender students participating in the Royal Suite, so I am uncertain why the values of inclusion are compromised. As long as inclusion is assured, I see no reason why traditions cannot be upheld. (If the practice in question, however, were to exclude any child based on gender, sexual identity, race, religion, etc. etc., then I would expect that it would be discontinued immediately.) Life, to a degree, is a popularity contest, and there is nothing wrong with children learning about public speaking and communicating something that they feel strongly about to a larger audience. Not "winning" a position in the Royal Suite does not have to be seen as a failure, but should be looked upon as a learning experience.
64. I believe the way kids are picked should be changed from the popular kid wins situation. But unsure how and if this should stay within the schools. This should stay in the school but let's do it in fun postitive change.
65. If the schools can't run a democratic process to select the suite, what kind of message is that conveying about democracy in general?
66. Take away all the primary elements and you will destroy this long running event.
67. This is a popularity contest and then the winning girl gets to dress in a pretty white dress and dance with older gentlemen. I don't believe this to be empowering to girls or boys for that matter. Invest this money and time in maker workshops where all students can discover, learn and grow their minds.
68. The royal suite does not hold any life lessons or enrichment in our children's lives.
69. I think that having something that the children work hard towards doing and winning in this competitive world that we live in is a valuable thing. They compose and perform speeches in order to get selected. There are valuable skills and life lessons that they gain from this.
70. Yes, it's a popularity contest. No, not everyone gets to win all the time. While I value diversity and inclusion I also value kids learning the ability to lose...I'm not against there being changes to the assigned gender roles and I think there are ways to change/modify this while still having those interested vie for the chance to represent their schools.
71. Discontinue this outdated practice supporting heteronormativity. It's essentially a popularity contest and encourages bullying
72. A waste of time and archaic event.
73. I don't think anyone would miss this part of the event.
74. "I support that if there are to be representatives from each school then it should reflect values of inclusion and diversity. And inclusion is now so much more complicated than just considering the 2 traditional gender roles. It is difficult to think of how to continue to have fair representation when the number of girls who take part in the selection process is so huge compared to the boys and that the representations are so gender specific.

75. I believe the outfit that the girls wear is a major driving force behind the heavy competition there is for the female role at many schools. Those girls and that gown is celebrated in the hallways of the schools in our district. The boys to a lesser extent.
76. Whatever the outcome of the decision, there should be time for the current grade 5 students to process any significant changes. This should be done well in advance of May Day. This year's grade 5s have seen the annual procession at their schools and a change, especially to the outfits, will be significant to them. "
77. I find the practice of electing the Royal Suite to be antiquated and is non-inclusive. I agree that it tends to be a popularity contest.
78. I agree with the recommendation report that this is purely a popularity contest and an expensive one (for the chosen girl's family) at that!
79. You can't be serious. What a load of precious codswallop.
80. Learning May Pole dancing is fine, but pageants are passe.
81. "I feel there should be a Royal suite but I think the name and method of selection should be adjusted.
82. I feel that the Royal suite should be selected based on the elementary school career of a student that includes volunteer or community service, participation in school athletic teams and clubs of all kinds. I feel that satisfactory to good academic standing is of importance and I feel that staff should nominate students based on their ability to represent the community as young ambassadors.
83. I also feel that high school students should also be included in the Royal suite with the same criteria for nominations. The Royal suite could be a way to reward students for efforts of personal and social responsibility.
84. MayDay is an event that could be used to strengthen community values and could encourage students to keep issues of community service and social responsibility and justice in their minds as they move through our education system."
85. Because I don't know a lot about the history of May Day, this is difficult for me to judge. May Day was originally a community based event. I like the idea of school's taking ownership of the event from a historical/teaching perspective, as I would applaud them doing the same for other diversely cultural events. But selection of the Royal Suite makes sense to leave with the community.... leave the teaching component with the school. I guess I need to do my own research - what was the purpose of the Royal Suite? What are merits on which the Royal Suite is chosen? Is this something the school's can adequately "judge"?
86. YES!
87. When I was in elementary school the Royal Suite consisted of females only. And it WAS just a popularity contest, but I assumed that the Royal Suite "earned their keep" by participating in community and charity events? They didn't really seem to have anything to do with the actual May Day celebrations, and we didn't really see them afterwards except during the Hyack Parade.
88. Popularity contest don't agree with selection process lots of great kids overlooked because they are not as popular. Not what we are trying to promote in schools
89. This has always been an positive tradition, it is not a popularity contest.
90. It is sexist. Discontinue it.
91. In this day and age of inclusiveness and total acceptance, our goal should be to not encourage events that segregate. would the new SOGIE curriculum approve of this? most likely not.

92. I believe that the children look forward to this event. It is a great event for them to learn public speaking as well it teaches kids what it can look like in an election. They are proud to march out on MayDay representing their individual schools as well as the community. Anybody can run for this in grade five it is a choice if they choose not to. It is not always the popular kids that get voted for either.
93. I agree the concern regarding equity and inclusion but wonder if there was a way that this component of the event could be altered to prevent it from being a popularity contest or encouraging stereotypical gender roles instead of getting ride of it.
94. "I do agree with having a boy and girl represent their school, but I don't like how it is voted on (it IS definitely a popularity contest1). I felt this way in the 70's when I attended school in New West and it is still the same way (my THREE Daughters say the same thing to me). I think the person should be chosen based on a combination of grades &/or submission of why they feel they are the best fit for the role (and present verbally it to a few teachers), community service &/or service to their school.
95. I like the ""costumes"" they wear for May Day... it is part of the tradition and I don't find it negative in anyway."
96. My daughter personally benefited greatly from the attempt to be May Queen. She did not win, but she learned how to write an amazing speech, she practised public speaking and she learned about the nature of contests. This role teaches poise and dignity and IS inclusive.
97. The selection of a royal suite should remain part of the May Day celebrations as is. The process gives students exposure to democratic process when they select two representatives for their school. I disagree that this opposes diversity and inclusion as everyone has an opportunity to be involved.
98. This is a long-standing tradition and my understanding that is if you do not want to attend you are not forced to. This is not all about the schools.
99. My older son (now in grade 8) ran for 'royal knight' at his school -he wrote and practised a speech and delivered it in front of the school. He did not win, but he enjoyed the experience and benefited from it. My younger son is currently in grade 5 and has already started writing his speech. He has wanted to run for 'royal knight' for a number of years. There may be an element of popularity that influences these votes - but also charisma, speech writing, performance, and humour, amongst other qualities. We have competitions for athleticism, art, and academics all the time - I am unclear how this type of school competition is different. To win the majority of votes also takes skill and effort; sometimes popularity may be a factor but I am sure that is not always the case or the only factor. To dismiss it as a popularity contest minimizes the effort and talent these children demonstrate and underestimates all the children who participate. Now that the suite has evolved to include both genders a claim of lack of diversity falls flat. Everyone can, and to my understanding does, participate in this event.
100. This is a fun thing for the kids to participate in, my son's enjoyed the process.
101. I think there should be two representatives from each school but not gender specific.
102. The Royal Suite was a very important part of May Day. I think that the students should have to apply and be chosen based on their merit in the school and community. Definitely NOT by vote of the other children. Then it is just a popularity contest.

103. do not believe in the above statement at all. There is nothing wrong with being liked by your peers. This will happen in any roll you have in life whether you are young or old. Values have changed but we also must adapt to those changes but not remove an event that is a socially positive environment.
104. I understand that staff and administrators may not have the time or resources to fulfill this necessary role. However the Royal Suite is still an important part of this city and New Westminster's past, present and future. This is a valuable part of New Westminster culture. Children are not forced to participate in the Royal Suite, but it is important for those who do, and their interests should not be discouraged.
105. "I feel the excuse regarding issues related to equity and inclusion for the institution of the Royal Suite, which was widely characterized as a popularity contest is being taken completely backwards! This is an excellent opportunity for children at this stage in their education to understand how to accept this type of structure, for they will encounter it on such a larger scale in their near future. Any municipal or provincial election follows the same practice. Stop calling it a popularity contest and instead call it a civil election process so people see it properly as it is. If it's such an issue then stop allowing the students to vote for their favourite classmate, and instead follow the same proceedings as city hall and draw the names!
106. I don't feel the Royal Suite should be transferred to a community organization simply because it is a student activity and is part of the coming together of the school district at Queens Park on May Day.
107. The Hyack Festival Association did a marvellous job assisting and chaperoning with the Royal Suite last year but it was strictly on a volunteer basis and took a lot of time from several community members. I could see this continuing but needs to be looked at further. "
108. The Royal Suite selection should remain as a leadership opportunity for inclined students, and, in order to provide this opportunity to all students in all schools, the Board should not look to transfer this responsibility to a community organization.
109. Stop all mAyday celebrations
110. Look at merit selection
111. It is a New Westminster tradition. I did it myself almost 40 years ago.
112. I am a member of Hyack and this sounds like a desire to transfer responsibilities. I assume you have contacted Hyack? I have no objections in modernizing this concept and think that educators would be able to create a concept that recognizes diversity etc. Perhaps we remove the contest without having a vote? Students submit applications and are reviewed by a Committee?
113. A community organization should not select a Royal Suite on behalf of a district sponsored event. The district should set a timeline to discontinue sponsoring the May Day celebrations (perhaps the 150th).
114. Traditional events require contextual understanding and education. We are carrying on a tradition that came out of a different time. Participants need to understand the context of that time.
115. It should absolutely be discontinued and taken over by a community organization group. It is no longer appropriate use of school time and teachers
116. Representatives could be more merit based but this would also limit candidates as many students do not have family support.

117. Although I do agree it can be seen as a popularity contest however only students that wish to participate are encouraged. They present a speech to their peers as to why they would like to be chosen to represent their school. Perhaps there should be other influences as well. That would need to be worked out. Maybe of the top 3 the present and previous teachers come to an agreement as to whom would make the best representation for the school based on academics and school involvement. Sportsmanship and responsibility.
118. Good riddance.
119. One of my children was chosen to be in the suite in Grade 5; I was uncomfortable with the selection process throughout. It felt like little more than a popularity contest.
120. Selection of a Royal Suite is archaic and therefore should not be forced upon school-aged children.
121. I could not agree more. Thank-you for acknowledging this as systemic support of practices that reinforce stereotypical views of gender and exposing young children to popularity contests that have little meaning in today's society and are a waste of valuable learning time.
122. Do not change this. The students love the opportunity to represent their schools. Those chosen always been with pride. This is probably the children's first opportunity to exercise DEMOCRATIC CHOICE and accept MAJORITY BASED decisions. This in itself is a valuable life lesson. This can be embraced as a teaching point. Keeping the practice of selecting a suite at the school level ensures maximum involvement where the children's opinion and vote actually counts.
123. Schools already do "public speaking contests" and other student-body, vote-driven initiatives that could potentially be viewed as "popularity" contests (who gets selected to go to We Day, or read a poem at Remembrance Day, or sing the national anthem, or get a part in a play? How is that selection done?). At some point there needs to be a way to manage this type of initiative without creating the sense of it being not diverse and/or non-inclusive. May Day and the Royal Suite has created an amazing opportunity for many kids in our community who would not otherwise have these types of opportunities in life. We have seen kids from all socio-economic backgrounds and minorities be a part of the royal suite over the years and it is very reflective of the inclusive community we live in. What an opportunity for a child who has taken the initiative to write a speech and put themselves out there! If gender roles is the issue, why not select 2 May Day representatives from each school?
124. If the practice of selecting a 'Royal Suite' is simply a popularity contest and there is not a great deal of interest from students in becoming the representative, then it is hard to justify continuing. However, I also think it is wrong to abolish a tradition simply to appease special interest groups. There is value in observing traditions and explaining how they came about, and why they need to change as society evolves. It is important that children are taught about the tradition even if it will not continue to be practiced.
125. The Royal suite has passed its best before date. As a tradition, it should be discontinued.
126. YES, by all means, no Prom Queen=no Royal Suite!!
127. I agree that it sounds more like a popularity contest.
128. Even better would be to end the popularity contest completely. But certainly the school system should have no part in it.

129. i think this tradition can be modernized to not be a popularity vote. Perhaps students choice has weight behind it, but other things should be considered, contribution to the school community (by the student not the parents/family), academic standing, overall contribution to the class room and peer groups. With a better selection process, it addresses the diversity issues.
130. "I agree that the process for selecting the Royal Suite is faulty, but I think the idea of selecting a Royal Suite is sound. The Royal Suite has the opportunity to participate in community events throughout the year.
131. A suggestion for getting away from the current ""popularity contest"" may be to pull names out of a hat from the list of candidates that want to run.
132. When I was a student in the district, there were no speeches. The girls who wanted to run for the May Queen Suite put their names in, they went into all the Grade 4-7 classes to get introduced, and there was a vote. But pulling names out of a hat would eliminate the popularity contest."
133. Do you really want to be the school board that ends a 147 year tradition?
134. This should definitely be discontinued as it is an outdated concept and does not support inclusion and diversity as mentioned above.
135. I have seen it happen year after year as both a parent and teacher that it is primarily a popularity contest and many students feel pressured they are unable to participate because of this. Is is non inclusive and goes against all we are supposed to be teaching.
136. I agree with the first portion of Recommendation #2.
137. The Royal Suite has always been about popular vote, regardless of who is best suited for the task of representing their school. We baby these children too much in today's society from dealing with the WIN/LOSE situations in everyday life. Another reason sports day has been changed to fun day. It is a tradition that should be kept as is. Keep the ceremonial attire for the suite as well as keeping the Royal Suite intact!!!
138. Not every tradition needs to be swept aside in the name of these Progressive values. We still have a Queen of Canada and a possible future King, so I don't see why could we not continue the tradition of a Royal Suite comprised of a female and a male student
139. In my experience, the elections do not elect the "popular" students rather those who are kind and friendly throughout the school year. The Royal Suite can be renamed to move away from gender biased labels but the elections of the Suite is enjoyed by students and furthers their connectedness to the May Day celebrations.
140. Continue the tradition of the May Queen, etc. but for those students who are interested in pursuing it.
141. The way it should be done is all applicants are drawn in a lottery style setup
142. Leave it as it is. What is so wrong with tradition?
143. I disagree that it's just a popularity contest. I can't see anything wrong with kids developing skills and confidence in public speaking. My son who was in grade 4 last year said he voted for the boy who had the best speech, not the most popular boy.
144. I do agree with removing this. I think it's counterproductive to inclusion to select only certain students for this honour. Students should be singled out for their accomplishments, not for their popularity. Popularity affords you enough advantages without awarding more.

145. When I moved to New Westminster in August 2016 (from the Prairies) and learned about the events surrounding May Day (and specifically the Royal Suite), I actually thought it was a joke. This practice is dated, exclusive, reinforces stereotypes and in no way reflects my values or my family's values. I believe that the school district has no business supporting this. (NOTE: I would prefer an even stronger recommendation - one that went further to state the Royal Suite be discontinued entirely.)
146. Royal Suite is patriarchal and out-dated. The district should END this practice.
147. The royal suite is an old-fashioned idea that doesn't fit with children nowadays. It is not inclusive at all. My girl is a tomboy and can not relate to the May Queen. It's a fertility rite dressed up as a children's celebration.
148. Our Canadian and local traditions should be celebrated not shunned. Life is a popularity contest
149. "The ""popularity contest"" as you have termed it is a great teaching tool for the students to prepare them for similar contests later in their lives such as interviewing for jobs, and running for all levels of public office.
150. If the current method of having each interested student campaign and prepare a speech and pontificate on why they would be a suitable candidate, you could go back to the old method of simply drawing interested names out of a hat.
151. I participated in the Royal Suite in 1974 and support this recommendation.
152. May Day is about TRADITION. If we are talking about inclusion, let's change the Aboriginal dances to include British dress and songs so it's not so unequal. No? Oh, I see. Only the British traditions are politically correct to squash and push under the table as irrelevant to today's international community. Has everyone missed the first word of our province ? BRITISH Columbia. How can it be OK to ignore OUR British history? Tradition is to elect the Royal Suite. Boo Hoo for those who are not selected. The real world IS a popularity contest. This teaches about the real world, and how to cope with disappointment.
153. This practice is not inclusive and does not contribute to a sense of belonging or community among students. There is no educational justification for this.
154. If this event is to have school district support, there should be some educational value. The only value I see is a history lesson in outdated gender roles.
155. As an alternative suggestion, all kids who want to be part of the Royal Suite can be recognized at the school level and perform speeches-this is great public speaking training. Then a random draw can select the representatives. This is a straightforward approach that takes away the popularity contest part of the selection procedure. And could easily be done at the district level in a random draw.
156. It's tradition, if you want to be more inclusive, just have 2 reps from each school and then let them decide what they want to wear and what position they are running for. Who knows, maybe we'll end up with two in dresses or two in pants. I don't care.
157. I am undecided about Recommendation #2
158. I didn't represent my school back in 1979, and I'm not scarred from not being selected, and fully supported our school representative. It's also a fantastic opportunity for the youth to practice their public speaking skills.
159. The selection of the Royal Suite and May Queen do not reflect the District's focus on inclusivity and diversity.

160. The selection of the Royal Suite and May Queen do not reflect the District's focus on inclusivity and diversity.
161. The district's ideas of inclusion, diversity and gender roles in this matter are severely misguided and based on thoughts held by radical activists; these concerns are not held by typical parents. The selection of the Royal Suite has nothing to do with either inclusion nor diversity, but it serves as an opportunity for students to select representatives from among their peers as their delegates to a community event. In this way, the students get an early opportunity to understand and participate in a democratic institution. The members of the Suite get an opportunity to take on serious responsibility as representatives of the diverse school communities, and receive an introduction to esteemed members of their wider community, such as the Lancers. Elementary students should in no way be concerned with radical notions of gender identity, and are neither bothered nor harmed by positive representations of so-called stereotypical gender roles. On the contrary, the positive relations demonstrated between the Royal Lancers and the young girls in the suite are a soothing balm to the sexual hysteria present in our society, and they serve a valuable purpose in demonstrating good relationships between sexes and generations.

Comments from Respondents Not-Identified on Recommendation #2

1. Once again...We are the ROYAL CITY...I look at the May Day Royal Suite as an extension of what the history of New Westminster is all about.
2. The Royal Suite is associated with colonialism, fails to address cultural and historical sensitivities and injustices, and is a violation of the sexual orientation and gender identity policy and human rights code.
3. The selection of the Royal Suite and May Queen do not reflect the District's focus on inclusivity and diversity.
4. The selection of the Royal Suite and May Queen do not reflect the District's focus on inclusivity and diversity. Establish this as a shared event with the city, schools and community. Consider establishing a working group with an eye towards a long term partnership with the city, community and school district.

Recommendation #3

The board should endeavour to transfer responsibility for organizing the May Day celebrations in Queen's park outside of school hours to a community organization who could then decide how best to continue the tradition. In this way, for example, those community members who are particularly keen to keep alive the institutions of the May Queen and Royal Suite could formulate their own selection methods, costume requirements and ceremonial 'duties'.

Comments from Students on Recommendation #3

1. I want a chance to do folk dance and maypole at the park like my family has for 5 generations
2. It needs to stay the same. I have been going since I was a baby and enjoy watching with my grandparents. I value the tradition and it's part in my community
3. It has been a wonderful tradition in this city and fondly remembered by anyone who has participated. Why does it have to end?
4. Yes it takes work and many people to make May Day what it is, but this sounds like an excuse to not participate in May Day. Being able to practice the dances with your friends and fellow classmates during school hours was such a fun experience for me. And taking it away doesn't seem right. Students like everyone else have after school dedications so making time for everyone that wishes to participate is going to be probably more difficult than practicing during school hours. And many students will not be able to participate in the tradition because they have other commitments.
5. When done in the schools all students are able to participate, whereas if done outside of the school only some kids would get the chance. That is not inclusive.
6. This would be another horrible idea for you cannot take may day away from the schools because lots of kids would not be able to participate if it didn't happen at the schools and that is not fair or inclusive because some parents would not be able to even get their kids to the celebration if it weren't for the schools that brought them there. I would be devastated if I was in their shoes.

Comments from New Westminster Residents of on Recommendation #3

1. I agree with May Day being a 100% community-organized event, starting this year. There is NO need for it to go on as a a school-based time-waster any longer. However, I don't really think it should be the School Board's job to find these organizations. If the community is gung ho about May Day, then it's up to them to take it on. If they are not gung ho enough to organize it, then that counts as the community not really caring enough to see it continue.
2. The staff and teachers didn't want to do the work? Big surprise there...This effectively ends May Day and you'd have to be pretty obtuse to not acknowledge this.
3. A fair solution for all involved
4. Again, how much real research has this "task force" done? As volunteers this "task force" has dictated and tied hands. No real interest in community or tradition. By handing off May Day, to others to manage what really is happening is giving it to someone else as "we can't be bothered." This also means less hands helping. Staff and teachers do not do a lot for May Day other than teach the dances which is done as part of the physical education curriculum. It's the volunteers who spend many hours of their own time that make !ay Day what it is.

5. Again. No. This is a school-based event that builds community. If you put it out of school hours, kids will just turn to their phones and it will die. We can do better.
6. "Why reinvent the wheel. Leave it where it works. As far as missing ""valuable school time"" they seem to be able to miss school time for field trips, snow days, work to rule, Pro D. A few rehearsals and such can' be bad for them. Please keep May Day in the school.
7. As is, May Day uses a considerable amount of time and money. For larger schools, it is difficult to coordinate class schedules to allow for all the Grade 3s to meet at a certain time, and Grade 4s at another time in the gym. It is highly disruptive to combined classes. Students end up missing gym time, library time, resource time, music time, as well as have reduced class time for academic activities. The May Day dances do not easily allow for accommodations. Students who have difficulty participating in the traditional way are often unable to participate at all (or participate in a minimal way), yet they still have their class time disrupted. There are no opportunities to individualize the content. Many teachers do not know the dances themselves, so also have to spend a considerable amount of time after school learning the dances from other colleagues before they can teach them to their classes. Many families do not feel connected to May Day, so while it might be an important tradition to longtime New West residents, it is not representative of the diverse population. It would have been nice to see this survey available in other languages to more easily allow these families to provide their feedback. By moving to a community-based celebration, those families who are keen to participate would still have the chance to do so. It would also allow school staff who feel passionate about May Day to continue to offer their services. This would be similar to the model currently used in Port Coquitlam. Port Coquitlam also runs the event in the evening. This would allow families who have an interest to more easily attend.
8. This will allow for students to not miss instructional time, while still allowing May Day to take place. Students who are interested will be able to take part, while those who are not keen to participate will not be forced to do so. I believe this is similar to how it is done in Port Coquitlam.
9. May Day has always been part of the school and should remain so. Community groups change and some dissolve. This would be the beginning of the end of this wonderful tradition.
10. Dance used to be a component of the Physical Education program. Other than learning the maypole dance and folk dance I didn't find that much was done to accomplish these learning outcomes. If it is no longer part of the curriculum then I can see why teachers feel that too much time is being spent on learning these dances. However if dance is still part of the curriculum, the May Day dances can be incorporated into the PE program. I would suggest that an out of school May Day organized by a community group would be less inclusive than what we have now. Another consideration is funding which is difficult for many community groups. Over the years we seem to be losing a lot of traditions that I feel help bring a community together and helps new comers learner some of the history of the area.
11. I strongly agree with this recommendation. May Day is touted as a community event, but it happens on a school day. How much community (besides students and parents) actually attends? I would definitely like to see this become a community run event. Participation would then be voluntary and organized by those who feel connected to and have a passion for May Day.

12. While those at Hyack would fight to keep this tradition alive, as they are now, I am not confident that they would be able to maintain the level of organisation involved. I would suggest a joint effort between SD 40 and several community organisations.
13. as much as it should be part of learning in school I would live to see more community positions to help organize. I for one would love to help and as my own children grow up in this city, I would love to help continue this very important event.
14. The teachers of this district knew about of this tradition before they signed their contract and should continue this tradition. May Day is at the end of the school year and there are many "fun" days taken by the teachers, so the argument of losing valuable teaching hours don't wash.
15. I wish one of the questions asked if May Day should continue. I would answer no it is time to end May Day. Perhaps there could be a celebration of our history including the First Nations in our area.
16. This should be part of school, do we not teach children History? This is local history. Use it as a learning tool.
17. "1) Teachers are paid to teach, and sometimes a community will have items above and beyond provincial curricula that they deem have an importance to be taught. For decade, New Westminister as a collective have held the opinion that May Day is our item that goes above and beyond, and that the event is of the importance to do so. My opinion is that teachers who have not experienced May Day first hand, as students, should not unilaterally make the decision, or support the decision to cancel district involvement.
18. 2) The amount of teachable material that comes with May Day is up to the teacher them self. When I went through elementary school, It was more that just dances that we learnt, but we also learnt about early British Columbia History, including the treatment of natives and Chinese (specifically to new west & province wide)."
19. It has no place in the education system.
20. Currently there are community based people who assist with the May Day planning and traditions, and support the teachers in the whole process.
21. "this is a tradition of the city of New Westminister, and my feelings are that when teachers and staff are hired by this district they should be aware that this is a requirement of the of their employment
22. At one time, prior to the Hyack association becoming involved, there was a May Day Committee and this worked well.
23. Let those who feel strongly about continuing May Day organize it with community involvement and input.
24. What so they can do even less in school...
25. I think removing this event from the purview of the school district entirely is the best course of action, and would make room for schools to celebrate a broader cross section of local history that is more inclusive of Indigeneous culture, and minority immigrant cultures.
26. May Day MUST be kept within schools. How else are children to learn and appreciate the city and community in which they live?

27. This recommendation is flawed in the extreme. The reason the schools are integrated into the events is that without teacher support and mandated participation the tradition is not practically feasible or behaviorally achievable. The school district staff I believe have profoundly underestimated and appallingly devalued the pedagogical value of the entire May Day historical phenomenon. If the students are not learning through the experience, new and innovative ways should be developed and implemented to teach children important lessons about cultural heritage, linking May Day to appreciation of the practices and traditions of other cultures. SD40 teachers and staff should do deeper research into the topic and realize that, as stated by the United Nations, damaging the cultural heritage of a community devalues all of humanity. Aside from all of the forgoing, to replicate what the schools do to make May Day happen would require the same resources in money and human capital as the schools themselves. The taxpayers of the city have obviously concluded that the most efficient use of time and resources is the status quo and I would urge the trustees to reject the proposals and not only maintain May Day as it is, but invest even more into it.
28. This tradition must stay in the schools for it to be meaningful and inclusive of all. Taking it outside the schools would only make it less inclusive and much harder to manage.
29. It could be part of the hyack festival and be for those interested.
30. "I believe a hybrid of this 'Recommendation' should be considered instead. While I support the transition of the organizational component of the May Day Celebration away from a District-orchestrated event to a volunteer committee, I strongly urge that the District and schools remain involved in the process, that it is an educational component to the curriculum and that students participate in the May Day Celebration during the one afternoon a year that it does now. The students would continue to 'practice' the May Pole component as well as anything else related to the May Day Celebration at school, with their teachers and peers as they do now. To completely abandon this 'community event' at the school level because it faces ""significant pedagogical and practical issues and command little general support amongst District staff"" is weak. This is an educational, community involved opportunity, not a 'chore' to be handed off to the volunteers once again. All that is asked in this 'hybrid solution' is to practice the physical elements of May Day, use a creative writing class to draft, edit and submit an essay, and take one afternoon to enjoy and attend the celebration.
31. On a final note, in my experience, there is a core of very committed, hard working volunteers that continually 'step up to the plate' and keep things going at the schools. From attending a PAC, or sitting on the board. Volunteering to drive for an outing or sit as a parent volunteer on a bus. Fundraising, organizing, planning. Year end celebrations, Sports Days, Grade 5 Grad, Grade 8 Gard, Grade 12 Grad and Dry Grad (an IMMENSE undertaking!). The parents in this community give a great deal of their time and emotion into this school district, how hard is it to give a little back to the community?
32. But that's just me.
33. Thank you
34. It belongs as part of the Hyack Festival. Not school. The kind of time and resources funneled into MayDay are excessive.
35. Not a school responsibility.

36. If you take the event out of the school system - then you completely remove the children's participation. The whole point of this exercise is to encourage broad based participation within the entire community. It is the WHOLE COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER. Narrowing any aspect of that ideal would serve only to deteriorate the inclusiveness of this event to the schools as well as the community. The community part of May Day also involves HYACK. Keep them both strong and as they were.
37. I believe that the push-back that the task force received from the staff and teachers surveyed mostly came from people with no real connection with our community other than the fact that they are employed here. The teachers that I know who are from New West are in favour of the continuation of the traditions of May Day.
38. This absolutely should be taken up by community members who are interested in this event. It absolutely should be removed as an expectation of district schools.
39. I know one thing We will not be voting for anyone on council or the school board who have anything to do with getting rid of Mayday.
40. Ah, the heart of the matter! No one is suggesting that May Day not continue as a long-running tradition; what staff and teachers object to is having to shoulder the responsibility for implementing it. Most of the people who support May Day have never had to teach May Day dances to reluctant intermediate students (a descriptor that includes about 80% of any given grade 3 or 4 class). When I was teaching a grade 4/5 class during 2011-12, one of the students' favourite activities was Question of the Day (QotD). This was basically a debate in which the students came up with a yes/no question, did an initial vote, and then stood in lines to express their : yes, no, or I don't know/I can see both sides/I'm not sure. Every student had to express an argument or opinion, even if it was just, "I agree with So-and-So." Students could change lines if they found a particular argument or thought convincing. There was a rebuttal, and at the end, another vote was taken. One of these QotD debates was about whether the district should have May Day. Initially, there were a few traditionalists who appreciated the history surrounding the event. By the end of the debate, almost every student indicated a desire to abolish May Day. They found it boring, they felt like they could be learning other/better things, they didn't enjoy having to do dances in the rain (as frequently happened), they thought it was mainly for adults ("we're slave labour!"), and they particularly disliked losing their precious hour of gym time to learning dances for up to two months. One kid even said, "You should take a picture of the final vote and send it to the district." I didn't, but I was sorely tempted, because many teachers don't like May Day any more than their students. But I think you already know that.
41. I'm fine with the system we've been using so far. So why try to fix something that is not broken?
42. This is not going to help poor attitudes - that is what needs to change. People teaching this need to take pride in the traditions.
43. Strongly agree. Yes. I love May Day, but really, it needs to be a community event. If it dies, it dies. A testament to how much heart, work and effort goes into planning, preparing and administering the event.

44. "Some tradition is healthy for society and as its multiracial this is great way to endorse diversity. When is singing and dancing ever a bad thing for children and it should be part of a well rounded education. this can be just one more thing kids lose out on. Scrapping in favour of community group only shifts administrative burden to a non profit (current or future). this could cause lost employment at the district level.
45. i think a different approach is more favourable than just washing your hands of it."
46. This is a school-based event. As I commented earlier, it should not be considered a burden but a priority to provide children with a larger scope of what it means to be a part of a community. Sure, the event is outdated and could use an update but that doesn't mean it should be taken from the school. At this age, Grade 5, the most important learning a child can do is not going to be in the classroom.
47. It is too bad that the schools no longer want to be associated with the city-wide May Day. Participating in May Day and attending as a child was always a highlight of the school year and a good historical learning experience. If we are not going to uphold the traditions of our school district that make us so unique maybe we should just amalgamate our school district with another, such as Burnaby, instead of having a school board who will not fight to save our traditions, thereby saving the city the money inherent in the support of an individual school district. Hopefully this survey will show that the people of New Westminster appreciate, and strive to save, our long standing traditions.
48. I think that if people feel strongly enough that it should be continued, they should be willing to volunteer their time to help make it happen.
49. If we are looking at place based learning, and how our community shapes who we are, then this local tradition should continue to be supported by the district. It's a rich tradition with community building at its core.
50. Doing this would be the end of May Day.
51. I am department head for visual and performing arts at NWSS. In the last 6 years, there has been a 40% cut in our departmental budget as well as the downloading of rental costs for Massey Theatre in the amount of approximately \$40,000 a year (which teachers and students have to fundraise to pay for). I know Mayday requires funding resources, and while I appreciate the history of an event that brings all schools in the district together the resources diverted to support this one event should be used to support basic programming needs in our schools such as the ones described above.
52. What a way to kill tradition! Its time the City and the School Board worked together as it was in the past. Don't know when the City totally opted out of the planning of Mayday, but maybe Council needs to take a look at budgeting and building on tradition, instead of using tax dollars for the beautification of the downtown core that only those that reside in 'Condo City' can really enjoy without paying through the nose for parking.
53. Once again my point to continue as it has been done for decades by Schools and City Government should be first priority.

54. I strongly believe that the School District is the correct vehicle to continue with organizing and presenting our May Day, along WITH City Hall and the community. Talking with new families this past May Day, who were thrilled that their children could participate in such an incredible tradition, tells me that New Westminster is the ONLY place in the Lower Mainland with such a strong identity, an identity that we would all do well to preserve rather than amalgamate into the suburban sprawl of sameness from one city to another!
55. "The schools need to keep the May Day format. If communities were given the job of organizing students, practices, costumes, location, etc., it would never happen, or get unorganized, watered down and then become extinct. The people who suggested #3 as an option are who:
- people who want to save money (then get community sponsors to help with the money)
 - people who have never taught the dance and saw how the students enjoy looking forward to dancing at May Day
56. -people who talk during the event because they can't hear the speeches due to the speakers being not loud enough or inadequate"
57. Please see my comment to Recommendation #1. This event needs to stay a district school event.
58. The staff needs to appreciate the culture and heritage of New Westminster. District staff needs to change THEIR thought processes to keep our heritage alive! If they cannot do so then maybe they need to work elsewhere.
59. May Day celebrations should most definitely remain within the school district.
60. This is a learning event and therefore should be done within school hours.
61. This way only the students and support staff who actually care to carry on a long standing tradition will be asked to perform the duties. Residents who have no interest in continuing New Westminster's traditions will not be subjected to things contrary to their beliefs or followings.
62. "Given the scope of the event, there is no local community organization capable of hosting a successful city-wide May Day celebration -- either logistically or financially (there are no provisions for sustainable funding to make it possible). By any practical standard, to endorse this recommendation is to overtly plot for the ultimate demise of this long-standing tradition.
63. Its important to keep this historic connection part of the classroom lessons
64. I have a 3 year old. I would rather see that, by the time she hits elementary school, she is not losing extensive school time to this.
65. This makes sense
66. "Traditions are important when they mean something good for the entire community. When they exalt the feeling of connection and belonging among their members. I wonder, with the growth of the city, whether this is entirely true.
67. What is the purpose of it."
68. This must remain a function of the Board.
69. This is an asinine idea. A community group? Students voluntarily participate outside of school hours? What group would take this on? How would it be funded? Give your head a shake.
70. May Day should remain the responsibility of the school district, and the task force should be fired.
71. May Day should remain the responsibility of the school district, and the task force should be fired.

72. The organisation of May day should NEVER involve public schools if it doesn't respect the principle of gender equality, and doesn't support values at the core of our system of education, and including diversity.
73. It will not be anything close to the community event. Some parents wouldn't want to bother and weekends they often have other things going on. Can't we work to make it more inclusive for all the students so they are not bored on the sidelines when not dancing? can we cut out some of the boring "talk" and make it more interesting? while keeping with the idea of May Day. I danced the Maypole as a kid, and when my son danced, it just took a few bars of music to bring that memory back. It's something we have here in New Westminster, yes it is colonial. Do we have to ban all things with colonial history? can't we incorporate the history of New Westminster as it was with the native aboriginal people, and the changes that came (good and bad) and May Day could be seen as people transplanting something familiar to a land far from their home? or something along those lines? I don't want to see us become "vanilla" just like everybody else, and while some people probably think if you support this you just aren't modern/hip/up on things/out of touch etc. it's kind of nice to have some history in your town, that is yours alone.
74. I believe that the intent of transferring the selection process from the schools to a community group would serve the purpose of eliminating May Day over the course of a few years. It would be very difficult for an outside group to co ordinate the selection process in each school and it would indeed become an elitist event rather than the all inclusive one that exists today. The community group could certainly take over more of the responsibility of the co ordination of the actual event which is a huge addition to school administrators' already over burdened work load.
75. "Perhaps in the future make it clear at the hiring stage that teachers working in New Westminster are required to teach May Day ceremonial events.
76. May Day is a long standing tradition that is bigger than us all an frankly, none of us have the right to discontinue it because we don't feel like teaching it.
77. Reinstate the running races as well. That would get your school participation back into the May Day event."
78. I agree that May Day should happen outside of school time. However, I do not think it is the school boards responsibility to have to find another organization to take on the responsibility. I feel that if this is an important tradition to the New Westminster then some organization will find a way to make it happen but it is not a requirement of the new curriculum and therefore should not take away time from the curriculum that the students are mandated to learn by our provincial government.
79. "A VIBRANT AND ENLARGED MAY DAY COMMITTEE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF MAY DAY BUT IT NEEDN'T DIVORCE ITSELF FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE TIME SPENT IN MAY DAY PREPARATION IS A LESSON IN COOPERATION AND HISTORY AND TRADITION THAT CANNOT BE LEARNED IN A CLASSROOM.
80. VOLUNTEERISM IS A HALLMARK OF NEW WESTMINSTER CITIZENS. I AM 83, AND I KNOW MANY CITIZENS LIKE ME WHO WOULD GLADLY COME TO A SCHOOL AND TEACH THE MAYPOLE DANCES SO THE TEACHER COULD GO BACK TO HER MARKING AND LESSON PREPARATION; THE SUPPORT STAFF COULD WELCOME VOLUNTEERS WHO, UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION, COULD LESSON THE BURDEN OF THEIR MAY DAY TASKS. YOU ONLY NEED TO ASK"

81. "Again, refer to the answers in question 1. The citizens elect the trustees and the trustees direct/mandate the teachers and staff. It is not the teacher's and district's decision to choose what is taught to our children. Trustees are elected and required to respect the wishes and direction of the residents who pay the taxes. This question is not applicable and should not be presented for a vote.
82. School district teachers are required in their job mandates to teach May Day. They agree to teaching these topics when they become a teacher in SD40 . End of debate.
83. I would rather see teachers cut out one of many pro-d days to make up for this one lost day of teaching for the students than move May Day off of school time. This May Day activity teaches, involves, and develops children more than one day in a classroom will. And it also gives them memories to look back on for a lifetime.
84. Staff and Teachers of the District should know that the residents of the City who pay their wages through taxes expect May Day to be continued.
85. It's a festival for all of New Westminster's children and it is best organized AND SUPPORTED by the school system.
86. This is not a not for profit activity or a way to peel off budget and place the responsibility elsewhere. Arts, culture and heritage are critical learnings to be owned by educators.
87. May of us that have grown up in NW and believe in this event are more than willing to give our help to making this return and continue to the Major event it was,
88. Event must remain within the school district.
89. Leave May day exactly as it is
90. "First of all your survey was given to your staff in June. Is that not the time of year when every teacher and support staff are feeling overwhelmed and exhausted?
91. Were the positive outcomes from May Day discussed? The students dancing, gathering once a year to celebrate, students learning about being an audience,
92. being a part of a tradition for 147 years...
93. Positive changes can always be made to support changing times.
94. Yes, it takes time, effort and cost to make May Day happen. Could we not get creative and find a way that supports the Districts values and still continue to have our traditional celebration in Queens Park.
95. Have the students been surveyed? I remember when I worked at NWSS and taking time to visit the classrooms to ask there thoughts on May Day...
96. The majority of the students were....""We want May Day to continue""!!! Dancing the folk dance and Maypole are a part of going to school in New Westminster.
97. I am ALL for change to bring things current, I do believe it can happen if you have the support of the Community.
98. Instead of looking at having May Day gone completely from the School District, how CAN we make it work. There will always be staff that will complain, but with support maybe it could be a positive event!!
99. The May Day celebrations do not fit with BC's current curriculum, with the focus on multiculturalism and First Nations history and culture. Some of the current May Day traditions are both archaic and, quite frankly, disturbing.

100. The May Day celebrations do not fit with BC's current curriculum, with the focus on multiculturalism and First Nations history and culture. The May Day celebration's do not promote critical engagement with the province's history. The School District should not bear the entire financial burden of the May Day celebrations - - \$50,000 is a lot of money to spend. Community Members express the greatest interest in maintaining the historical May Day celebrations, so a community organization should step up and organize them.

Comments from Non-Residents on Recommendation #3

1. Whoever needs to keep up the tradition, should come forward and organize it.
2. Keep it where it is. I do not understand why it is fashionable to try and destroy our culture.
3. Just not practical.
4. This is something that Port Coquitlam have done for many years. Students and teachers opt to participate and practice the dance as an after school activity in the same way one practices volleyball etc. There is still a May Queen. The May Day celebration happens on the Friday evening before the May Day parade. New Westminister could do something similar before the Hyack Parade.
5. Give us back all our traditions. Create opportunities for all grades to be involved by creating a large choir or art project. MayDay is culturally important to our children and they need to learn about the history and the people throughout history that have supported.
6. I am not sure who was responsible for Mayday in the 1950-1960's , I think it was the City not the School Board. Perhaps that method of running Mayday should be returned as it was done right with no problems. Mayday is a direct reflection on the City , the residents and Taxpayers of New Westminister. If the Task Force wants to preserve the "Old Traditional Mayday " then I would be for them taking it over under the umbrella of the City.
7. Please return the May Day events to what they were for so many years, the last few years have gone downhill. I went to Herbert Spencer in the 1960's and participated in the May Day activities, and I think that it is something that I've always fondly remembered. It is a shame what is has turned into lately.
8. An extremely lazy and dismissive answer to such an important part of history. Surveying staff and teachers is where this has gone off the rails. When we travel world wide, we visit so many historical places and we love to read about and experience the history. Here is our opportunity to maintain and finally have a tradition that has endured in our very young country and just the thought that people out there cannot see this for the incredible opportunity that it is....is insane to me. We should be calling in the broadcasters, Royals, Rick Mercers....even those damn Americans (that are so much better at preserving their history) and bragging about the Royal City's May Day Tradition that the School Board has continued to uphold for almost 150 years. I am so very proud to have been born and raised in New Westminister and May Day was the biggest part of my childhood.
9. Don't diminish the tradition. Farming it out will do this.
10. Aren't teachers suppose to teach? It should be a pleasure and honour to teach/participate in such a rich historical event. Just what NW needs is another task force or comittee - not! Honestly, how much gets taught in May anyway?

11. obviously the school teachers and others in the school have become uninterested in continueing with this tradition, too bad, get with it, it is important, and it is sad to just throw away everything traditional just because people who have the responsibility of keeping it going, can't get into it, a sign of the times i guess, no passion for tradition, just a desire to dump it on others to get it done, can't be bothered, that is sad, i remember everyone in the school taking mayday preparations very seriously, and like many other preparations for events that the schools put on, time and effort was done together to turn out a grand day, it is educational, a great learning experience about life for all. what i do see today is that students do not behave in school as they did many years ago, it is loosey goosey, an teachers are part of that behavior, if i had said and done many things that are done in schools today, i would have been in the principals office pronto, and taught 'not' to repeat whatever it was i did that was not acceptable, so i see that a lack of control and the desire to control and the lack of behavior of students definitely can make the arranging of mayday more difficult, that is sad, and if the school and students can't seem to see this thru, happily and with passion and effort, it is a sign how far downhill the schools have gone over the years, definitely something to take note of.
12. Perhaps you could utilize a combination of school and community time to perpetuate the traditions.
13. If an outside entity takes charge of this event, I believe it will deteriorate. School is an important part of each child's life. With today's interest in technology and other after school involvements, students and (perhaps even more so) parents will find reasons to not have their children involved. As I have already said, make it part of the school curriculum and not an add-on. Community members could be invited to help teachers with the teaching of the dances, although I maintain that this could be considered a valid part of the PE and fine arts curriculum. The value in learning something new and practicing it until you achieve performance standards is sadly being lost. As well, the mandatory aspect of this at the school level DOES make it an inclusive event. Some parents are supportive of the arts , but many are not, so this may the one and only time that some students get to participate in something like this and perform. Please see the value in this event!
14. This should be a City event supported by the city council and the school board.
15. If this is the only way this Tradition can be save!
16. "The teachers if they are wise should take this time of May Day to teach the history of not only May Day but the city history and it is funny that for over one hundred years Teachers and the school district never had a problem with any issue surrounding May Day. Only in the last 10 years has it been too difficult for teachers to participate in the cities history.
17. Again, the task force recommendations are largely steered by non-residential staff responses without vested interest in the actual community, including its traditions. May Day is an inclusive public, not private, tradition.
18. I truly do not understand how a celebration with this very long history of District staff involvement is just now posing "significant pedagogical and practical issues." It would be very difficult to mobilize the children if May Day were to be removed from the responsibility of the school district. The whole school-wide, community-wide participation would be lost; this was the purpose of May Day in the first place: to bring people together as the school children, the teachers, and the residents (or friends) of New Westminster.

19. I agree that the responsibility for the May Day celebration should be with the city of New Westminster or a willing community organization. There are many other ways and opportunities for a school to foster community involvement rather than the May Day celebration. Additionally, placing the responsibility for organization to the city or a community group might actually bring the May Day celebration a higher profile as well as more committed participants.
20. Even if this should continue a pluralist celebration should be the norm as it recognizes a true history of our community: Sikh, Chinese, Aboriginal, South American, you name it we have all come here (or remain here) to celebrate being Canadian not being British.
21. Here we have it.....sadly. Too much trouble for staff. When the whole city is part of a tradition that is positive everybody wins. This is saddening.
22. I believe that this is a mistake for several reasons. It would change the face of May Day as we know it and although there mostly thoughtful parents, community leaders in this area, it would be marred by those seeking power to make the event part of their own agenda. Be very careful in this regard. Having the school district in charge, keeps the event equitable.
23. Absolutely not! I was May Queen in 1979, and I cannot express what an amazing learning experience it was for me. It was the first time I wrote anything, my first time speaking in public (and May Day was a huge deal back then and very well attended). It was incredibly educational. Though I no longer live in NW, I would be happy to volunteer at least one day a week to May Day.
24. Learning the maypole, meeting kids from other schools, attending other districts maydays and parades was exciting and character building. Seeing all the kids dance the maypole at the same time is a great tradition as was learning to dance the Lancers with the aldermen/ women. Also meeting dignitaries and civic officials does make a child think more about the process.
25. It's all about the schools. It wouldn't be the same if it is organized by community group.
26. School staff should be involved but not totally responsible...
27. Keep May Day under the school district's control.
28. I believe that at a school level teachers should still teach the idea behind May Day and the elements around it (ie. folk dance, may pole) but it should be the child's choice to participate in performing outside of school time. This goes back to recommendation 1 where May Day should be celebrated at school to give the children the opportunity to celebrate their learning with their peers.
29. I think that it is important to identify the May Day Celebration as an important part of this community's culture. Therefore, I think students should be taught the dance at the school level, but then it can be their choice if they participate in the actual May Day celebrations outside of school time. I also think it would be valuable to have both a traditional May Day dance and also incorporate a traditional dance from the Qayqayt peoples.
30. As long as long-held traditions are continued and withheld, including Maypole dancing in dresses for girls and dress pants and shirt for boys. Royal suite in white etc
31. Taking this away from schools will ensure that this will become the popularity contest that you accuse it to be. Furthermore, it will alienate the children who will not get to participate exactly because it will no longer be part of school.
32. Please keep May Day the way it is
33. When you transfer the organization of this event to an outside of school community/organization, you lose the interest and constructiveness of the students to this city tradition.

34. "I find it sad that the teachers and other staff appear to generally be against being involved with May Day. I assume that other holidays and seasons are celebrated in the schools in a multicultural and inclusive way today. I have spoken to recent immigrants who are happy about celebrating holidays such as Halloween and Thanksgiving that all children and their families can participate in together. New Westminster is unique in Canada in that it continues to have a May Day celebration. Soon it will have been celebrated for 150 years. How can it just be discarded? I am hopeful that a way can be found to instill positive feelings about the May Day celebration. I would hope that the board can brainstorm ideas about how to point the children toward being proud of their city and its history.
35. I have lived away from New Westminster for many years but I am now a property owner there and will be returning. I am looking forward to a place that is becoming more diverse and progressive but at the same time is preserving its history and traditions in a modern context. May Day is a part of that."
36. "When the event is coordinated by the School District, then all children have the opportunity to take part (inclusivity) no matter their socio-economic demographic. If the event is moved to a community group, there is risk that marginalized children would be unable to attend.
37. I am a former flower girl and a Maypole Dancer from Lord Tweedsmuir School. We had children from many ethnic and immigrant backgrounds in my classes. There were 40 kids to a class back in the day and gosh, the teachers taught us the dances and made it fun. It would be a damn shame if MayDay gets canned because of political correctness. "
38. This should be maintained status quo
39. Does this mean you are hiring teachers that aren't proud of the traditional setup in New Westminster
40. "How is this an option at all ? This basically says we do away with May Day in the school system outright. I vote no and disagree.
41. So I'm at the end of the 3 question survey and isn't it interesting that there was NO OPPORTUNITY to vote for an option to keep May Day celebrations as they have been for 100 + years. At this time the children will be voting to carry on.. or not.. with a celebration they've never even had the chance to experience! I found out through this whole process that May Day no longer includes all the fun relay races !! Best part of that whole day was cheering for your school in friendly competition! What has happened to our May Day celebration??? It's absolutely a disgrace to our beautiful City that I grew up in that this day has become just a burden to so many.
42. My Mom is still a long time resident of New Westminster in the same house for over 50 years....Doreen Leopold. She doesn't own a computer but her sentiments as a citizen of New West are the same as mine. I'm also wondering how the vote has gotten to all those who don't have a computer? Long time residents who have a say in their cities future? "
43. Times have changed and many people who work in the school district do not have a connection to May Day. However, they may recognize and respect it as a New West tradition but it is difficult to have people embrace and be forced to follow a tradition, spend many hours teaching something they do not connect with. Districts are having a difficult time getting teachers right now so we are not in a position to say only teachers who embrace May Day should apply.

44. No community organization could touch the lives of each and every student like the school district can. It teaches the kids life skills. Getting along with others, coordination, working together. If it is after school, the kids who need these skills the most, will not be exposed to them. Teachers can be resourceful in getting volunteers. Maybe honour roll students from high school can escort the kids to May Day. Or Elders in the community who are able. Maybe it can be a day off for many in the community. It's only one day.

Comments from Parents of New Westminster School District Students on Recommendation #3

1. I can see the points in favour, but as someone who grew up in a very new community without traditions, I was so happy to have my daughter participate in such a rich, historical tradition in New Westminster. I would hate to see it go, but am glad that if it does, at least my daughter had a chance to participate before that happened.
2. Overwhelmingly agree. The external community is the loudest when it comes to any proposed changes to May Day ceremonies, so the external community should take it over. If they have such strong feelings about maintaining the tradition then they can maintain it themselves, take it out of the schools entirely.
3. Yes only volunteers should participate and out of school hours.
4. If the Community feels the ceremony has value, then the Community should take the brunt of organizing it. By forcing teachers and staff, who have been quite clear that they do NOT have responsibility for May Day, to continue this practice, the Community is basically killing off the ceremony. Shift the May Day dances to a weekend when families can attend (maybe following the parade?) and create a dance class as part of the Parks and Rec programs where those students who CHOOSE to participate can sign up to dance. I have no issue with folk dances being taught as a part of the athletic curriculum in schools. But the extra time taken away from teaching is ludicrous. One comment I read stated that it was a shame to remove the only time all elementary schools in New West were in the same place at the same time. For one, only certain grades were there, and two, that is an issue that can be dealt with in other ways. May Day should be fun, and in its current format, it is not.
5. Let people choose they want to join in or not.
6. I'm on the fence with this choice- I see a lot of the older generation and long time New West residents who want to hold onto this tradition but I think you'd be hard pressed to find enough parents to volunteer their children into this ceremony out side of school where it's been a mandatory involvement.
7. Education is about students. Our 3 children enjoyed the experience of Mayday, and found it to be a valuable part of their education.
8. Feedback from our child is that there is very little interest from the students in the Mayday celebration. Our child has participated twice in this event and I have attended once. We haven't participated since. She just stays home now during the event. We feel the time would be better spent on academics.
9. Endeavor. That word means try. And the tenor of the way it is written implies that it's just going to die because no one is really going to endeavour to make that happen.

10. My children's education has never been impacted by this activity and I believe it builds bonds with the history of the City and helps understand our common of where we came from. It is really important in a community where many people move in.
11. I wonder if the Hyack Organization would take this on, traditions have a place in the culture of a community. These events could take place outside of school time and thus would not have to defend themselves educationally.
12. Discontinue altogether. Putting it in the hands of the community will see the festival be discontinued which I agree with.
13. The school should continue running the event to ensure that its tradition and integrity are ensured and constant. The school could engage Parent volunteer.
14. As stated earlier. Transferring to a community event is a great idea rather than a forced school event. It is draining and stressful for teachers and takes away too much valuable time and money away from what schools need
15. what is happening here?? why do we need to take this celebration away from our school community? we seem to have time in our new curricular for other cultural studies
16. i just wanted to add that this survey format is excellent - it clearly explains each recommendation as well as pertinent background information from the study. Thank you for giving parents, residents and students the opportunity to voice their opinion on the annual May Day celebration at Queen's Park.
17. I agree that it might be best served by being organized by an outside group, however I believe school participation should remain as strong as it is now.
18. This a day where all the elementary schools come together. At no other time during the school year does this occur. It should remain an event during the school day.
19. "Sounds like the district doesn't want to do the work and that there is little
20. Positive regard for this project and its historical significance. It's successful continuation no doubt needs strong leadership and a culture of commitment and positive regard for community traditions from the district. District involvement no doubt keeps the tradition continuing as well as connecting students to this history who may otherwise not attend a community even outside of school "
21. Why would you want to do this ?
22. It has been the same for 145 years. Why change it now? The pole dancing, the royal suite, the costumes are all part of the story.
23. I would rather have the limited education funds available going to the school, not May Day celebrations.
24. Absolutely, and might I suggest they seek the support of their kindred spirits who believe the sun revolves around the earth.
25. If the community would like Mayday to continue as part of the Hyack celebrations then they are to be strongly encouraged to organize the event this May 2018. The Mayday celebrations must no longer be the school district's responsibility as voiced by the feedback received by the taskforce. To ignore the wishes of the teachers is disingenuous and would be a travesty of the democratic process.
26. I believe that this recommendation or recommendation #2 would work.
27. There would be a better turn out if it was held on a weekend.

28. "Families are very busy. My children have other activities (sports, dance, musical, etc) every day after school and on weekends. And I know many families where the children have more activities than mine do. If May Day became another "outside-of-school" extra curricular activity, I fear participation will dwindle and die, simply because families are so busy and stretched for time as it is. May Day is about the children, and the children are all in school and, as stated in my previous comments, there is no reason that May Day cannot be made a part of school studies.
29. Last year, the District made some significant changes to the May Day ceremony that made it run much more smoothly and efficiently than in previous years, and I applaud what they did. They are on the right track, and I feel they should continue. They are doing a great job.
30. We have something very unique and wonderful in this School District that doesn't seem to exist anywhere else. When I tell my friends in other provinces about May Day, they always say they wish they had something similar. Please keep it, and please keep it in the schools. "
31. But the district should use the time and money saved from May Day to provide other means (not just sports) for school populations to interact - how about a New West Me-To-We event?
32. This should stay as a school organised and run event.
33. It is a community celebration.
34. Unfortunately our schools seem to want to do away with so many things and this just seems like another one. Kids are already too busy outside of school in sports etc to join another thing. I foresee the entire tradition collapsing if the schools stop participating. Learning should be fun and by taking away so many of the things that students enjoy makes it more like a job.
35. A Community group can organize their own May Day celebration at any time. They do not need SD40's permission to do so. The School District should continue with the May Day celebration in an updated format as mentioned in my previous comments. A Community Group that wants to keep the event ultra traditional can do so outside of school hours with volunteers and people that sign-up for the event. The SD40 run event, should share the values of inclusion and not be tied to an inflexible model. SD40 should control the content of that event. To do so is not cultural appropriation - it is culturally appropriate.
36. I don't agree with student/school involvement in May Day activities
37. Yes this is a good way to keep the tradition alive in the community without involving the school board, this is the best recommendation in my opinion.
38. I do think it's a good idea that the young students learn the folk and may pole dances. Perhaps they could be included in PE class and performed at the school-based celebrations.
39. School wastes vast amounts of time in other areas, this one at least adds value
40. Based on the report it's too much of a time spend to justify. Times have changed curriculum has been updated and if my daughter is going to miss a day of class time I'd rather it be for something educational.
41. While an outside community group could organize the event itself and perhaps take on the costs involved, it is better that it is done within the school. Children and parents will not get involved if it is voluntary, which will further undermine the event.
42. Yes please! The amount of stress and anxiety my child faced last year to learn a dance with a partner whose behaviour was difficult to manage was totally unnecessary. Had it been voluntary, my child could have spent more time learning current and relevant activities, or possibly had more funding for adequate learning materials in his/her classroom.

43. I strongly agree with this recommendation. Classroom time could be so much better spent not only on academics, but on sharing values of inclusiveness, gender equity and empowerment that do not seem to be reflected in May Day activities.
44. Although I was not raised in BC and am a relatively recent transplant to New West, I feel that the tradition of May Day is a unique part of the social fabric and history of this community. I believe that it can meet the objectives of social studies as well as physical education curricula, and should be included in the district education plan. I feel that there should be a partnership between the District and community groups to determine how to carry on this tradition in a meaningful way.
45. Again. Long standing tradition on New Westminster that has been school based. it will loss something by turning it to the community. Possibly the process could be reform to be more inclusive but i think is a long standing, lovely, unique piece of New Westminster.
46. "The school district should still spend a small amount of time explaining and
47. showing what May Day is all about and about the long standing traditions involved and then promote and encourage the children to get involved at
48. the community level. Transferring the actual event and organizing to a community based level is the best option. Volunteers for the event and event day could be found at the high school level and/or youth center involvement as valuable volunteer hours needed for graduation and encourage older students who have participated in the past to continue to give back to the community.
49. When there is so much emphasis on ethnic inclusion that schools seem to
50. involve all students in (ie Diwali and Chinese New Year etc) then the loss of North American/European traditions that are part of our past should not be ignored.
51. sounds like the district is trying to pass the buck, very disappointing.
52. Perhaps ask community groups to participate along with the school board. I don't think, the event would not occur outside of school hours, and having it as part of the school supports the community aspect of the event.
53. Cancel May Day. Problems solve
54. If there isn't much support among the teachers and staff, I can see how this is a hard thing to do. However, I think a lot of kids wouldn't get the opportunity to participate if it's outside of school, and there wouldn't be the same awareness about it as there is now.
55. I think the tradition will be lost once this happens
56. Could the school have an after school program/practice for those teachers and students interested? Similar to choir or interest program? If a teacher volunteered for an hour practice after school or something similar.
57. Yes! I would hope that if this was organized by a (likely traditional) community organization, that the event would run outside of school time - I don't support the idea of it being something kids are required to attend. This should be a community event having nothing to do with the schools.
58. Our school district is one of the fastest growing in the Province with the least funding. Taking what little money we have and wasting it on one day is irresponsible. Perhaps if money were spent a little more wisely, my grade 8 child would not be in a 7/8 split which is completely contrary to the Middle School model!

59. I agree with this recommendation. A community organization would be best suited to continuing the May Day tradition, if there is support for it. The District should remain focused on teaching and celebrating much broader historical and cultural narratives rather than giving precedence to just one 'story'.
60. "The survey taken was with staff and teachers - again, how many of these teachers live in New Westminster and how many of them are really open to give the answers they feel. Won't they all be talking about it with their unions and want to have a unified answer. I did speak to one teacher who felt she could not speak out and support the event at her school because the administrators of the school were not in favour of it and she feared back lash. So again, I wonder how accurate is your survey of teachers.
61. May Day has a place in the learnings of the children of New Westminster. Not all of history was positive, and it's right to teach children the truth. We teach them about wars in other countries, the history and legacy of residential schools in now part of the Canadian education curriculum, so why are we afraid to teach the history of our own city?
62. And if students are not learning about this, why would they volunteer. Who is teaching the history if not the schools where our children are to learn. We have many immigrants that come to this city, many people who have moved here and have no idea about May Day - why not take the opportunity to teach them. This does not seem like a community group responsibility.
63. ""those community members who are particularly keen to keep alive the institutions of the May Queen and Royal Suite could formulate their own selection methods, costume requirements and ceremonial 'duties"" - this again leaves it to another group to teach the students of this city. The way ""these community members"" are spoken about is not inclusive at all. This really feels like a ""them versus us"" debate - kind of like the ""old NW residents versus the newer generation NW residents"" and that is really a shame. A We community would be so much better.
64. I think this is the surest way for this traditional and historical event to die. I think the district can enlist a community group to support the efforts of planning, etc. But to simply hand it off with no identification of who will lead it will kill this tradition because of apathy towards the event. Maybe, partnering with a community group could help focus on engagement rather than allow apathy to have its way.
65. The tradition will die. We have already seen the Hyack Festival lose momentum over the years. It is one of the only events that the kids of NW get exposed to an event with other students that will eventually become their new friends.
66. In the long run, I see no impact upon the students whatsoever regarding the loss of instructional time taken up with May Day preparation. I have had two children participate in this process, and it has not affected their education in any way, except to make them excited to participate in something larger than themselves and in something with a tangible historical significance. I am uncertain as to the value that should be placed upon the May Day tradition in New Westminster, however, and am unsure as to what the best solution will be.
67. No I believe the schools should get the old fashion spirit back. Involve all grades in the festivities. Used to have running relays etc. Let's get back the spirit it has lost. Why aren't the other grades invited?? So wrong.
68. May Day is the only district wide event schools participate in. As such, it is an important piece of community building.

69. Again - this will erode this institution and put it in the hands of a very small group. How will this promote inclusion?
70. Yes, please divest the schools from spending on this. If the community wants this institution then the community should take on the planning.
71. As long as it is voluntary for the students to participate if it is outside of school hours and as long as no instructional hours are spent on this
72. I think it is important to continue this at schools.
73. See previous comments
74. Without the school district helping it won't happen. Any parent who is not from New West isn't going to know about this random thing New West does and isn't going to value taking their kid out of soccer/hockey/lacrosse/swimming/whatever to take them to practice these things.
75. Stop school participation in May days now
76. If the community would like to celebrate May Day, the community should come up with the funds to organize the event. The event should not involve the education system as it is a waste of time to teach something that will not benefit the children's future.
77. I think it is important to continue this at schools.
78. "I think a voluntary event would not drum up the participation and the quality would suffer. I believe it should be school-based HOWEVER would support that the organization and execution of the preparation be handled by a community group so as not to add to the staffs' plate. There would be challenges to the two groups working together but the result would be better. Better info could be disseminated to the community by the involvement of community members (ie through newspaper etc). As a resident I knew about it but not really that I could attend or what the history was and what it all means now. And I read the local papers regularly.
79. Note about the most recent event: The sound at the event was HORRIBLE. We in the stands could not hear anything and this contributed to the students' lack of engagement with the event. We could not hear speeches and had no idea what was going on. This small change would have improved the whole experience. We attended the Anvil battery at the same location the week before (or after?) and the sound was EXCELLENT, providing a much more engaging experience."
80. An important aspect of this event is having all children involved from all schools. If it becomes more community based it will not have the same significance and will slowly fall away. It should remain school based but be simplified. Let the dancing parts remain but cut out ie: unnecessary speeches from unnecessary royal suite members and dances by kindergartners.
81. "New Westminster school district has this amazingly unique history of having its entire school district be supported in coming together for this one day each year. All the schools have the opportunity as well as a historical infrastructure to organize this event. Being constantly on the chopping block is leading to a less and less child friendly event. If it were more interactive and less sit-in-the-stands (and not even an interesting performance) it would be much more engaging.
82. I don't see the point in throwing away 148 years of tradition. Perhaps it is sustainable in the community, but the school district, I think loses out having this event that brings all the children in the district together.

83. With little to no connection to the meaning or history of the event how can students be expected to be interested. Instead, use the new curriculum to make this day an actual day of the New Westminister we now live: our shared heritage - reflecting on the differences and similarities in. Community is a huge part of the new curriculum. There are so many possibilities to look at: the aboriginal heritage of the area, the multicultural diversity, the music, the sports, the culture that has been growing and changing here. I think the committee should look at ways to promote the event as currently relevant and more interesting for kids - all of them, not just a handful of representatives.
84. I think that participation on a voluntary basis outside of school hours is an excellent compromise for those that are adamant to continue the tradition. That way it would not infringe on the teaching hours and learning needs of everyone else.
85. See notes on previous two recommendations.
86. I don't feel teaching time should be taken away from students for May Day preparations.
87. Just to "endeavor to transfer responsibility... to a community organization" is not enough. Schools should end their responsibility, and recognizing the history of May Day should be optional in the school setting.
88. "I don't think taking schools entirely out of this event is a good idea. As a community member who was in the May Day celebrations from Lord Tweedsmuir I can tell you how special it was for me to be part of this tradition. I danced the folk and May Pole dances, I ran in the track meets and I was a member of the Royal suite and danced with the Lancers as well.
89. Because of MayDay and the sense of community pride I have from this I chose to move back to New Westminister and raise my children here so they could be part of such an ancient and important celebration.
90. I think a new version of May Day could be a way to integrate all members of the community and take it back to some of it's original intent to bring the community together to celebrate Spring renewal and the hope of new prosperity.
91. May Day could be a way to integrate and celebrate performance and social responsibility citizenry.
92. May Day could have contributions generated from Schools and multi generational community organizations to come together with community building and celebration in mind. Many things such as food, music, dance and drama performances both from public and private institutions could be showcased. Parades picnics and speeches as well as community service awards and galas could all be put together to reinvent May Day. May Day should also include Qayqayt and Coast Salish First People's activities as we work towards reconciling that we work, live and play on their traditional land.
93. New Westminister currently has Hyack festival activities and May Day could somehow become more of an extension of this than it is.
94. New Westminister has this tradition that makes it a special community and instead of letting this go, we could be creative in reinventing this for the greater good of the community."
95. I respect many value May Day but let it be optional for those who don't- school budgets should not go toward this event and big burden for already taxed PACs
96. YES! Thank you for listening to the teachers of New Westminister.

97. Not too sure, need to understand what the expectations would be for our schools and students in this process.
98. I agree with this recommendation. However, there is no time frame set. Is the recommendation to leave it with the school District for 2018 and transfer responsibility in 2019? Or 2020? Or 2025? I would support this transfer sooner rather than later - 1-2 years. I like the idea of keeping traditions alive, however, this tradition is not currently robust, and rather feels linked to a past history of our area. As noted before, I support the school district including this as part of the curriculum, but in addition to the teaching and celebrating of other cultural traditions relevant to our community and inhabitants - past and present. If this event takes up resources that would limit other celebrations, I would not support it. So transferring to the community makes sense. As for the district - how about rotating yearly cultural celebrations - celebrate 2 or 3 per year? That doesn't limit individual teachers from teaching a lesson in their own class on May Day or X tradition.... but as a district to rotate a district-wide celebration. Just a thought.
99. I don't know--it's always been a school thing, and I really doubt that any elementary school kids would "volunteer" outside school hours if it became a community group responsibility. I understand that teachers don't want to spend the extra time, but it's also a little sad that something so historical would be lost.
100. this is a fabulous idea. as a current resident, who also grew up in New Westminster, but did not go to public school here, I always felt left out. there was also no sharing of the history behind it to students like me. i clearly recall the HYACK Festival - the anvil battery salute, the weekend long carnival - but only knew of the pole dance from pics in the paper. i always wondered when it was or how to watch it etc. if it was community based there is the opportunity for total inclusions for all kids of our "Royal City".
101. I believe that the school district along with community members should be working together to preserve this wonderful historic event.
102. I fear that by having the May day celebration transferred to a community organization would take away the opportunity for all students to participate. Many of our families in New West do not have the means of transporting their children to after school activities
103. This event should be held in school hours as it is part of our city's heritage and helps the students learn about our past and traditions.
104. In a climate wherein two parents work, there is little opportunity to drive student here and there to participate in various events. This should be built into the PE program that is already on weak legs in schools. It enhances physical education and teaches students how to interact with the opposite gender. At an age when girls think "boys have cooties" the mixed gender dancing is a nice way to show girls that boys don't bite and vice versa.
105. Schools are part of the community, they should continue.
106. This questionnaire is confusingly worded.
107. Just leave everything alone & keep it the way it is! May Day has worked up until now...
108. I think it should be part of the school and therefore give all the kids equal opportunity for participation. Those with less parental support will not be able to participate if you go the proposed route.

109. This is a long standing tradition in the New Westminster school system. Up until recently, the school district has been supportive and there have been no concerns so it is really surprising that there is suddenly all these concerns and the board deemed it necessary to create a Task Force. Furthermore, the event provides exposure to historical traditions in our city and there are many useful skills learned and applied for those who participate along with providing students an opportunity to connect with their city's heritage and feel like a part of the bigger school community as May Day brings all the schools together. It also makes sense to keep this as part of our school system as it would be very difficult for a community organization to take over organizing all the kids to participate in the way required to keep many of the traditions involved in the event.
110. If the teachers support staff and school district is not capable of organizing, then why not move it to a community organization who wants to do it
111. I am not opposed to volunteers coming into the school to teach the dances to the children, however taking this outside of school hours will result in a dramatic reduction of student participation. This is a community event and our schools are an integral part of our community. This should continue to be a school based event which involves all of the children in our public schools. There are so few communities with such a rich tradition - this is a unique and cherished part of New Westminster's heritage and it should be continued.
112. Again I appreciate that district staff may not have the time and resources to devote to this long standing institution, however as someone who moved to New Westminster as an adult, I worry about these changes that could reduce the importance of local community-building events. Particularly events centered around children and their value and importance within our community.
113. Never should this be considered! How could it function away from the school setting when it belongs to the children? What a catastrophic thought!
114. There are a lot of teachable opportunities that can be capitalized upon within the school day.
115. Again, what community group? I am an educator and struggle with this comment about pedagogical justification.
116. However, I think that publicizing that the final district sponsored celebration, (perhaps being the 150th) is sufficient.
117. "This removes an important component of the process. The children are in school. It is part of our history the value, importance and context of which should be taught. By teachers.
118. So none of these recommendations hold any continuity to the history of Mayday in New Westminster. I therefore strongly disagree with all of them. "
119. Without the schools support, this event will not happen. I agree that it is a lot of time to teach the dances but perhaps the community would be willing to fund some dance teachers or retired teachers that know the dance to go around to schools and help teach it with the school teachers involved. It is stressful for new teachers who have no idea what it involves.
120. Long standing tradition where all schools are involved. This would greatly change May Day in the future and the tradition will surely be lost. That would be a travesty!

121. If the "community" feels that the event is sufficiently important to the city it should be simple for a community based organization to run it and leave the school district with the task of educating our children.
122. The celebration should definitely be taken up at the community level if there is support for it.
123. This is the perfect solution, allowing those who feel strongly about the tradition of May Day to continue with it without disrupting valuable class time.
124. If you take the event out of the school system then you completely remove the children's participation. The whole point of this exercise is to encourage broad based support within the entire community. It is a community coming together. Narrowing any aspect of that ideal would serve only to deteriorate the inclusiveness of this event in the schools as well as the community. The community part of May Day involves HYACK. Keep them both strong and as they were. The teachers complaining and not wanting to be a part of May Day should have thought more about before taking on a job in our district. The May Day tradition is a part of their job. Leave at May Day alone.
125. This is a drastic all or nothing approach that will make an irreversible change to this event. There must be a way to make changes to the pedagogical aspects of May Day without taking it entirely out of the schools.
126. I am concerned that transferring responsibility for organizing May Day Celebrations to a community organization may mark the beginning of the end of this tradition. As long as there is a firm commitment to keeping the tradition alive at the school level and there is active encouragement every year for the children to participate in the Community events, it does make sense. However, it needs to be understood that May Day is one tradition that makes New Westminster unique and special, and it should not be dismissed.
127. Yes, let the community dedicate time and resources to a community event.
128. Yes, I agree, the whole celebration needs to become city/community based, it has nothing to do with school, and should be the responsibility of the school board, short of "its been tradition", I'm sure.
129. I don't understand - so May Day would become a weekend community event that families could choose to attend on their own, but the school would not be involved in any way? I'm not a fan of that. I like the idea of it being integrated into the school experience. But if you wanted to have the event be organized by a community group that students would then attend as a field trip, that seems like a good idea.
130. If a community organization wants to pick it up then fine but the school district shouldn't invest too much energy in handing it off.
131. I feel the schools are doing less and less of the memorable/special school activities. The PACs are expected to pick up the slack, and this varies across the city depending on the PAC. Already there are no track meets, school plays, concerts, bike rodeos, student award ceremonies, special celebrations, etc. These are all things that were memorable from childhood. While I did not experience May Day as a youth, it seems to be something special that is done in New Westminster. In the interest of appealing to all - the students are now losing the opportunities to do anything. Also, I believe students should have special events to look forward too - and I don't see a replacement strategy in this recommendation.

132. "I would really like to know how many people on this task force actually grew up in New Westminster and participated in May Day as children. I find the results of this task force shocking and out of line with the community members and parents that I speak to.
133. Every single statement in the task force report and these recommendations and backgrounds read like they come from people who have no prior history with May Day.
134. I find this district position very sad and moving away from a sense of cohesiveness and community to a very individualized position. If May Day celebrations are done by individual schools, what is left that brings all the schools together in one place?
135. Someone with experience of May Days 20-40 years ago should be on the planning committee to bring them back to being child-focussed and bring the interest back. 2017 was a great improvement on format compared to recent years but more improvement could be made."
136. That will eliminate opportunities for students who wish to participate but will be unable as they will not have the means to attend events outside of school hours. Making May Day more for the students whose family have more time and money to be part of the celebration.
137. It would be very difficult to find some other group to organize the event as it stands. You have to have a well organized, large and efficiently run organization like our school district to operate an affair like the May Day dances. Once again, it would be a pity if the dances, a significant connection with the city's past, should be lost.
138. I love this idea as it respects those who feel strongly that the May Day tradition should continue, but also does not force school-aged children and teachers to participate.
139. New Westminster is a multicultural city, I would also add something about including other cultural experiences. The real history of May Day is not one that is even discussed in class because of its inappropriateness.
140. Ideally, May Day celebrations would fall outside of the District's responsibilities. The historical context may be of some value, but I see teachers' time and district resources better used elsewhere. Like on textbooks. Traditionally, many high school students have been able to take these home to study from. But not our high school students...
141. Where is the full community support if the May Day celebration (dance & may pole) is not done at the school level?? It would be another after school activity for kids and only a limited number of kids would likely be able to participate. The School District must recognize that kids (and parents) are already super busy and it's not feasible to take on another activity outside of school.
142. I see the benefits of transferring May Day to a community organization but I worry that in doing so it will no longer be a shared experience of all grade 3 & 4 students within New Westminster.
143. Without the support of the district schools this event will fall apart completely. The whole event is based on student participation. Without enough student the events will falter and most likely fail.
144. Leave it as it is. It is part of the history of New Westminster. Don't mess with tradition.
145. Perhaps it should be included in the Hyack celebrations, since clearly the school staff don't want to be a part of it anymore
146. Sure. Why not give people that are passionate for the tradition, responsibility for it?

147. I believe May Day needs to be run through the schools, otherwise it will die. Either 100% support the tradition or just stop it completely. May Day is a unique celebration that makes New Westminster special. Schools at all grade levels can incorporate local history as part of the Social Studies curriculum and connect it to the core competencies. It easily falls under social responsibility 'to contribute positively to one's own...community, society...' And why can't the dancing be taught during PE time? The students still learn square dancing in school and how is that any more relevant and inclusive than learning a folk dance? It would be a shame to cancel this local tradition as it is a part of the city's history but I think it would be even more disrespectful to water it down and have it die a slow death. If it's not in schools, children and youth will likely never learn about it or participate in it.
148. Yes, this is not a school thing, it's a city spirit thing. The school district should not do anything about organising May Day. The school's role might be a short unit on teaching kids New West history and make May Day part of the lesson.
149. May Day needs to be organized by the school district because it would be too difficult to continue this tradition otherwise. This is learning experience for them in so many ways.
150. Yes, let people who are connected to it keep it going privately. I want my child to spend her time at school focusing on academics and not old-fashioned ceremonies.
151. if it's too much for the school district why not partner up and share the responsibility with a community. SD should not turn their back on this celebrated local event
152. As I previously said, this should be a school district event as the schools are part of the community.
153. The tradition will die if there isn't district wide participation by the school district and I'm sure you know it. This sounds like your goal - to kill the tradition of May Day in New Westminster. The Hyack festival appears to be barely hanging in. If the city and district doesn't support the celebration I can't see anyone taking it over.
154. A community group focused on the preservation of British culture and heritage could be responsible for the preservation of this tradition. Both the maypole dance and the lancer dance could be demonstrated at multicultural festivals and celebrations in the same way Bangra, Romanian folk dancing, or Japanese drumming is showcased.
155. In other words, a popularity selection - if enough want it to go ahead, we can. Never mind that 90% of the current population here is not from here. So a private British only May Day? Yes, maybe that's what it will come to, sadly. Shame shame shame. Being bullied out of our own city.
156. I agree that if this event is supported by the community that a community organization should take it on. I am skeptical as to whether there is broad interest or support to make this happen, however.
157. Yes. This is an extra-curricular activity.
158. May Day provides a venue for engagement across all elementary schools in New West. Instead of the ceremonies of past May Days, it can be updated to include a sports day where all kids are active participants or a venue where representatives from each school get a voice. Costumes can be modernized to reflect changing times.

159. The whole point of May Day is that it is something all members of the community can participate in and share in the celebration of our history and tradition. It is even more valuable that this experience is shared by all students, across the city and across generations. This recommendations appears as little more than an attempt by school staff to kill a valuable social, historical and cultural institution in our city. It may well be true that it is a lot of work for staff, but it is well worth the work to ensure the continued existence of this event.
160. I like that New Westminster schools care about the tradition of May Day and have supported it in the past. It ensures that all students, even those new to New Westminster have the opportunity to become part of it and tied to the community.
161. I agree with Recommendation #3
162. These recommendations are wording in an interesting way to say the least. I read the reports and found it to be quite one-sided.
163. The May Day celebrations do not fit with BC's current curriculum, with the focus on multiculturalism and First Nations history and culture. Community members express the greatest interest in maintaining the historical May Day celebrations, so a community organization should step up and organize them.
164. The May Day celebrations do not fit with BC's current curriculum, with the focus on multiculturalism and First Nations history and culture. Teaching the May Day dance takes away from valuable instructional time. The May Day celebrations do not promote critical engagement with the province's history. The School District should not bear the entire financial burden of the may Day celebrations -- \$50,000 is a lot of money to spend. Teachers and District staff know best about how the current May Day celebrations are organized and run, and they largely agree that the School District is not the place for these celebrations. Community members express the greatest interest in maintaining the historical May Day celebrations, so a community organization should step up and organize them.

Comments from Unidentified Respondents on Recommendation #3

1. Its apparent that the board does not want to participate in the event so let the Hyack committee take complete ownership.
2. There is a very broad range of community events that the district might choose to support in some extensive way. Meeting all of those, even those compatible with the schools' values and directions, impractical. Choosing just one or a few is not equitable.
3. This is a critically important shift. A public education institution should not be mandated to participate in one community event rather than another. Any and all participation should be entirely voluntary.
4. The May Day celebrations do not fit with BC's current curriculum, with the focus on multiculturalism.

Appendix

New Westminster Schools 2017 Public Feedback Form on the May Day Task Force Recommendations

* Required

Introduction

The New Westminster Board of Education is seeking public input concerning the school district's participation in the annual celebration of May Day in New Westminster. The district ceremony takes place during a school day in Queen's Park and is one of several community and city-run events celebrating May Day.

The May Day Task Force was commissioned by the Board of Education to review the scope and nature of the school district's annual May Day celebrations. The Task Force included parent, teacher staff and trustee representatives who, after 18 months of deliberations, reached consensus on three recommendations. These were put before the Board at the October 24th, 2017 Regular Board Meeting. (See the full May Day Task Force report at <http://bit.ly/2hmcchs>)

The Board of Education is now inviting public feedback on these recommendations to assist in making an informed decision on the school district's role in the annual May Day celebration. Students, parents and community members are asked to provide a response of agree/disagree/undecided in relation to each of the three recommendations, as well as comments. A brief rationale for each recommendation is included. To ensure the integrity of this process, the feedback form requires each participant to provide their name and email. No names will be released to the public.

This feedback form will run from November 13 to November 27, 2017.

[Note: Personal information collected as part of the feedback process is collected under the authority of section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and will be collected, used and disclosed as described above. This survey is being conducted with the assistance of third party service providers who may store survey responses on servers located outside of Canada. By submitting this form you are consenting to the collection, use, disclosure and storage of your personal information as described above. For more information about the school district's personal information protection policies, please see our Privacy Policy (p. 88) at <http://bit.ly/2z5qDdn>.]



1. Name *

2. Email *

3. Please let us know if you are:

Check all that apply.

- ☐ a parent of a current New Westminster School District student
- ☐ a current student of New Westminster School District
- ☐ a New Westminster resident
- ☐ a non-New Westminster resident

RECOMMENDATION #1

For 2018 and 2019, May Day celebrations should be school-based. FURTHER, the May Day Task Force recommends that on the 150th anniversary of May in 2020, the School District support the May Day Celebration Ceremony at Queen's Park.

Background

The district annual event in Queen's Park involves the participation of students in grades 2 to 5 from eight elementary schools and one middle school. The Task Force found there is little pedagogical or staff support for the amount of time taken out of the teaching schedule to make the school district's May Day event happen. Teachers estimate 15-35 hours of instructional time is devoted to practice of folk and maypole dances over an 8-week period. The justification for taking the Grades 2 and 5 classes out of school for this day "seems to be merely to act as an audience." Further, the committee found that the May Day ceremony as currently practiced elicits minimal student or public engagement and that organizers are faced with increasing difficulties in organizing parent volunteers to assist with transiting students to the park.

A task force survey of teachers and staff indicated that school-based May Day events would require fewer resources, take less time, and lead to greater school participation than the district-wide event, while being tailored to each school's unique community. A 150th anniversary celebration would allow for planning while contributing to a recognition of the significance of the tradition in the city.

4. Check all that apply.

- ☐ I agree with Recommendation #1
- ☐ I disagree with Recommendation #1
- ☐ I am undecided about Recommendation #1

5. Comments

Skip to question 6.

Recommendation #2

The District should discontinue the practice of selecting a Royal Suite. The Board should support the transferring of responsibility for the Royal Suite to a community organization.

Background

Two Grade 5 representatives, one male and one female, from each school are selected by a vote of all Grade 5 students at the school to form the Royal Suite. These students form a procession during the event with the crowning of the May Queen taking place during the ceremony at Queen's Park. The female members of the Royal Suite wear head wreaths and white ceremonial dresses and capes.

In its deliberations, the Task Force considered issues related to equity and inclusion and found in its survey of teachers, support staff, administrators and exempt staff "meagre support or justification" for the institution of the Royal Suite, which was widely characterized as a popularity contest. The Task Force found the Royal Suite does not positively reflect the District's values of inclusion and diversity based on its core notions of stereotypical gender roles.

6. Check all that apply.

- ☐ I agree with Recommendation #2
- ☐ I disagree with Recommendation #2
- ☐ I am undecided about Recommendation #2

7. Comments

Recommendation #3

The board should endeavor to transfer responsibility for organizing the May Day celebrations in Queen's park outside of school hours to a community organization who could then decide how best to continue the tradition. In this way, for example, those community members who are particularly keen to keep alive the institutions of the May Queen and Royal Suite could formulate their own selection methods, costume requirements and ceremonial 'duties.'

Background

The May Day Task Force considered the historical and traditional importance of the May Day Celebration in the district. Based on its survey of staff and teachers, the task force found that May Day and its institutions face significant pedagogical and practical issues and command little general support amongst District staff. The task force found there is broad support for the general notion that the May Day ceremony in Queen's Park should transition away from a District-orchestrated event to one organized by a community group where students could voluntarily participate outside of school hours.

8. Check all that apply.

- ☐ I agree with Recommendation #3
- ☐ I disagree with Recommendation #3
- ☐ I am undecided about Recommendation #3

9. Comments

Thank you for your participation!

Powered by





New
Westminster
Schools

Confirming Our District Foundational Statements

Draft Value Statements

December 5, 2017

A Mission statement is intended to answer the question:

"Why do we exist as an organization?"

Our Mission Statement was designed to answer the question:

"What is the fundamental purpose of school?"

New West Schools' Mission Statement reads as follows:

***To enable each student to learn in a safe,
engaging and inclusive environment.***

A vision statement answers the question:

*"What must we become in order to accomplish our
fundamental purpose?"*

New West Schools' Vision Statement reads as follows:

A place where students love to learn.

Values clarify collective commitments - "How must we behave to create the school that will achieve our purpose?" Clarity on this topic guides the individual work of each member of our School District and outlines how each person can contribute to the culture of our District.

Values are the attitudes, behaviors and commitments we demonstrate to advance our mission and vision. For every value we identify, it should be possible to point to many examples from all corners of the School District of that value in action. It is fundamentally important that our articulated value statements are aligned with our Mission and our Vision.

Draft Value Statements

- Curiosity -** Inquisitive thinking, exploration, and investigation are integral to learning. We strive to have our students graduate from grade 12 as curious as when they first began kindergarten.
- Collaboration-** We strive to develop purposeful relationships where we choose to cooperate in order to achieve shared goals and consider each other in our decisions and actions. Genuine collaboration encourages introspection of behavior and communication.
- Engagement -** Learning should be meaningful, purposeful, and relevant to each student. We strive to have students and teachers who are attracted to their work, persist despite challenges and obstacles, and take visible delight in accomplishing their work.
- Equity -** We believe in the principles of equity – all decisions shall be fair, impartial and free from bias or favoritism.

- Inclusion -** We value, respect and support the needs of every individual and strive to ensure the conditions are in place for each student to exceed their full potential.
- Innovation -** We value the intellectual habits of mind, such as openness, levels of ideation, autonomy, exploratory behavior, and convergent and divergent thinking. We celebrate the implementation of innovative and creative ideas.
- Integrity -** We value honesty and truthfulness as demonstrated not only by our words but also by our behaviours and our conduct.

Appendix 1

Current Ministry of Education Mission Statement and Goals of Education



Mission Statement

The purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.

-Statement of Education Policy Order - 1989

Goals of Education

Prime Goal of Public Schools Supported by the Family and Community

- Intellectual Development

Goals that are shared among Schools, the Family and Community

- Human and Social Development
- Career Development

-Statement of Education Policy Order - 1989

Attributes of the Public School System

Accessibility – a variety of programs is available in the province to meet the full range of student needs.

Relevance – programs are current, and relevant to the needs of the learner.

Equity – resources are allocated fairly.

Quality – professional teaching and administration are of high quality.

Accountability – resources are allocated in a cost-effective manner; parents and the community are informed of the progress of schools and are involved as partners in planning.

-Statement of Education Policy Order - 1989

Appendix 2

Examples of Value Statements from other BC School Districts

North Vancouver School District (#44)

Trust	We act with integrity. We are open and honest in our communication with one another.
Responsibility	We are accountable for our actions. We support positive change, continuous improvement and the pursuit of excellence.
Respect	We relate to each other with care and appreciation. We honour diversity and recognize the exceptional in everyone.
Collaboration	We develop relationships and affiliations to achieve shared goals and consider each other in our decisions and actions.

Richmond School District (#38)

- Focus on student learning to ensure that each student achieves his or her potential
- Value diversity and be inclusive of all learners
- Contribute to student learning in a meaningful, flexible, respectful, and sustainable manner
- Commit to continuous improvement and life-long learning through the use of an inquiry cycle
- Communicate and inform our community in a way that celebrates and maintains confidence in our schools

Greater Victoria School District (#61)

Engagement	Students are actively engaged in their education and connected to our learning community.
Equity	We give each student the opportunity to fulfill their potential.
Innovation/Positive Change	We are innovative. We constantly seek ways to make positive change.
Integrity	We are ethical and fair.
Openness and Transparency	We are open about the decisions we make and how we make them.
Partnerships	We create open and respectful partnerships with each member of our learning community.
Respect	We respect ourselves, others, and our environment.
Social Responsibility and Justice	It is our shared responsibility to work with and inspire students to create a better world.

West Vancouver School District (#45)

EXCELLENCE	We pursue excellence in everything we do
INCLUSIVENESS	We treat everyone fairly. We respect, reflect and appreciate the diversity in our community.
ACCOUNTABILITY	We strive to be approachable and to make our processes and decisions as open and transparent as possible
AUTHENTICITY	We provide meaningful and relevant learning experiences
INNOVATION	We pursue innovation by encouraging curiosity and a spirit of inquiry
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	We forge connections with our community and welcome their input.
HAPPINESS	We seek happiness in the way we learn and work.

Coquitlam School District (#43)

The Board of Education believes in:

- Public Education and the need to advocate on its behalf;
- Instilling a passion for learning;
- Learners as the most important focus;
- High quality and equitable learning opportunities;
- Innovation, creativity, problem solving, critical thinking and sustainability;
- The essential value of District/Community/Global Partnerships;
- Safe, inclusive and socially responsible learning communities.

Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District (#42)

- Responsibility to all Learners
- Uniqueness of Each Individual
- Personal and Social Responsibility
- High Expectations for Success
- Culture, Community and Citizenship
- Diverse Learning Opportunities

Operating Fund - Year to Date Revenue to Budget Summary

G.L. Period Selection: 201804 End Date: OCTOBER 31, 2017

	<u>Description</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Bud Remain \$</u>	<u>Bud Remain %</u>
621	OPERATING GRANT MINISTRY OF EDUCAT	-12,851,999	-60,746,601	-60,746,601	-47,894,602	79
629	OTHER MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GRANTS	-157,516	-911,673	-911,673	-754,157	83
641	PROVINCIAL GRANTS OTHER	-64,100	0	0	64,100	0
643	SUMMER SCHOOL FEES	-140,561	-120,000	-120,000	20,561	-17
644	CONTINUING EDUCATION	-87,583	-240,000	-240,000	-152,417	64
645	INSTRUCTIONAL CAFETERIA REVENUE	-17,481	-130,000	-130,000	-112,519	87
647	OFFSHORE TUITION FEES	-4,639,963	-4,800,000	-4,800,000	-160,037	3
649	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	-44,255	-230,000	-230,000	-185,745	81
651	COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES	-90,615	-170,000	-170,000	-79,385	47
661	INTEREST ON SHORT TERM INVESTMENT	-108,761	-100,000	-100,000	8,761	-9
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Grand Total	-18,202,834	-67,448,274	-67,448,274	-49,245,440	73

Operating Fund - Year to Date Expense to Budget Summary

G.L. Period Selection: 201804 End Date: OCTOBER 31, 2017

	Description	YTD Exp	YTD Com	YTD Exp + Com	Budget	Bud Remain \$	Bud Remain %
105	PRINCIPALS & VP SALARIES	1,110,589	0	1,110,589	3,021,732	1,911,143	63
110	TEACHERS SALARIES	5,760,370	0	5,760,370	31,682,876	25,922,506	82
120	SUPPORT STAFF SALARIES	1,651,906	0	1,651,906	5,539,026	3,887,120	70
123	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS SALARIES	969,487	0	969,487	4,405,334	3,435,847	78
130	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SALARIES	825,230	0	825,230	2,118,648	1,293,418	61
140	SUBSTITUTE SALARIES	310,954	0	310,954	1,493,104	1,182,150	79
200	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,789,825	0	2,789,825	12,346,103	9,556,278	77
310	SERVICES	645,374	176,090	821,464	1,541,880	720,416	47
312	LEGAL COSTS	3,473	0	3,473	30,000	26,527	88
330	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	28,203	0	28,203	137,000	108,797	79
340	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAVEL	62,298	4,659	66,957	491,400	424,443	86
360	RENTALS & LEASES	103,537	39,353	142,890	260,000	117,110	45
370	DUES & FEES	85,683	13	85,696	129,000	43,304	34
390	INSURANCE	83,398	0	83,398	111,000	27,602	25
510	SUPPLIES	539,569	687,819	1,227,388	2,477,295	1,249,907	50
540	UTILITIES	115,338	6,890	122,228	466,100	343,872	74
551	GAS - HEAT	20,642	0	20,642	278,500	257,858	93
555	CARBON TAX EXP	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	100
560	WATER & SEWAGE	69,736	0	69,736	270,900	201,164	74
570	GARBAGE & RECYCLE	20,390	10,106	30,496	73,000	42,504	58
580	FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	14,485	22,463	36,948	81,000	44,052	54
590	COMPUTER & EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	307,067	344,185	651,252	973,000	321,748	33
591	TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS PURCHASED	51,496	24,167	75,663	0	-75,663	0
Grand Total		15,569,050	1,315,745	16,884,795	67,976,898	51,092,103	75

SOGI 1 2 3 Backgrounder

SOGI 1 2 3 was created by ARC Foundation, a private foundation based in Vancouver, BC with virtual teams in other provinces. The Executive Director of ARC Foundation is Brad Beattie.

What does SOGI mean?

SOGI stands for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. It is an inclusive term that encompasses all individuals regardless of where they identify on the sexual orientation or gender identity spectrums, as every person has a sexual orientation and every person has a gender identity. It includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, heterosexual, cisgender and more. SOGI is pronounced “so-gee.”

What is SOGI 1 2 3?

SOGI 1 2 3 shares proven SOGI-inclusive tools and resources in three key areas: SOGI 1 policies and procedures, SOGI 2 inclusive environments, SOGI 3 curriculum resources. When all three pillars of SOGI-inclusive education are implemented, students have the opportunity to flourish.

Inclusive learning involves every part of the education system; SOGI 1 2 3 supports educators in building inclusive classrooms as all students deserve to feel safe, included and empowered.

Who is behind SOGI 1 2 3?

SOGI 1 2 3 is led by ARC Foundation in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Education, BC Teachers' Federation, school districts across BC, UBC Faculty of Education, education partners and various local, national and international LGBTQ community organizations.

What is SOGleducation.org?

SOGleducation.org removes barriers to SOGI-inclusive education by providing readily accessible resources such as grade-level appropriate lesson plans, customizable templates and professional development. The tools and resources on SOGleducation.org are intended for educators, but can be utilized as a resource by parents and other members of the community.

What are SOGI 1 2 3 Learning Modules?

SOGI 1 2 3 Learning Modules are customizable and engaging resources for educators which move the 'why' of SOGI-inclusive education to the 'how'. SOGI 1 2 3 Learning Modules are 40 minutes in length and include discussion topics, videos and workshops for educators to present at staff meetings, lunch and learns or professional development days.

How does SOGI 1 2 3 work with the BC curriculum?

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the creation of BC curriculum. SOGI 1 2 3 provides ready to use, grade-level SOGI-inclusive lesson plans that align with the curriculum. Teachers can differentiate SOGI 1 2 3 lesson plans to meet the needs of their classroom.

What is the SOGI Educator Network?

ARC Foundation launched the BC SOGI Educator Network as a pilot project with nine school districts at the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year. The Network enables BC educators interested in SOGI-inclusive education to meet, share resources, celebrate successes and collectively overcome obstacles within and across districts. In one year, the BC SOGI Educator Network has grown from 9 school districts to 49 out of 60.

SOGI 1 2 3 launched in Alberta in 2017/18. The Alberta SOGI Educator Network includes three school districts. Resources for Alberta educators will grow and evolve as participation and support increases.

Additional Information

For further information about the work of ARC Foundation, please visit our website at www.arcfoundation.ca. Further information about SOGI 1 2 3 and the Alberta and BC SOGI Educator Network can be found at www.sogieducation.org.



NEW WESTMINSTER

November 16, 2017

Pat Duncan, Superintendent of Schools
New Westminster School Board, School District No. 40
811 Ontario Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 0J7

Dear Superintendent Duncan:

Each year City Council appoints representatives from various organizations to serve on advisory bodies to Council. The purpose of this letter is to request that you nominate **one candidate for each position** as listed below for the new term beginning February 1, 2017.

The following committees have an opening for School Board representation in 2018:

Current Representative	Committee/Commission/Board/Panel	Term
Vacancy	Access Ability Advisory Committee	1 year
Vacancy	Community and Social Issues Committee	1 year
Vacancy	Emergency Advisory Committee	1 year
Vacancy	Multiculturalism Advisory Committee	1 year
Vacancy	Neighbourhood Traffic Advisory Committee	1 year
Vacancy	Parks and Recreation Committee	1 year
Vacancy	Restorative Justice Committee	1 year
Vacancy	ACTBiPED (Non-voting)	1 year
Vacancy	Youth Advisory Committee (Non-voting)	1 year

If you could please nominate candidates and ask the nominees to complete the enclosed application form. Applications may be submitted through email, fax or hard copy to the attention of Legislative Services. We will notify you and the nominee of their appointment.

We would appreciate receiving your nominations by the latest of December 22, 2017.

For additional information on the nomination process, please contact the Clerk's Office at 604.527.4523 or committees@newwestcity.ca.

On behalf of City Council I would like to thank your organization for serving on City advisory bodies. The City and its citizens benefit from this partnership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline Killawee', written in a cursive style.

Jacqueline Killawee
Acting City Clerk

CC: Kelly Slade-Kerr, Chair