



Supplement to: REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Date: March 12, 2019

Submitted by: Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee

Item: Requiring Action Yes No For Information

Subject: Renaming Schools – Board Process

Background:

Following the October 18, 2018 correspondence with the T̓silhqot̓in Nation regarding the renaming of New Westminster Secondary School, and as the New Westminster School District continues to undergo school replacement projects, it can be anticipated that requests regarding the naming and renaming of schools may continue. The Board currently does not have adequate procedure in place to plan or make informed decisions about the renaming of school facilities and would benefit from the guidance of specific policy.

The request by the T̓silhqot̓in Nation informs a larger discussion surrounding reconciliation and decolonization of the district’s physical structures within the public landscape of the traditional and unceded territories of the Qayqayt and Coast Salish peoples. Many of the names of the thirteen schools of the New Westminster School District commemorate a colonial and patriarchal history, that while still embedded in our systemic institutions, may no longer hold celebratory relevance. Board consideration of school renaming should reflect the Board’s values of inclusion and commitment to reconciliation, and the makeup of our diverse community and histories not told.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to develop an Administrative Procedure that, in reflecting the district’s values of inclusion and diversity, guides the Board’s decision-making process for requests related to the naming and renaming of schools.