

Fuel Up!

School Nourishment Program

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New
Westminster
Schools



School Nourishment Program

This report is provided to inform the Board of Education on the current status of the School Nourishment program and to consider phase two of the implementation.

Our goal is to “feed hungry children without stigma”.

The current school nourishment program was implemented in three New Westminster schools – Queen Elizabeth Elementary (QE), Queensborough Middle School (QMS) and Qayqayt Elementary School (QQ) starting February 2019.

The program has been in place for four months which gives us some data and information to guide our next steps. However, we are still in the early rollout stages and in parent knowledge and understanding of the program offerings.

Progress this year . . .

Since September we developed:

-  a positive relationship with a caterer who shares our passion and commitment
-  a self service online ordering platform
-  a subsidy program that supports families in need without stigma
-  a wide variety of nutritious menus that support individual dietary choices
-  PAC fund raising opportunities supported by the Fuel Up! program
-  a program that can be scaled up to deliver healthy meals to all New Westminster elementary and middle schools

What we learned . . .

Through surveys with students, parents, staff and administration, we learned that:

- 🌊 we are able to provide a broadly accessible healthy lunch program in schools
- 🌊 families in need can access full or partial subsidies
- 🌊 children can access a healthy lunch in our schools without stigma
- 🌊 we are reaching vulnerable student population in the schools we serve
- 🌊 parents like flexibility and choice
- 🌊 the food is nutritious and delicious
- 🌊 there is less food waste under the current program

What we will work on . . .

Through surveys with students, parents, staff and administration, we learned that:

- 🌊 staff and parents would like us to find solutions that encourage less packaging
- 🌊 parents and administration would like to consider opportunities for price reduction
- 🌊 to be sustainable we need to grow the program
- 🌊 we need to increase parent awareness of program options

Next Steps

The District has been extensively engaged with the caterer in order to commit to a long-term working relationship that is mutually beneficial.

- 🌍 Both parties are considering making changes to the current model.
- 🌍 The caterer is asking for a five-year contract period to assist them in making capital investments to support this program.

A sustainable model going forward requires the district to:

- 🌍 cover cost of hot holding equipment
- 🌍 streamline the current delivery model
- 🌍 consider minimum delivery fee based on number of meals ordered district wide
- 🌍 continue to subsidize the program

Phase 2 Rollout

September

Continue with QMS, QE and QQ

24-09-19

Glenbrook Middle School

25-09-19

FW Howay

26-09-19

Herbert Spencer

27-09-19

Fraser River Middle School

October

24-10-19

Connaught Heights

22-10-19

Sir Richard McBride

23-10-9

Lord Tweedsmuir

November

18-11-19

Lord Kelvin



There is considerable provincial and national interest in supporting school nutrition programs, and potentially providing provincial or federal funds to support such program.

We believe that the growth and development of our model will help to inform other districts and the national conversation. New Westminster is in a unique leadership position in this arena.