

AGENDA OF THE REGULAR OPEN MEETING
OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

6:00 pm

School Board Office (In-person & Via Zoom)

811 Ontario Street, New Westminster

The New Westminster School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

			Pages
1.	<u>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</u>	6:00 PM	
<p>Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the January 27, 2026, Regular School Board meeting.</p>			
2.	<u>APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES</u>	6:05 PM	
a.	Minutes from the Open Meetings held:		
1.	December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting		4
<p>Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the December 16, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting.</p>			
b.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
3.	<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>		
a.	Learning Story No. 4 - Human Social Development (M. Smith, District Vice Principal-Safe and Caring Schools)	6:05 PM	12
4.	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>		
a.	Before and After School Child Care - CUPE 409 (TBD)	6:15 PM	16
5.	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>		
a.	Letter to Minister Beare ELL reporting and extended funding	6:25 PM	25

support

b. Seamless Day Program (James Plett - Qayqayt Parent) 6:30 PM 27

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS** 6:40 PM

No Committee meetings held in December 2025.

7. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

a. Superintendent Update (M. Davidson) (Verbal) 6:40 PM

b. Seamless Day Kindergarten Transition Update (I. Neilson) 6:50 PM 29

c. Strong Start and Just B4 Program Relocation (I. Neilson) 7:00 PM 32

d. Queen Elizabeth Elementary Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) Update (I. Neilson & R. Bloudell) 7:10 PM 34

e. City Partnership - Swimming (R. Bloudell) 7:20 PM 41

f. 2026-2027 Enrollment Planning (B. Ketcham) 7:30 PM 43

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) permit staff to offer a voluntary placement of grade 6 students at F.W. Howay, Connaught and Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary Schools for the 2026-27 school year.

g. Long Range Facilities Plan Work Plan and Timeline (B. Ketcham) 7:40 PM 45

h. Annual Trustee Remuneration Review (B. Ketcham) 7:50 PM 46

i. International Field Trip Approval - Europe June 2027 (M. Davidson) 8:00 PM 47

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the Field Trip proposal request for the New Westminster Secondary Grade 12 IB Students to attend Europe (London UK, Paris France, Geneva Switzerland) to visit locations related to things they learned during the program.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Chair Report (Chair Sluis) (Verbal) 8:10 PM

b. BCSTA AGM Motions (M. Andres) 8:20 PM

9.	<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>		
	Nil.		
10.	<u>TRUSTEE REPORTS</u>	8:30 PM	
11.	<u>QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)</u>	8:40 PM	
	<i>Questions to the Chair on matters that arose during the meeting.</i>		
12.	<u>REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING</u>		
a.	Record of the December 16, 2025 In-Camera Meeting	8:55 PM	50
13.	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	9:00 PM	

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OPEN BOARD MEETING
OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:00 PM
In-Person and Via Zoom Link**

PRESENT Cheryl Sluis, Chair
Danielle Connelly, Vice-Chair
Elliott Slinn, Trustee
Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee
Kathleen Carlsen, Trustee
Marc Andres, Trustee
Maya Russell, Trustee

Mark Davidson, Superintendent
Geraldine Lawlor, Associate Superintendent
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Weston, Executive Director, HR
Jen Richter, Director of Instruction
Anne-Marie Martin, Recording Secretary

REGRETS Members of the Public

Student Voice: Cayleigh Elcheshen,
Sadie Campbell and Ava Purewal

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1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2025-093
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

a. Minutes from the Open meeting held:

1. Regular School Board Meeting held November 25, 2025

**2025-094
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the November 25, 2025, Regular School Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes.

Nil.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

a. **Student Voice** (Cayleigh & Sadie)

Student Voice members Ava, Sadie, and Cayleigh presented their plans for the year, supported by Mr. Patton and Mr. Sanj Johal. They reported strong participation in the Fall student survey (334 responses so far) focused on demographics, inclusivity, mental health, and safety, driven by promotions such as candy incentives, social media, posters, teacher support, and announcements. They outlined a new Spring survey to compare results over time—especially around mental health—and to refine questions based on Fall findings. They also described plans for the Spring student symposium at NWSS, where topics (likely similar to last year’s student success, DEIA, mental health, and safety) will be finalized using survey data, and they emphasized the need to raise awareness and attendance among high school students and better involve middle schools. The students highlighted challenges in the middle-to-high school transition, noting that transitions are often portrayed as scarier than reality and that students need more support with course selection and mentorship (e.g., buddy systems, high school students visiting middle schools). In response to a question from the chair, they committed to returning to the board in January with analyzed Fall survey results and proposed symposium themes.

The presentation can be viewed on the [video](#) at (1:40)

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. **Letter to City of New Westminster: Royal Avenue Roadway Safety and Security Concerns.**

b. **Letter to TransLink for More Buses.**

The Board noted two outgoing letters: one to the City of New Westminster Mayor and Council regarding roadway safety concerns on Royal Avenue, and another to TransLink advocating for increased service on bus routes 102 and 105 during school drop-off and pick-up times.

5. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil.

6. **REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGAMENT**

a. **Superintendent Update (M. Davidson) (Verbal)**

Superintendent Davidson reported on a busy “production season,” highlighting strong student and staff engagement in school fine arts events, the successful Discover New

West event, and a well-attended district math night with over 600 students. Planning is underway to refine next year's secondary five-block schedules, continue data-informed site meetings with principals focused on strategic plan progress and literacy, and organize the elementary track and field meet on May 22 for Grades 4–5, with thanks to staff and volunteers for their efforts.

b. Long Range Facilities Planning (B. Ketcham)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham reported that the March 2023 plan is being refreshed in light of ongoing enrollment growth, recent capacity additions, and the new Simcoe Elementary announcement, and noted continued middle school capacity pressures and unsuccessful prior land-acquisition proposals. The board discussed exploring site intensification on existing district properties and examining a possible grade reconfiguration from K–5/6–8/9–12 to K–6, 7–9, 10–12, with trustees highlighting concerns about green space, traffic, childcare, vulnerable learners, French Immersion, electives, and athletics, and emphasizing the need for robust community engagement consistent with the IAP2 framework. Staff committed to bringing a detailed engagement and communications plan in January and to presenting an updated Long-Range Facilities Plan by June, and the board approved both the direction to explore site intensification and to support the proposed grade reconfiguration in principle, with consultation to follow.

**2025-095
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) permit staff to investigate site intensification strategies of existing owned property to meet capacity needs of the district which includes investigating the construction feasibility of multiple sites across the district for which capacity can be added.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2025-096
Moved and Seconded**

THAT the Board of Education support in principle the permanent grade reconfigurations across the District from K - 5, 6 - 8 and 9 - 12 to K-6, 7-9 and 10-12 and direct staff to engage the community on what considerations the district should make as part of any future transitions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

During the long range facilities planning discussion, trustees asked what site intensification would practically mean in a land-constrained city (including which sites might be affected and impacts on green space, traffic, and childcare), how and when the community would be engaged under the IAP2 framework, how potential grade reconfiguration and new school models might affect students with IEPs, ELL learners, and other vulnerable groups, whether educational models (not just buildings) from other jurisdictions would be considered, and what the overall process, options, trade-offs, and timelines would look like before any preferred options are chosen.

The presentation can be viewed on the [video](#) at (21:38)

c. **Bank Signing Authority (B. Ketcham - Secretary Treasurer)**

2025-097

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster)'s bank signing authorities Trustee Cheryl Sluis and Trustee Danielle Connelly; Mark Davidson, Superintendent; and Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer be approved; **AND FURTHER** that effective immediately, bank signing authority Trustee Maya Russell, former Chair, be removed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. **Preliminary Budget Process Timeline (B. Ketcham)**

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham presented the proposed 2026–27 budget process, noting it largely mirrors the previous year’s timeline and again includes a community budget survey and partner group engagement through the Coordinating Committee. Partner groups will also be invited to the March board meeting to share priorities in advance. The budget is planned for approval by the end of April to support timely staffing processes. In discussion, a concern was raised that the original timing of the Partner Group Budget Consultation (Coordinating Committee) left limited time to incorporate feedback; staff agreed to move this meeting one week earlier, and the board approved the budget process and timeline as amended. Trustees also discussed the importance of clearly communicating the constrained financial context to partner groups so they can frame their recommendations realistically, while still recognizing the value of hearing broader unmet needs to inform district advocacy.

2025-098

AMENDED

That the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approves the 2026-27 budget process and timeline as presented.

2025-099

Moved and Seconded

That the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approves the 2026-27 budget process and timeline as presented with a change to the coordinating committee date as discussed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. E-Scooters (G. Lawlor)

Associate Superintendent Lawlor presented a briefing on e-mobility devices (e-scooters and e-bikes). She clarified that New Westminster is not part of the provincial e-scooter pilot, so e-scooters are illegal on public roads and school property, while e-bikes are permitted with provincial age restrictions (16+ for standard e-bikes; 14+ for light e-bikes, 16+ if carrying passengers). The district has no current policy but will develop an administrative procedure for e-scooters and e-bikes on school property, aligned with provincial and city rules. Waller reported on the E-mobility and Safer Streets community event at Century House, where themes included safety, legal compliance, and the district's role. Key next steps are to: send a district-wide message to families before winter break clarifying the legal status of e-scooters and expectations for e-bikes; not promote or educate in favour of e-scooters while they remain illegal; develop and communicate the new AP; and monitor any changes to provincial pilots or city participation. Trustees expressed appreciation for the educational approach, asked about liability if illegal devices are used on school property, and emphasized the need to support families with clear information, especially ahead of holiday purchases.

The presentation can be viewed on the [video](#) at (48:56)

f. Operations Report (For Information)

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham highlighted ongoing capital and operational work, noting that the Simcoe Elementary project received positive feedback at the City's design review panel, particularly on how much capacity is being achieved on a small site, with interior design consultations (including trustee participation) still to come. She reported progress on developing a district-wide operational risk register, which is fostering cross-departmental discussion and will incorporate items such as emergency preparedness and environmental incidents (e.g., pipeline or dangerous goods risks) and eventually be shared with the board and used to inform budgeting. The board also heard that additional provincial capital support and project contingencies will allow completion of Memorial Park phase one landscaping (grading, fencing, lighting) at NWSS, though more ambitious park elements remain for a future phase.

g. Administrative Procedure 117 and Policy 17 – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) (J. Richter) (update due to the government policy changes)

Director of Instruction Richter explained that policy language and the related administrative procedure were updated to reflect the Ministry's four gender identity options, modernize terminology to better represent 2SLGBTQIA+ diversity, formalize the use of a student's usual name unless a legal name is required, and explicitly support requests to update names or gender identity in official records. Trustees asked about consistency across schools; staff outlined changes to registration forms, communication to principals and clerical staff, and inclusion in training. The Board unanimously approved the revisions to Policy 17 as presented and received the updated AP 117 for information.

1. Policy 17 – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

2025-100

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Page 2 of 79 Westminster) accept the revisions to Policy 17 - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. AP117 – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

h. Administrative Procedures (For Information)

The presentation can be viewed on the [video](#) at (1:03:55 pm)

1. AP261 - Multi Day In Province Field Trips (Low and High Risk)

- a. AP261-1 - Multi-Day In Province Field Trip Proposal Form**
- b. AP261-2 - Multi Day In Province Field Trip Teacher Checklist**

2. AP262 - Multi Day Out of Province Field Trips (Within Canada and International)

- a. AP262-1 - Multi Day Out of Province Field Trip Proposal Form**
- b. AP262-2 - Multi-Day Out of Province Field Trip Teacher Checklist**

Associate Superintendent Lawlor presented updated procedures that clarify approval processes, timelines, risk assessment, and supervision requirements for multi-day trips within BC (AP 261) and for out-of-province and international trips (AP 262), including required principal, Superintendent, and Board approvals, with limited exceptions for time-sensitive opportunities such as championship events.

3. AP300 – Extended Absences for Parents/Guardians

4. AP330 – Student Attendance

Associate Superintendent Lawlor outlined updates to clarify expectations around student attendance, extended absences, and residency. AP 300 now more clearly describes responsibilities for monitoring attendance, handling extended absences requested by parents/guardians, and ensuring students are ordinarily resident in the district and have an identified responsible adult for emergencies. AP 330 sets out processes for addressing non-attendance and extended time away, including when a student may be temporarily removed from a specific school's register while maintaining their place in the district. Trustees raised concerns about potential impacts on vulnerable students and chronic absenteeism; staff emphasized that extenuating circumstances will be considered case-by-case and that the intent is to protect student safety and continuity of care, not to exclude students from the system.

The presentation can be viewed on the [video](#) at (1:10:30 pm)

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Support for English Language Learners (ELL) Data and Funding (K. Carlsen)**

Trustee Carlsen read the motion and trustees expressed support, noting current guidelines expect districts to fund continued support from their operating budgets after five years, but also raised questions about staffing ratios, how additional funding would translate into service, and the need for an effective instructional framework alongside funding.

2025-101
Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster):

- 1. Write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care requesting that English Language Learner (ELL) data be included as a distinct category within the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) reporting. and**
- 2. Request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care extend ELL funding beyond the current five-year cap to ensure equitable and sufficient support for all English Language Learner students.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The presentation can be viewed on the [video](#) at (1:20:30 pm)

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

Trustee Carlsen asked for any updates regarding the letter about QE busing, and Trustee Russell noted it was a timely opportunity to check in.

9. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Andres reported attending the district math games night with their five-year-old, noting it helped counter the “math is scary” narrative by making math playful and positive, and praised high school volunteers for their patience and skill with young children. The trustee also highlighted the launch of the Climate Action Working Group led by Director Richter, describing the first meeting as energetic and promising, with terms of reference in development and regular reporting planned.

Trustee Russell thanked the Superintendent for increased attention and presence at performing arts events, noting that fine arts teachers had previously felt less seen by senior administration, and emphasized how meaningful it is for staff and students to have senior leaders attend performances and recognize their hard work.

Trustee Carlsen attended the Remembrance Day assembly at Massey Theatre, praising students' talent, respect, and maturity, and reflected on attending the BCSTA Trustee Academy for the first time, emphasizing lessons on good governance and keeping students at the center of decisions. Carlson also acknowledged staff supporting student athletes and parents advocating for school safety, and extended holiday wishes and thanks to the school community.

Chair Sluis reflected on the year with gratitude for students, staff, families, and community partners working to create safe, caring, and inclusive learning environments; shared a story from New West Family Place illustrating how community organizations reduce barriers for families; and emphasized the importance of public participation in board processes to improve decision-making and achieve more inclusive outcomes.

The presentation can be viewed on the [video](#) at (1:29 pm)

10. **QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)**

Before Question Period, Chair Sluis reviewed the board's standard public participation and question period guidelines.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on items related to the agenda, with staff responding where appropriate. To view the full comment and question period, please refer to the meeting [video](#) at 1:35.00.

11. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, January 27, 2026: Open Regular Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m. (Hybrid)
- Thursday February 5, 2026: Coordinating Committee In-Person at the SBO - 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday February 10, 2026: Committee of the Whole Open Board In-Person at the SBO - 5:30 p.m.

12. **REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING**

- a. Record of the November 25, 2025, In-Camera Meeting

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

SD 40 Board Presentation:

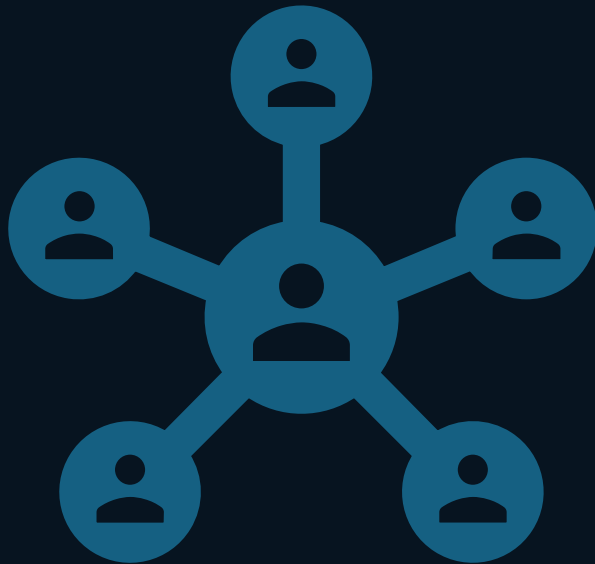
Learning Story 4 – Human and Social Development

Educational Outcome 3: Students Feel Welcome, Safe and Connected



New
Westminster
Schools

The Data:



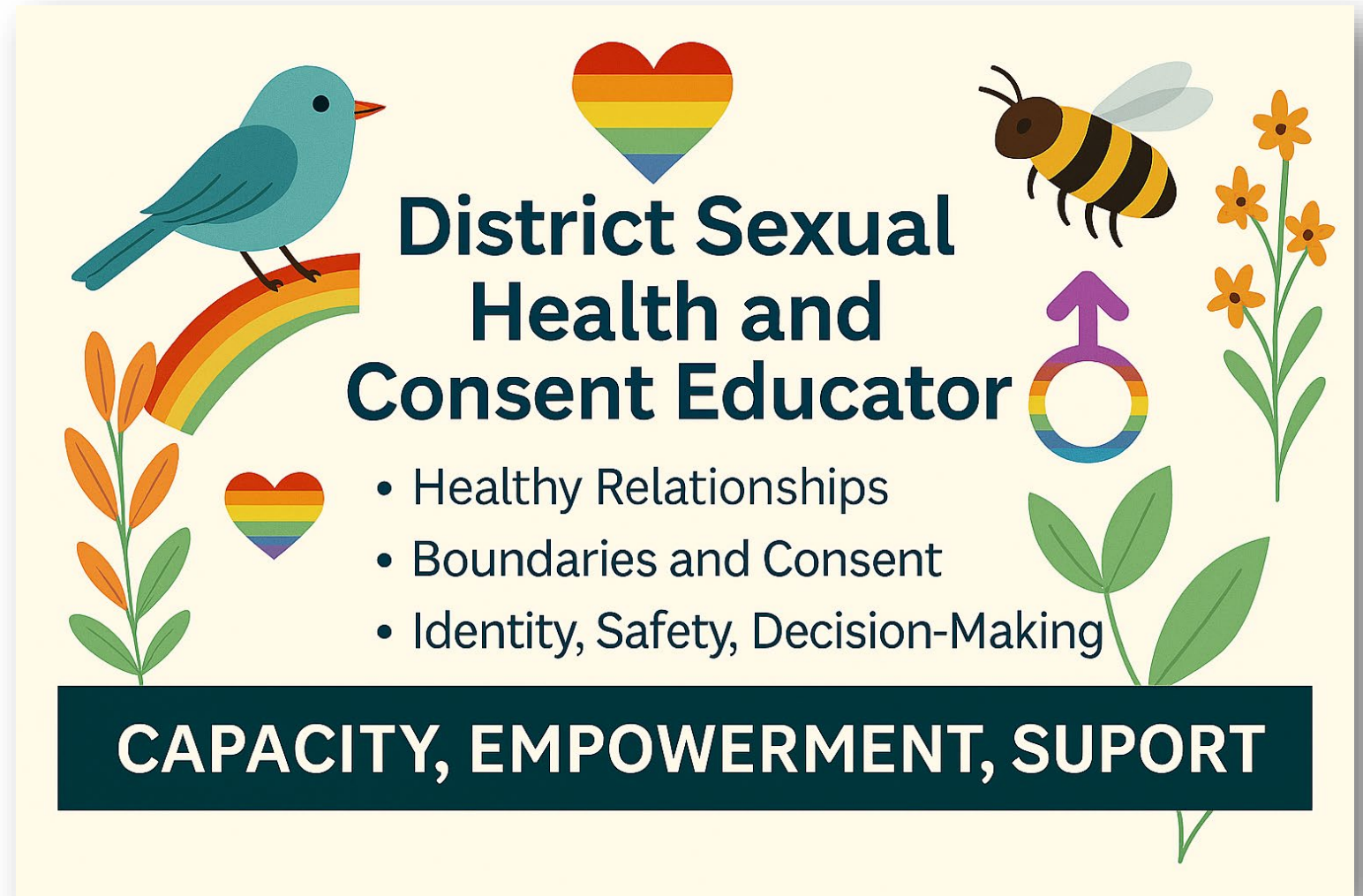
- **Outcome 3: Students Feel Welcome, Safe, and Connected**
- **What's Working**
 - Increasing sense of safety and belonging across the district
 - Strong results among younger students (Grades 4–7)
 - Stable survey participation supporting reliable trend data
- **What We're Addressing**
 - Lower feelings of belonging among Indigenous Students and Students with Designations
 - Fewer students reporting meaningful connections with caring adults
 - Slightly below provincial averages in key indicators
- **What's Next**
 - Strengthen adult–student relationships through mentorship and relational practices
 - Implement targeted, equity-focused supports for priority populations
 - Embed SEL and monitor progress through ongoing data review

District-Wide Sexual Health and Consent Scope & Sequence

-
- Student feedback and wellness data point to a need for **consistent, developmentally appropriate learning** related to:
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Boundaries and Consent
 - Identity, Safety, Decision-Making



Meet Shannon Isaak...



**District Sexual
Health and
Consent Educator**

- Healthy Relationships
- Boundaries and Consent
- Identity, Safety, Decision-Making

CAPACITY, EMPOWERMENT, SUPPORT



Let's Build Public Childcare

IT'S TIME TO CREATE AFFORDABLE FULL-DAY EARLY LEARNING
AND CARE IN B.C.'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introductions

- Karrie Andrews
 - President of CUPE 409
- Tuesday Andrich
 - CUPE National staff
 - Lead CUPE BC's Seamless Childcare Now campaign
 - **This campaign advocates for the province wide creation of a system of publicly delivered childcare**

We kindly ask that you please keep all your questions until the end

CUPE Local 409



- Who is CUPE Local 409?
- We are apart of CUPE, the largest union in BC
 - 100,000+ members
- And the largest union in Canada
 - 800,000 members

Our members provide quality services in K-12 public education and work as:

- Education Assistants
- Child and Youth Care Workers
- Indigenous Support Workers
- Custodians
- Clerical Workers
- Chef and Lunch Assistants
- Skilled Trades and Utility Workers
- Maintenance Service Workers
- IT Technicians
- Grounds Workers
- Crossing Guards
- Noon Hour Supervisors
- Support Workers
- Bookkeepers
- Facilitators
- Bus Attendants
- Payroll and Accounting Workers
- Library Support Workers
- Clerks

High Demand / Low Supply

- Tens of thousands of childcare spaces needed in BC
- Market-based childcare system has led to inadequate supply of spaces, unfair distribution of services
- Most existing before and after school care programs located in larger urban areas
- \$10/day childcare is increasing demand for these spaces
- Waitlists for care are extremely long – multiple applications, aging out
- Childcare is an equity issue and an immediate need
- CUPE proposes a public option for before and after school care, operated by school districts

Public School Spaces, a potential immediate solution

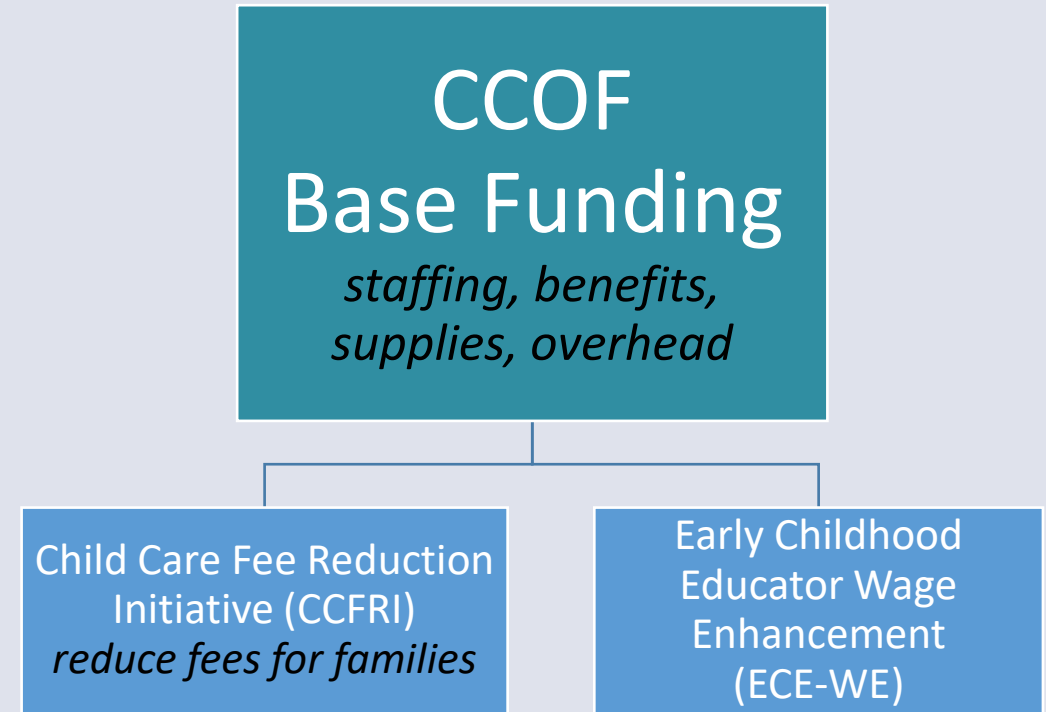
- Thousands of potential cost-effective spaces across BC
- Public school system trusted and reliable
 - delivers high quality, accessible, and equitable services
- Changes to the *School Act* by the Ministry of Education and Childcare
 - school districts can now implement before and after school care
- B.C. government objective of integrated childcare within B.C. schools
- Education Assistant's training exceeds the requirements for school-aged childcare

Active Pilots — Integrated Child Care

- Cowichan Valley, Peace River North, Nakusp, Nanaimo, Chilliwack, and Campbell River
- Campbell River created seven additional sites
- Nanaimo bringing third party contracts for childcare into the publicly delivered model
- Courtenay / Comox moving forward in the coming year
- Demand is high, continued expansion is necessary

Available funding

- BC Childcare Operating Funding (CCOF)
- Funding agreement can start anytime during funding term
- Streamlined application process for SDs
- Few things to keep in mind if you are already receiving funding and opening a new center
- Use the My ChildCareBC Services portal to apply or renew funding
- Carefully review guidelines prior to submission



Deadline to apply for Feb or March start:

February 17th

Applications received after this date will be assessed for funding beginning April 1, 2026.

Helpful tips when considering expansion

- Surveying is helpful to determine parent's needs
 - Do they need childcare when school is not in session? (winter, spring, summer breaks and Pro D Days)
 - Can they change childcare programs mid-year?
- Beginning new programming at start of the school year has been more successful
- Advertise widely and get the word out for successful enrollment
- Consider mapping out economies of scale – more programs result in more cost-effective childcare services

QUESTIONS?

www.seamlesschildcarenow.ca

January 7, 2026

Sent by Email

Re: Request for Enhanced ELL Reporting and Extended Funding Support

Dear Hon. Minister Beare,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) to request your consideration of two related issues that directly affect the success and equity of English Language Learner (ELL) students across British Columbia.

First, the Board is requesting that ELL data be reported as a distinct category within the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL). English Language Learners follow unique learning pathways that are not always visible when their data are grouped within broader student populations. Clear and separate reporting would improve transparency, support stronger planning at both the district and provincial levels, and help ensure that improvement efforts are aligned with the needs of multilingual learners.

Second, the Board is requesting that the Ministry extend ELL funding beyond the current five-year cap.

Research and practice consistently show that while students may acquire conversational English relatively quickly, it often takes significantly longer to develop the academic language required for success in reading, writing, and subject-specific learning. For students who arrive in British Columbia later in their schooling, particularly during the middle or secondary years, this challenge is intensified. These students are expected to learn academic English while simultaneously earning graduation credits within a compressed timeframe.

A fixed five-year funding limit can unintentionally create inequities for late-arriving students. In many cases, funding for language supports is lost long before students are fully prepared to access grade-level curriculum independently. This is especially concerning from a funding perspective, as so many of our students have experienced interrupted schooling or limited access to formal education and therefore require more sustained and targeted support.

Evidence also shows that well-designed interventions can be effective for older students. Continued language and literacy supports increase engagement, improve academic outcomes, and strengthen the likelihood of successful graduation. From an equity perspective, a funding model that does not account for age of arrival risks disadvantaging students with the greatest need for support.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully asks the Ministry to consider extending ELL funding beyond five years, or to explore a more flexible, needs-based approach that reflects the realities faced by late-arriving learners.

We appreciate the Ministry's ongoing commitment to inclusive education and student success.

The Board would welcome the opportunity to engage further in dialogue regarding ELL reporting and funding structures that better support equitable outcomes for students across British Columbia.

As always, thank you for ongoing leadership and partnership in the service of our students.

Respectfully,



Cheryl Sluis
Chair, Board of Education

Cc: Mark Davidson, Superintendent
Board of Education



Dear Chair Sluis and Trustees of School District 40,

I am writing to you today to implore you to not let the Seamless Day program die.

Seamless Day is a brilliant model and is inclusive education in action. From a distance, it appears to be simply before/after school care. However, the true brilliance of the program is the incorporation of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) into the classroom during the instructional day.

This means that if a child has a difficult morning or expresses a need to an ECE, that ECE can work with the child and their teacher during school hours to address it. This incredible level of integration means that kids who might otherwise struggle can instead thrive. The ECEs become an integral part of the classroom, assisting teachers and working not just with "Seamless" kids, but with the regular stream students as well. Everyone in the classroom benefits.

It is obviously a huge benefit to teachers. A major drawback of traditional before/after school care is that teachers are asked to "give up" their classrooms before and after school, limiting their prep time. With Seamless Day, the trade-off is overwhelmingly positive: in exchange for sharing the space, the teacher gains a qualified assistant all day. It makes the trade a non-decision.

Furthermore, it supports workers. It provides stable, reliable, full-time work for ECEs, allowing them to excel in their trade and become true members of the school community.

Most importantly, this is inclusive education in action. Students with and without designations make use of Seamless Day. Having a stable, familiar place to start and end their day makes them feel safe. This takes stress off other staff and ensures the child is ready to learn.

I speak to this from personal experience.

If you walk down the hallway between the Seamless Day classrooms at Qayqayt Elementary, there are stories posted on the wall about student successes. One of them describes a brand new kindergartner: my daughter. It describes her being unsure — scared, even — and how she was able to overcome it because of Seamless Day.

Kids like mine need Seamless Day. The friends she has made within the class, and the care she has been shown by the staff, have contributed to her loving school and thriving. I have spoken to other parents who feel the same; their kids all love Seamless Day, but more importantly, many of them *need* it. It's inclusive education at its most pure.

The Province's decision to end the pilot funding **should not be mistaken** for an order to end the program. The lack of provincial funding does not necessitate the end of any service.

Parents would gladly pay market rates to keep Seamless Day alive, and combined with the various provincial subsidies such as the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI), **it becomes a viable model**. SD40 has the **infrastructure, the staff, and the knowledge** to sustain this. Losing Seamless Day would be forsaking all of that progress, abandoning the learnings, the successes, and the legacy of a program that works.

It therefore falls to this Board to decide the future of the program.

I ask you to stand alongside the BCTF and CUPE, both of whom endorse this model. I ask you to stand with the ECEs, the teachers, and the administration who know this makes an immeasurable difference. And I ask you to stand with the parents and students who rely on this inclusive, emotional, and academic support.

It is easy to tear something down. It is much harder to stand up and save something incredible.

I implore the School Board to work with parents to find a way to save Seamless Day.

Sincerely,

James Plett

A Seamless Dad at Qayqayt Elementary



Supplement to: REGULAR OPEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: January 27, 2026

Submitted by: Ileana Neilson, Manager of Early Learning and Child Care

Item: **Requiring Action** Yes No **For Information**

Subject: Seamless Day Kindergarten Transition Update

Background:

Seamless Day Kindergarten Pilot

New Westminster Schools opted into the first Seamless Day Kindergarten (SDK) pilot in 2022 at Qayqayt Elementary and added a second SDK program in the same location in 2023. Between both cohorts, the District services 24 students between K and grade 2.

In the spring of 2025, the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) confirmed that the 2025-26 year would be the final year of funding for both the Seamless Day Pilots and Just B4 preschool.

SDK Implementation and Funding

The SDK model operated through a structured schedule that leverages school facilities and ECE expertise.

The SDK program was financed through **two primary sources**:

1. **MECC Pilot Funding**, of \$ 110,800 / year
2. **Parent Program Fees**, - \$ 117,600/ year

SDK implementation	Funding source	What was covered
Before School care 7- 9 am	Parent fees	Wages + direct operational costs of before school care An Early Childhood Educator (ECE) welcomed children into a morning program. Activities are play-based and developmentally appropriate, taking place in classrooms and other school spaces.



During the School Day 9 am – 2: 55 pm	MECC funding	Wages for the ECE in the Kindergarten classroom The same ECE remained in the classroom, supporting the teacher and students. They collaborated on program planning and environment design, ensuring alignment between early learning principles and classroom instruction.
After School Care 2: 55 – 6 pm	Parent fees	Wages + direct operational costs for after school care A second ECE assumed responsibility mid-day, leading the after-school program. Activities mirror the morning approach—play-based and child-centered—until families picked up their children.

The funding for SDK covers the direct costs- specifically the wages for the four ECEs- but does not account for the reasonable costs to provide structural support to the program (HR, Finance, Facilities, Administration etc).

Partnership Between WCASS and SDK at Qayqayt Elementary

Since 2014, WCASS has operated **24 licensed child care spaces** under the *Kids Korner* program at Qayqayt Elementary, serving children from **Kindergarten through Grade 5**. In 2022, when the SDK pilot was announced, we partnered with WCASS to ensure continuity of care for families at Qayqayt. Under this partnership each entity played the following roll to allow children to transition smoothly from SDK to WCASS:

- **The District (SDK) enrolled Kindergarten and Grade 1 students**, while
- **WCASS continued to serve children in Grades 2–5.**

This partnership led to Increased capacity as it enabled WCASS to expand its licensed capacity from **24 to 30 spaces** due to the older age of students. The District operating SDK licensed 24 spaces for K and Grade 1. Between both programs, maximum capacity was achieved at 54 spaces.

SDK: information on the children currently enrolled

In total, for the 2025-26 school year, we serve 24 children:

- 6 children in French Immersion
- 5 children in kindergarten
- 7 children in Grade 1
- 6 children in Grade 2

Proposed Transition Plan

Staff will implement ending the Seamless Day program and support WCASS expansion at Qayqayt to ensure no loss of child care spaces.

WCASS have indicated their support for this direction. To move ahead, the following actions are required:

- Notify parents and Fraser Health of the closure of the District's program.
- Offer support to WCASS in applying to Fraser Health for an amendment to increase licensed capacity from 30 to 54.
- Notify the municipality regarding proposed changes.

Estimated Timeline: 2–4 months for FH approval and inspection.

Impact: This option maintains 54 child care spaces at QQ by providing transition plans for all families, ensuring continuity of care and minimizing disruption. The District receives rent from WCAS for its use of space but there are fewer operational challenges and no funding pressures on the District in operating child care at this site.

Space Possibilities:

The District is exploring several space use opportunities directly with the school principal and WCASS.

Consideration of Board operated child care

Staff considered converting the Seamless program to a board operated program. We have concluded that it is not possible to stand up a financially neutral and family-affordable program without the existence of Ministry funding. The funding for the educational portion of Seamless Day between 2 cohorts serving 24 children is \$100,800. Any portion or whole thereof would be funded out of resource provided directly for K – 12 educational programming.

In addition, while Bill 19 has passed and better enables Districts to operate child care under less restricted language under the school act, we are awaiting regulations of this Bill. The bill will allow Districts to charge reasonable costs which include direct and indirect costs. At present, the District has endeavoured to align our fees with those of our partners. The District costs are not being fully covered by these current parent fees.



Supplement to: **REGULAR OPEN BOARD MEETING**

Date: January 27, 2026

Submitted by: Ileana Neilson, Manager of Early Learning and Child Care

Item: **Requiring Action** Yes No **For Information**

Subject: StrongStart Consolidation Update

Background

Funding for StrongStart has remained unchanged at \$32,000 from 2011 until 2025, when it was increased by \$2,000 to \$34,000 per location. We have been operating the StrongStart programs at a deficit each year, and for the current school year we are projecting a shortfall of \$24,500. In 2025, government confirmed it would also remove its funding support for the JustB4 program.

We have connected with neighboring districts, many of whom have already begun implementing operational changes to manage similar challenges resulting from space and underfunding. To continue supporting families while working within limited resources, districts have reduced program hours, combined sites, or alternated days of operation across two locations.

The purpose of this report is to confirm the consolidation of programs as noted below as of September 2026 and the timeline for which we will undertake these plans. It is important to note that the number of spaces under this consolidation will remain unchanged.

Considering the geography of our district, the registration data across all three locations over the past three years, the average monthly attendance at each site, and the number of days StrongStart has reached maximum capacity, we recommend the following consolidation of StrongStart programs as of September 2026:

- Connaught StrongStart relocates to Skwo:wech in the afternoon, so Skwo:wech StrongStart will host a morning and afternoon program.
- Just B4 preschool remains at Queensborough Middle StrongStart site. StrongStart would operate in the morning and JustB4 in the afternoon.
- Maintain the Explore outdoors program – a day of learning from the land.



We confirmed with the MECC that decisions regarding StrongStart locations rest with the district, provided the programs remain accessible to families. We are required to submit a Change in Location form, along with a rationale, to the Ministry prior to implementation.

The StrongStart and JustB4 Preschool program will remain unchanged for the 2025-26 school year. We anticipate the impact to families to be minimal as the program runs year to year for different cohorts of children. Communication to existing families will go out this week to inform everyone of the upcoming changes for next school year.

Queen Elizabeth Elementary Neighbourhood Learning Centre



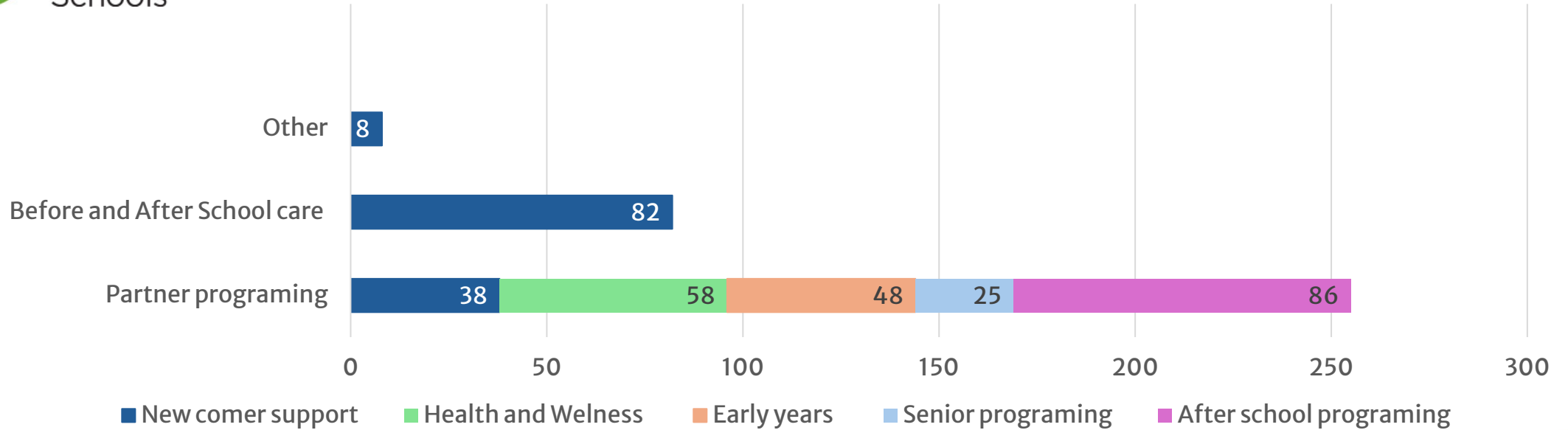
New
Westminster
Schools

Engagement Efforts – Fall 2025

- Public survey targeting Queensborough residents
 - Shared via School Messenger, Queensborough Community Centre, and Queensborough Special Programs Committee
 - Emailed to both schools' staff for input
- Presentations to Queen Elizabeth Elementary and Queensborough Middle School PACs
- Meeting with Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar



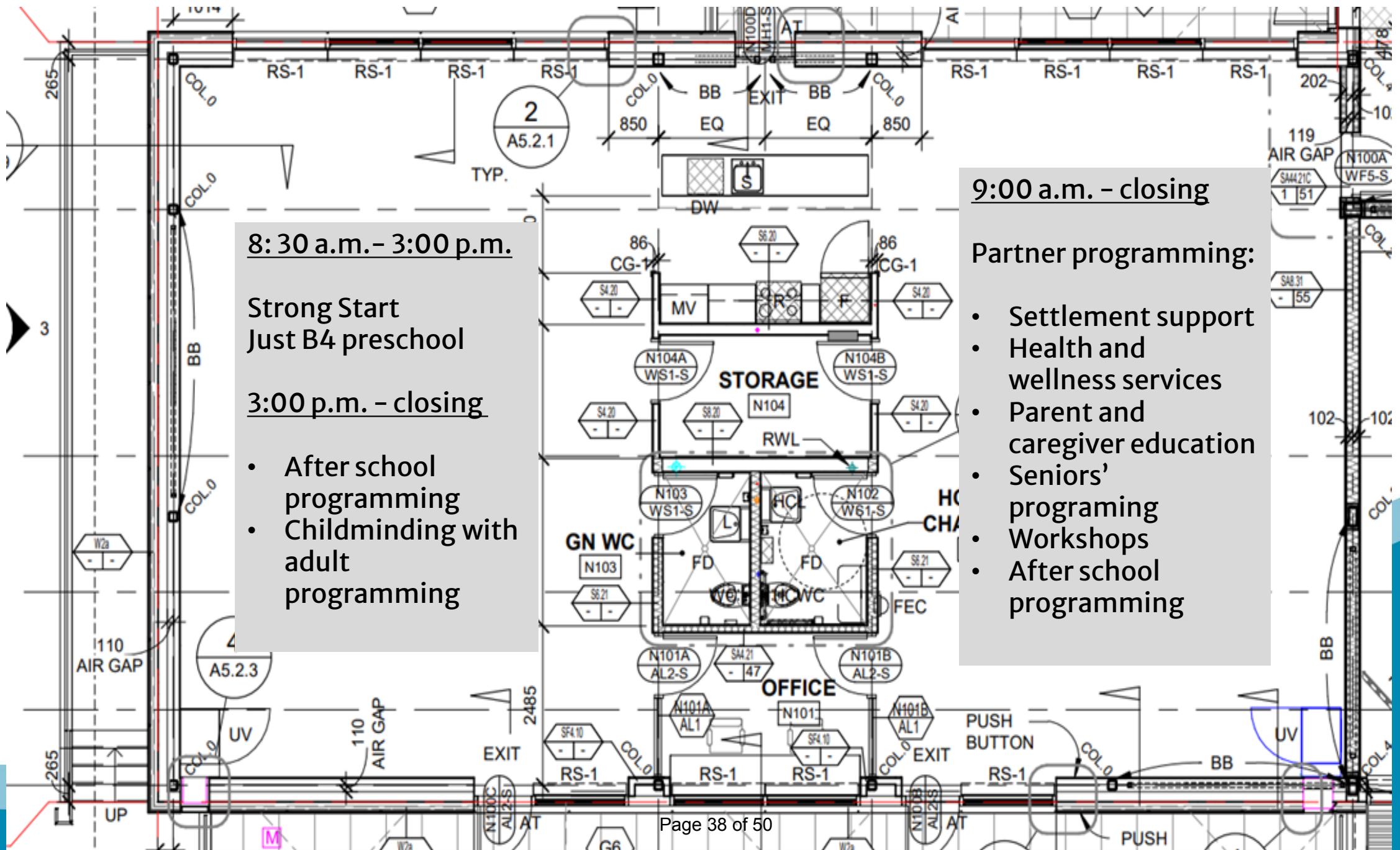
103 responses



Public Engagement Survey

Partnership/Program Suggestions

- Adult education or Adult Learning Centre
- Parenting and family support (workshops, support for young mothers)
- Kids First Pediatric Therapy
- Kinsight
- Call to residents to see what they can offer the NLC
- Settlement agencies – SUCCESS, ISS of BC and MOSAIC
- New Westminster Public Library
- Central registration pop-ups



8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Strong Start
Just B4 preschool

3:00 p.m. – closing

- After school programming
- Childminding with adult programming

9:00 a.m. – closing

Partner programming:

- Settlement support
- Health and wellness services
- Parent and caregiver education
- Seniors' programming
- Workshops
- After school programming

Considerations

- Child care
 - Evaluate other potential locations within school for child care expansion
 - Enable a trusted community partner to seamlessly sustain essential child-care services throughout summer and school breaks
- Staffing
 - Program coordinator type of position to be factored into budget 2026/27 and beyond
 - Extremely important due to the geographic isolation and recruiting and coordinating multiple partners into the space

Next Steps

1. Work with Dave Crowe to plan the interior of the space and purchase necessary equipment and furniture (Spring 2026)
2. Continued discussions with Lisa Kemp (Queensborough Community Centre)
3. Firm up partnership commitments (Summer-Fall 2026)
4. Firm up the on-site space for child-care services within the school and confirm the service provider





Supplement to: REGULAR OPEN BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Submitted by: Rick Bloudell, Manager of Community Projects and Partnerships

Item: **Requiring Action** **Yes** **No** **For Information**

Subject: School Swim Lesson Pilot – Report

Update:

As of January 13, 2026, City of New Westminister Parks and Recreation staff have shared that a school swim lesson pilot is not feasible for them, but they are interested in potentially revisiting this project in the future.

Background:

In late Spring 2025, City of New Westminister Parks and Recreation informally reached out to discuss options for possible swim lessons at tēmāsew̄tx^w. The reason behind this initiative was to provide a valuable opportunity for students while also alleviating pressure on City evening and weekend swim lessons.

In October 2025, at the request of the board, I re-connected with City of New Westminister Parks and Recreation staff. I also reached out to Burnaby School District to learn about a similar pilot that they participated in.

Burnaby School District engaged in a pilot project with City of Burnaby Parks and Recreation in Spring 2025. Two schools had its grade 5 students participate in 4 swimming lesson sessions at their local pool under the instruction and supervision of City of Burnaby Parks and Recreation. This 4-session pilot, including transportation (where necessary), was offered to Burnaby School District free of charge. This program was planning to expand to six schools for Fall 2025.

I shared Burnaby’s structure with City of New Westminister Parks and Recreation staff in late October, in which they stated they would consult with their team and return with a response.



In January 2026, City staff stated that the swim lesson pilot was not something they are able to accommodate. One of their considerations is to have it included in a future Joint Use Agreement between the City and School District.



Supplement to: **REGULAR OPEN BOARD MEETING**

Date: January 13, 2026

Submitted by: Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer

Item: **Requiring Action** Yes No **For Information**

Subject: 2026-27 Enrollment Planning

Background:

As registration continues for the 2026-27 year, we continue to do additional planning in response to the needs of next school year. The growth we have been seeing at the elementary level are starting to make their way to the middle school. The pre-transitioned students anticipated to attend each of the middle schools in 2026 is indicating all middle schools will be increasing by one or more divisions. Both mainland middle schools are particularly challenged for space when it comes to considerations for portable placement and we have exhausted interior modifications to support new enrolling divisions.

At present, there are the following unused classrooms in the following elementary schools:

- Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary
- Connaught Heights
- FW Howay

As a strategy to alleviate pressure on both mainland middle schools, staff propose offering families at Lord Tweedsmuir, Connaught Heights and F.W. Howay the **option** to stay at their elementary school for grade 6 and transition to middle school in grade 7. This would be **completely voluntary**. This measure produces the benefit of utilizing unused space at the elementary schools and avoid placing additional portables at middle schools.

Supporting the above, is the Board’s approved motion from the December 2025 meeting:

THAT the Board of Education support in principle the permanent grade reconfigurations across the District from K - 5, 6 - 8 and 9 - 12 to K-6, 7-8 and 10-12 and direct staff to engage the community on what considerations the District should make as part of any future transitions.

Due to the construction of the new school adjacent to FRMS, we anticipate that during the Summer of 2026 the FRMS annex, which houses 4 portables, will have to be relocated elsewhere on school grounds. Having some divisions remain at Connaught Heights and Lord Tweedsmuir, will hopefully allow FRMS to keep their outdoor play areas a while longer (depending on uptake in this offer).

Impacts to programs of choice because of the voluntary change to families –

- Lord Tweedsmuir French Immersion – No change. Students in EFI would continue to transition to GMS to carry on in grade 6.
- Late French Immersion – No change. Students applying to late French immersion at GMS if accepted will continue to transition to GMS to carry on in grade 6.
- Connaught Montessori – No grade 6 offering of Montessori will be provided. Students that elect to stay at Connaught will join the regular stream students and remain at Connaught.
 - Note: Montessori students who's catchment is QMS will go to QMS if they elect not to stay at Connaught for grade 6.

To facilitate understanding the interest and uptake in this offer, a survey to go out to grade 5 students of the proposed elementary schools on February 2, 2026 to collect expression of intent to stay which will remain open to February 23, 2026. Families will have to April 1st to change their mind to attend their catchment middle-school, or request to stay at their current elementary school.

While we understand the Board supports in principle the concept of grade reconfiguration district-wide, we acknowledge that staff have not yet undertaken its consultation with community which is why a choice is being presented on a voluntary basis to families. This move represents an acceleration (albeit voluntary) to the Board's direction as stated earlier in the report. To that end, staff seek the following approval:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) permit staff to offer a voluntary placement of grade 6 students at FW Howay, Connaught and Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary Schools for the 2026-27 school year.

As part of the collection of data from families on this voluntary move form and through the long range facilities plan consultation happening in February with the broader community which will contain questions about grade reconfiguration, information/data will be brought back to the Board on what considerations the District should make if it moves in this direction permanently. Once information and data is gathered in February and shared in March or April 2026, further consideration and direction by the board will be sought to confirm its direction to reconfigure grades permanently.



Supplement to: **OPEN BOARD MEETING**

Date: January 20, 2026

Submitted by: Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer

Item: **Requiring Action** Yes No **For Information**

Subject: Trustee Remuneration

Background:

The Board of Education follows Board Policy 7.3 – Trustee Remuneration and Parental Leaves which states that the Board may authorize the payment of remuneration to be paid to trustees by an annual resolution of the Board of Education. Trustee stipend increases, if approved, will come into effect on July 1st of each year and are to be based on the most recent five-year rolling average of the Vancouver Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The average rolling CPI for the past five years is 3.68%. If applied, the following would be the effect on trustee remuneration:

Position	Annual Current Stipend	Increase to stipend	Stipend with CPI increase
Chairperson	\$33,003	\$1,214	\$34,217
Vice-Chairperson	\$30,984	\$1,139	\$32,123
Trustee	\$28,965	\$1,065	\$30,030

The increase overall to the budget is \$7,679, plus benefits for a total of \$8,831.

CUPE and Teachers' collective agreements expired on June 30, 2025. General wage increases, effective July 1, 2025, will not be known until new collective agreements are signed. Further, no annual increases for 2025/26 have been approved for Exempt and PVP groups.

If trustees would like to enact the increase, a motion must be moved, seconded and carried.

MULTI-DAY OUT OF PROVINCE FIELDTRIP PROPOSAL FORMEducator in Charge: Pawel Korczyk Submission Date: December 5, 2025Destination: Europe: (London UK, Paris France, Geneva Switzerland)Departure Date: June 7th, 2027, Departure Time: TBAReturn Date: June 16th, 2027, Return Time: TBAParent Info. Meeting Date: TBA – upon approval Admin. Attending: Susana QuanNumber of Students: 30 Grade Level(s): 12 Class/Course/Group: IBSupervisor(s): Name: Pawel Korczyk Role: TeacherName: Binai Khakharia Role: TeacherName: Administrator TBA Role: Administrator

The Educator in Charge must provide the following information for Principal approval. Following Principal approval, this form is submitted to the Superintendent for approval of the proposal. Following Superintendent approval, this form is submitted to the Board of Education for final approval of the proposal.

Description of Field Trip: (Including Educational Relevance)

(Please provide the following information: description of field trip, rationale, scope of risks inherent in planned activities)

This trip is a graduation trip for our grade 12 IB students after they complete their IB exams. The itinerary is curated to focus on enriching their IB experience to visit locations related to things they learned during their time in the program. In Geneva, we will visit the CERN particle accelerator and the UN's Palais de Nations. In Paris we will visit the Louvre OR Musee d'Orsay and take part in a patisserie making class. In London, we will visit the museum of Natural History, do a Shakespearean workshop at the Globe Theatre, watch a West End Show and take a day trip to Oxford University. These experiences are connected to learning that happened across all IB subjects and courses. As we are headed into major tourist destinations. Risks will be limited to travel and tourism related issues such as tourist scams which we will educate students about before departure. Some of our travel will be on public transit, such as the trains in between Geneva-Paris and Paris-London. We will make sure to teach students travel practices before departure.

ITINERARY AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- The Itinerary and daily activities schedule has been prepared and/or received from travel agent/tour company and are attached.
- Arrangements for group medical/travel/cancellation insurance have been made and the costs are included in the trip budget.

Transportation

Field trip supervisors will arrange the mode of transportation which best meets the needs of the trip. Transportation of students in private vehicles will be in accordance with [Administrative Procedure 563: Student Transportation by Volunteer Drivers](#).

Type: bus public transportation private vehicle airplane other: _____

Parent and Student Communications

- The parent/guardian pre-trip meeting is planned for (date): Will be scheduled after trip approval.
NOTE: pre-trip meeting is to be held after final approval of the field trip proposal.
- The following administrator will attend the parent/guardian pre-trip meeting: Susana Quan
- The consent form and information package has been prepared for student distribution and a copy is attached.

Trip Supervision Arrangements

- This field trip will have a minimum level of supervision as determined by [AP 262: Multi-Day Out of Province Field Trips Within Canada and International](#). Greater supervision levels may be necessary depending on the nature of the trip.
 - Grades 6-8 – 1:12 ratio of adults to students
 - Grades 9-12 – 1:15 ratio of adults to students.
- If the field trip involves both male and female students, and extends overnight, both male and female supervisors will accompany students.
- Volunteer supervisors are being arranged for this trip (check if applicable).
- Students will be engaged in activities considered to be high-risk (e.g., skiing).

Budget

- All relevant trip expenses and revenues are included in the tables below.
- All relevant field trip expenses are included in the per-student cost of the field trip (e.g., cost of teacher(s)-on-call, supervision expenses, transportation, accommodation, travel/cancellation insurance, activities, parking, meals, etc.).
- Any fundraising activity undertaken to assist with field trip costs will be approved in advance by the school Principal as outlined in [Admin Procedure: 520: Fundraising Activities and Sponsorship in District Facilities](#).
- The district must not be held responsible for any losses which may arise from cancellation or alteration of a field trip itinerary.
- This field trip will operate at no additional cost to the Board (all supplementary or optional trips).

Field Trip Expenses	
Teachers-on-Call	2500
Transportation	Included
Activity fee(s)	209850
Accommodation	Included
Travel insurance	student-provided
Other _____	
Total Expenses:	\$212350

Cost Per Student	
Total Expenses	\$212350
Fundraising	\$ -TBD
PAC Support	\$ -TBD
School Support	\$ -
Total Cost:	\$212350
Number of students:	÷30
Cost Per Student:	\$7078

TOC costs based on Binal K only needing a Day 2 TOC and Pawel K. only requiring Day 2 C block TOC.

All transportation, accommodation, activities and breakfasts/dinners included in fee.

**Inclusion of any meal costs should be clearly indicated and where not included, it should be clearly communicated that additional costs for meals will be the responsibility of the student*

Approval

The Principal will be notified of any changes related to field trip details.

No less than 6 weeks prior to departure for trips within Canada or 8 weeks prior to departure for International trips, the Educator in Charge will ensure that all requirements as detailed in the Multi-Day Out of Province Field Trip Teacher Checklist Form ([262-2](#)) are completed, and a copy of the checklist is signed and submitted to the school Principal.

Educator in Charge Signature: _____ **Date:** December 5, 2025

PRINCIPAL'S APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FIELD TRIP

This field trip as proposed has been approved. YES NO

Principal Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FIELD TRIP

The Educator in Charge may proceed with trip planning using the Multi-Day Out of Province Field Trip Teacher Checklist Form (262-2) YES NO

Associate Superintendent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FIELD TRIP

The Educator in Charge may proceed with trip planning using the Multi-Day Out of Province Field Trip Teacher Checklist Form (262-2) YES NO

Board of Education Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

References: Administrative Procedure 262: Multi-Day Out of Province Field Trip

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)
RECORD OF DECEMBER 16, 2025, IN-CAMERA
MEETING**

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- In-Camera Board Meeting held on November 25, 2025.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Nil

REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- Legal
- Contract
- Administration

OTHER BUSINESS

- Nil

ITEMS TO BE REPORTED OUT AT OPEN MEETING

- Nil

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

In-Camera Board Meeting - Tuesday January 27, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- In-Camera Board meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer