

Attachment 2

*Letter from City of New Westminster dated
February 15, 2023*



Patrick Johnstone
Mayor

February 16, 2023

Gurveen Dhaliwal
Chair, Board of Education
School District No. 40 (New Westminister)

Via email: gdhaliwal@sd40.bc.ca

Dear Chair Dhaliwal,

At the Council Meeting on January 30, 2023, New Westminister City Council passed the following motion:

That Council direct staff to forward a letter to New Westminister School District No. 40 formally inviting them to jointly develop a renewed Child Care Protocol between the City of New Westminister and the School District.

This motion recognizes that quality, accessible and affordable child care provides significant benefits for children, families, and the larger community, and that the City and the School District play important facilitative roles in helping maintain, secure and develop licensed child care spaces within their collective control.

Recognizing the benefits of cooperation, the City has a long history of collaborating with the School District to address child care needs, including through its original Child Care Protocol with the School District in 2009. Several recent initiatives provide an opportune time to develop a new Protocol.

First, the expanded mandate of the Ministry of Education and Child Care seeks to better integrate child care and early childhood educators into the overall K-12 school system. Developing a Protocol would align with this mandate and leverage the Ministry's increased involvement to help realize much needed child care spaces, including better positioning the City and School District to realize funding under the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund or similar programs.

Office of the Mayor

Corporation of the City of New Westminister

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Second, the City and School District each currently lease space to a number of non-profit child care operators, which represents a significant percentage of the non-profit child care spaces in New Westminster. Developing a new Protocol is important to maintaining and expanding these spaces, and in meeting the child care needs of children, families and the larger community.

Through this formal letter, the City is seeking a formal commitment from the School District to participate in collaboration with the City to develop a new Child Care Protocol.

Should the School District agree to formal collaboration, City staff in the Community Planning section would seek to work directly with the new School District Manager of Early Learning and Child Care, a position created to support the Ministry's expanded child care mandate, and other key stakeholders.

We look forward to your response, and future collaboration towards the development of a new Protocol.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Social Planner Anur Mehdic at amedhic@newwestcity.ca of 604-515-3792.

Sincerely,



Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR