

BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 28, 2025

Sent via email: mayorandcouncillors@newwestcity.ca

Dear Mayor Johnstone and City Council:

The New Westminister Board of Education is aware that the City of New Westminister's City Council will be considering a motion to petition the Province of B.C. to acquire land in Queensborough for a new high school.

While we remain grateful for Council's past and present support of our mandate to serve district families and their educational needs, New Westminister Schools is not requesting a school in Queensborough at this time. Our priority in Queensborough has been to complete the expansion of Queen Elizabeth Elementary School, which is nearing the end of pile-driving stage. High school capacity in Queensborough is included in our Long-Range Facilities Plan but we have several more pressing short and mid-term priorities. We seek your support to maintain focus on those projects in your advocacy to the Province.

These urgent priorities include obtaining approval for the construction of a new downtown elementary school we are referring to as Simcoe Elementary, and land purchase to build a fourth middle school in New Westminister. These projects will help reduce many of the capacity pressures we are facing - and expect to face in the coming years - within the student age groups that attend our elementary and middle schools. Once these priorities are addressed, our district will be better placed to begin remedying capacity concerns at the secondary school level.

Our board appreciates the City of New Westminister's support in advocating for our students and your ongoing collaboration with us on school capital planning.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Maya Russell
Chair, Board of Education

Cc: Trustees, Board of Education School District No. 40
Mark Davidson, Superintendent of Schools
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer