

DRAFT

New Westminster DPAC
School District 40

Date: January 15, 2026

Location: Lord Kelvin Elementary and online

Time: 7-9 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt)

Minute Taker: Heather Kamitakahara (Secretary, Connaught)

DPAC Executive: Shawn Sorensen (Vice-chair, Qayqayt), Krista Macaulay (Treasurer, Tweedsmuir), Cyrus Sy (MAL, NWSS DPAC Rep), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS), Alison Ytsma (MAL, Qayqayt)

Guests: Superintendent Mark Davidson, Trustee Carlsen, Lacey Hirtle, City of New Westminster, Barry Fan, Urban Systems

Attendees: Joyce Anne Azarcon, Anu Sharma, Heather Kamitakahara, Laura Kwong, Krista Macaulay, Shawn Riberdy, Alison Ytsma, Sarah Richmond, James Plett, Joana Henrey, Damian Gryski, Sarah Siegel, Christina Service, Natalie Taha, Paul Romein

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:05	Welcome, Call to Order & Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance	Laura
	Adoption of January 2026 Agenda MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED	Laura
	Approval of November 2025 Meeting Minutes Deferred to February	Laura
7:09	Special Guest - Lacey Hirtle, City of New Westminster and Barry Fan, Urban Systems and Barrie Fan, Urban Systems Active Transportation Network Plan Year 2 Projects - Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Engagement has been going on since November 2025.Public engagement materials are online.In October 2022, Council adopted and approved the Active Transportation Network Plan.The network is envisioned to be user-friendly for people of all ages and abilities.We are in Part 2 - 5 routes included. Part 1 engagement - last summer. Part 2 started last Fall.	Lacey Hirtle

- City has worked on development of the Year 1 routes which some of these routes do connect to.
- There are 5 corridors in Year 2:
 - Wood Street - Queensborough.
 - Improvements include on-street parking restrictions, removing parking spaces, widening pathway, painted crosswalk connection, flashing beacons.
 - Fourth, Merivale and Elliot Streets
 - Improvements include flashing beacons, raised intersection, lighting improvements.
 - Comment - Laura - Do you have plans to reach out to crossing guards? The diagonal crossing: you may get kids on scooters and also pedestrians. Is there a right turn allowed?
 - Answer from Barry - yes right turn. Not sure if any input from crossing guards.
 - Laura - survey to crossing guards would be helpful.
 - Comment: a busy street coming up to Qayqayt. There are a lot of kids that run back and forth and it is packed in the mornings.
 - Laura - time-turn restriction in the morning?
 - Barry - Royal Ave at Merivale Street - proposal here is to widen the sidewalk on one side and provide a narrower crossing. The idea is to narrow the road to slow down vehicle traffic.
 - James - Not a fan of right turn to royal off Merivale. Don't think it is a viable solution.
 - Question - what is the advantage of adding a right turn?
 - Barry - with the removal of the exit lane, it opens up the opportunity to normalize that intersection. From standard intersection perspective, it allows for enabling that movement.
 - Lacey - the width piece is really key. It is a balance of when we have the width, do we allow it or not? What can we enforce? We can put up signage but often times we find signs are not enough. Lacey has recorded all the comments.
 - Question - a lot of Qayqayt classes cross the street to go to the park across Royal. It is usually one teacher managing a lot of students. Royal is already a busy street. Would be concerned to have to pay even more attention to vehicles. Concerned about safety. Could consider putting something there for the community that is not for vehicles.
 - Barry - we get quite a bit of space fronting Royal. The piece on improving safety for students is going to be the interactions at Royal and Merivale.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elliot and Clarkson Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Intersection improvements by improving sight lines with parking restrictions, adding traffic calming curbs at the intersection to narrow it to make it safer. ○ Third Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ East-West through Brow of the Hill. Provides connections to the BC Parkway and Uptown neighbourhood. ■ This is not an existing bikeway but would connect to many existing routes in the area. ■ Improvements include reducing vehicle volumes between 10th St and 2nd St. There is too high of vehicle traffic currently, so the 2 ways of reducing vehicle volumes is converting to 1-way traffic in some sections. The second volume reduction measure is a median to divert traffic onto other streets. ■ There is a third option to keep vehicle options the safe, would be to install protected bike lanes. This option would require removal of parking and would be more costly. ■ Other improvements include sidewalk widening, switching stop-sign orientations, crossing improvements with flashing beacons, crossing improvements and a raised intersection. ■ At Stewardson Way - protected bike lane. ■ At Third Ave and 12th St to 11th St - proposing 1-way vehicle traffic to allow to adjust the steep section - create more space for a 2-way protected bike lane that connects to the block to the west. ■ From a safety perspective, separating bikes from traffic is the goal. It might be where some users might navigate through another part of the network. ■ Lacey - putting it in the context of the build-out of the plan, this is only Year 2, so there are more routes to come. This will be a key connection but as the network continues, there will be more travel options for people who don't feel comfortable on this section. It is a real opportunity for the City to improve for pedestrians as well. ● Other Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Right now the focus is to get the network established. It doesn't mean that other work won't come but the focus is to build out the 5 year plan and open up the opportunity for people to choose active travel in the city. (this was in answer to a question about quick-builds) 	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Q - in the context of the overall transportation network, between Queens Park and TACC. Some way connecting across the street. Right now it is a bit sketchy across Royal. ○ A - section from McBride to TACC is going to be improved. That will be coming shortly. Cumberland and E. 6th Ave will be upgraded to a full signalized intersection. That will be a project getting underway in February. ○ A - Still in the design phase with London Street and trying to wrap that up in the next few months. ○ Comment: 7th Street that is almost done construction, where it ends at Belmont Street, it is an abrupt ending and it would be lovely if it could have a nicer connection coming out of there. Could there be paint/signage/etc to do something there? Once we get the new elementary school, it is going to be even more challenging. Right now it is not an all ages and abilities connection. ○ Lacey - that is great feedback. Lacey is also working on the Fraser River Middle School piece. There will be more transportation improvements coming as part of that. ○ Comment - there have been complaints trying to get to Cumberland from Howay. Is there another place we can bring concerns to the City? ○ Lacey - really appreciate you sharing that. Email Lacey to have a conversation about it. ● All information is on the website. If there are things that come up, email Lacey. 	
<p>7:54</p>	<p>Superintendent Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next week we will interview for Vice Principals. ● We will interview 11 people. All but one are internal. ● After that, interview for principals. ● We will work with the City around Simcoe questions. Discussions about the school. Produced conversations about staggered start times, paid supervisor for before and after school. ● We have a fair understanding of the grants... we should be able to deal with a few years of declining enrollment before we hit really steep enrollment. That is the plan. We will see what is happening there, with negotiations. <p>Board of Education Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Had a great student voice presentation at the last meeting. Focused on demographics, community and belonging, mental health and safety at schools. ● There was a strong focus on middle schools including connection and collaboration, strengthening a sense of belonging. Better communication. 	<p>Mark Davidson</p> <p>Trustee Carlson</p>

- Long-range facilities plan.
- Looking still at changes to the school grade levels.
- Focusing on transitions, student experiences, ratios.
- Budget Survey being released
 - There is not enough money to do everything we want, but it is important for us to hear your input to understand the priorities that we need to allocate the limited resources we have now - and where we should advocate for with the shortfall that we exist within
 - So much of our budget is inequitable and not the “same” as other districts like North Van or West Van. Because of our capacity we have to pay from operating to what should be capital.
 - Another issue we know is the inability to secure funding for children who should have a designation, but don’t have one (yet or for any other reason)

Mark Davidson

- Long Range Facilities Plan - met with consultant this week.
- Looking at site intensifications.
- In terms of numbers, our Grade 5 cohort and Grade 3 cohorts are large. The Grade 5s are moving into Middles which are already full. There will be capacity issues and there is an unfortunate timing issue because we will be looking to build the new school on that site at the same time.
- The Province believe we will be perhaps the only or one of the only to see significant growth. The area by the river is expected to grow significantly. We are engaging in conversations, talking about the need to build ... becoming untenable. Province is becoming more receptive to that conversation.
- The high school is over 2500 students. The 5-block model is not ideal but it is the one available to us because we don’t have another school site. Our hope is increasing middle and elementary capacity will allow us to move to 7-9, 10-12 grades to allow for more space at the high school. If we could accommodate that, it would help with capacity challenges.
- Building team opportunities, working on social and emotional development is critical.
- We may invite parents to elect to have their children stay at the elementary school a little longer. Might say, would you be willing to stay at the elementary in Grade 6. Might be able to have that as a possibility where space allows.
- NWSS memorial park - movement is happening, drainage work is beginning

- New elem (simcoe), meetings with city are happening
- Request for TransLink for more support for EFI get to school
- Request for more ELL funding
-

Questions

- When will we see changes? For the grade changes.
- A - the K-6 changes, as soon as space becomes available in elementary schools. Could be before that if spaces are available.
- Are we the lowest funding district in the province?
 - No, this is the same. Where we differ is the grants that others can achieve re transportation in terms of distance and size.
- Policy 24 - Engagement, directly involved. Will the Board commit to a direct consultation meeting with seamless day families
 - The decision to not fund this was not made by us, we are working on ways to hold on to something that resembles this service.
 - Sub question -> I'm going back to the consultation process, will this happen?
 - This could happen through the PAC. But conversations can and should happen!
- Comment: I don't think we have the same definition of consultation. Because that is something that was said would happen with French Immersion, but that didn't happen. A request was made to be as transparent and open as possible. People have an idea in their brain of what consultation is and the time it takes -
- How is action going on EFI transition:
 - So far 81 have accepted the spaces for Herbert Spencer
 - TransLink not responding
 - We are having conversations with Walking School Bus
 - We have talked about childcare situation, but this is often seat based and out of our control (in support we can offer our parents)
- What do you mean by site intensification
 - Province - cost to build is highest in the process. Grade issues, geotechnical, etc. But Area Building Standards won't work in such density.
 - TO be frank, if we keep bringing them land acquisition proposals and they keep turning them down (cost of land and remediation), is it worthwhile for us to keep on this strategy if we need things now

- Skwo:wech (Paul)
 - School dance with DJ - great success
 - Bakesale - another good success
 - Snacksale - another success
 - Parent workshop
 - Saleema noon came in
 - Grad hoodies out
 - Staff treat day boxes
 - Fun lunches coming up! Opa in February, Subway in March
 - Readathon happening
- QMS (Sue K)
 -
- Connaught (Heather K)
 -
- Howay (Shawn)
 - Pancake breakfast - success
 - February Dance Planned
 - New bank account set up with BMO
- Tweedsmuir (Krista)
 - Winter concert went well, despite some frustrations with limited seating.
 - Bake sale went great
 - Planning a dance (will have to mitigate gym restrictions)
 - Fun lunches happening
- Qayqayt (Alison)
 - Fun Lunch, options 3 or 4 times (try to vary)
 - Hip hop lessons from Motion and Music came in
 - Dance being planned
- Herbert Spencer (Christina)
 - Focusing on bringing more sports in
 - Lots of fundraisers happening
- NWSS (Cyrus S)
 -

Question:

- For all PACs, there is a question from a parent who will be entering with accessibility needs, do we have these?
 - No adult size changing table
 - 1 accessible swing
 - This should be brought forth to the district / accessibility committee as all of these needs must be met. (Obligations, PAC don't fund this. The School Act sets this).

Comments:

- We should push for more supports and connections / advocacy for students with neurodiversity (maybe an advisory committee)

	- We have sent in some notes / had meetings - ideas, discussions, but have yet to hear back.	
8:40	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DPAC sent in 2 pieces of correspondence to the district this month ● First on feedback around the quality of Lunch Lady meals. We received an email reply. District response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Responsive” ○ “Working to improve quality” ○ New information - contract extends for another 2 years, so they can’t get out of it. ○ Additionally, not a lot of providers operating in this space. ● Second, the information we gathered regarding personal digital device restrictions (i.e. cell phone ban) specifically the failure of implementation of policy. District response 	Laura Kwong
8:50	<p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion that DPAC write a letter about our concerns with the permanent usage of portables on school sites, and the air quality issues within portables. And that DPAC circulates this letter among DPACs around BC to allow additional signatories, before sending the letter onto the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure. Motioned by Laura K, seconded by Joana H. Carried. ● Motion that DPAC generate a letter template for anyone to use to write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting the campaign promise by our provincially elected officials be fulfilled and permanent funding established for the Queensborough bus program. Motioned by Laura K, seconded by Alison Y. Carried 	Laura Kwong
9:00	<p>Adjournment: 9:pm - MOTION by Joana H, SECOND by Shawn R, CARRIED</p> <p>Next Meeting: Feb 19th, 7 pm online and at Queen Elizabeth Elementary</p>	