

April 30, 2020

Dear parents, students, staff and community members,

As we all know, the COVID-19 outbreak has had significant impacts on almost all of the operations and work we do as a school district – from the cancellation of events to the suspension of in-class instruction. We have had to change the way we fundamentally do business.

At each turn we have made decisions that prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff and wider community – and we've done so by taking guidance and direction from the health authorities who have the lead on this evolving situation.

As a world-wide issue, we have also had to be flexible and adaptable to the rapidly changing nature of the virus and the many implications this unprecedented situation has presented.

Due to COVID-19 related issues, today we're sharing the news that the replacement building under construction at New Westminister Secondary School will not be ready for the previously projected opening, September 2020.

We are very disappointed to announce this change.

The COVID-19 outbreak has presented us with two challenges that have already, and continue to, significantly slow down the previous progress, including:

- the number of workers we can safely engage on the site each day, and
- supply chain issues ... factory shutdowns and work stoppages at other businesses that are impacting our ability to both source and have the necessary finishing supplies delivered.

We are working closely with our builder, Graham Construction, to monitor the situation daily – while they continue to do what work can be done through this limbo period. New health and safety protocols have been introduced to continue to make sure anyone working on the site is doing so safely.

Our Project Board is still diligently working to oversee the build of this exciting investment in our kids and community. And we're working with our various Ministerial partners to keep them up to date and included as active partners in all pertinent conversations.

At this point, nobody knows the duration of time we'll continue to face COVID-19 related restrictions and challenges. As such, it is too soon to accurately reassess what our adjusted completion timelines will be.

As soon as we're in a better position to do so, we'll update all our appropriate stakeholder groups.

We thank you for your patience as we navigate what this delay will mean for all of us.

Sincerely,



Karim Hachlaf
Superintendent of Schools / CEO

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