



**ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM**

**Meeting Place:**

Education Services Centre  
 2121 Lonsdale Avenue  
 Mountain View Room – Fifth Floor  
 North Vancouver, British Columbia

**Format and Date:**

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
 Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at  
 7:00 pm

			Estimated Completion Time
A.	Call to Order		
A.1.	Chair Sacré’s opening remarks	(no schedule)	7:00 pm
A.2.	Approval of Agenda (that the agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be adopted.)	(no schedule)	7:00 pm
A.3.	Public Comment Period *		7:30 pm
A.4.	Approval of Minutes (that the minutes of the Public Meeting of February 14, 2017 be approved as circulated)	(no schedule)	7:35 pm
A.5.	Student Presentation – Blueridge Elementary		7:45 pm
B.	Action Items		
B.1.	Proposed School Calendar 2017/18 for Board Approval		7:55 pm
B.2.	North Vancouver School District and Squamish Nation Protocol Agreement		8:15 pm
C.	Information and Proposals		
C.1.	Long Range Facilities Plan Update – Matrix Consulting		8:35 pm
C.2.	Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement - Update		8:40 pm

Please note that this meeting may be video and/or audio recorded as per the motion passed on December 9, 2014 and with Board Chair authorization.

\* Additional Community Presentations or Delegations are welcomed with advanced notice - see [Policy 104: Board of Education - Meetings](#) and its [Administrative Procedures](#).



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Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at  
7:00 pm

		Estimated Completion Time
	(continued)	
C.3.	Out of Country Field Trips - Secondary	8:45 pm
C.4.	Superintendent's Report	8:50 pm
C.5.	Report Out - BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and BC Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA)	9:00 pm
C.6.	Trustees' Reports	9:10 pm
D.	Future Meetings	9:10 pm
E.	Public Question & Comment Period	9:30 pm
F.	Adjournment	(no schedule) 9:30 pm

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Georgia Allison  
Secretary Treasurer

**Note:** The completion times on this agenda are estimates intended to assist the Board in its pacing.

Schedule A.3.....  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                     Board                     Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **Public Comment Period**

**Narration:**

As per the motion passed on June 21, 2016 the Board will provide a twenty (20) minute public comment period relevant to the Board's mandate on a trial basis. Speakers will be allocated a maximum of two (2) minutes each. An additional ten (10) minutes will be provided for Trustee questions of clarification.

Speakers are requested to place their name on a signup sheet in order to speak during the Public Comment Period. The signup sheet will be available in the Board Room from 6:50 – 7:00 pm prior to the meeting's commencement. The Chair will invite those wishing to speak in the order that their name appears on the signup sheet.

When appearing before the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and address for the record.

During the Public Comment Period, as well as the Public Question and Comment Period at the end of the meeting, speakers may not speak disrespectfully of any Board Member, staff member, or any other person and must not use offensive words or gestures.

Speakers may speak only once at the Public Comment Period.

## School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) held in the Mountain View Room of the Education Services Centre at 2121 Lonsdale Avenue in North Vancouver, British Columbia, on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

**PRESENT:** C. Sacré, Chair  
J. Stanley, Vice Chair  
B. Forward  
C. Gerlach  
M. Higgins  
F. Stratton

**ABSENT:** S. Skinner

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### A. Call to Order

Chair Sacré called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed those in attendance. The traditional territorial lands of the Squamish Nation and Tsleil Waututh Nation were acknowledged.

### A.2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Stanley

that the agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be adopted.

Seconded by F. Stratton

Carried

### A.3. Public Comment Period

The twenty minute comment period is intended to be relevant to the Board's mandate. The Chair requested that those wishing to speak should sign on the Public Comment Sign-Up Sheet.

There was no one wishing to speak.

### A.4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by B. Forward

that the minutes of the public meeting of January 17, 2017 be approved as circulated.

Seconded by F. Stratton

Carried

### A.5. Student Presentation – Carson Graham Secondary

Students from Carson Graham Secondary School guided the Board through the importance of the local Squamish Nation culture and practices. Monica Jacobs (Grade 9), Jewel Jacobs (Grade 11) and Sean Whitby (Grade 11), explained how the making of salmon leather, the skinning of a buck and speaking the Squamish language has allowed school culture to be more vibrant and inclusive. All three students shared the same message of connectedness and community while learning from a hands-on cultural experience.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Sacré thanked the students for their presentation.

**A.6. Mental Health Update**

The North Shore has a collaborative and integrated approach when it comes to mental health, relying on efforts and energy from the North Vancouver School District and many other local agencies. Vancouver Coastal Health is on the front line, leading the implementation and maintenance of a multi-service wellness centre called FOUNDRY. Jeremy Church, District Principal with the North Vancouver School District and Principal of Mountainside, introduced Terry Bulych, Clinical Planner of FOUNDRY to the Board. Ms. Bulych provided an overview of the history, current development and future evolution of this new Hub that will be located in Lower Lonsdale.

**B.1. School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2016/17**

Secretary Treasurer Georgia Allison introduced this agenda item and noted that the Board is being asked to adopt an Amended Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2016/17 pursuant to Section 113 of the *School Act* which provides the authority for a Board to amend its annual budget bylaw. The Amended Budget in the amount of \$171,738,700 takes into account changes in revenue and expenditures that have occurred since the adoption of the 2016/17 Preliminary Budget on May 17, 2016.

Secretary Treasurer Allison highlighted the risks and liabilities, operating fund, special purpose and capital funds, and provided clarification on various budget lines including salary and benefits cost, revenue, and services and supplies. Notably, the operating grant decreased by \$2,171,414 due to the actual enrolment and international student revenue was increased by \$615,000 to reflect higher than estimated enrolment.

In response to Trustees' questions, Secretary Treasurer Georgia Allison and Superintendent Mark Pearmain provided clarification regarding international students and funds within salaries and benefits for staff.

Moved by F. Stratton

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2016/17 be read a first time;

Seconded by B. Forward

Carried

Moved by J. Stanley

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2016/17 be read a second time;

Seconded by F. Stratton

Carried

The Board unanimously agreed to proceed to a third reading of the bylaw.

Moved by B. Forward

that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2016/17 be read a third time, passed and adopted.

Seconded by J. Stanley

Carried

**B.2. Proposed New Policy 807: Naming of Facilities**

Superintendent of Schools Mark Pearmain introduced this agenda item noting that at the Public Board Meeting of June 21, 2016 a motion was passed for the North Vancouver Board of Education's Policy Review Committee to put the creation and finalization of a naming policy. A draft was created, reviewed and presented on two different occasions at Policy Review Committee Meetings.

**B.2. Proposed New Policy 807: Naming of Facilities (continued)**

Moved by B. Forward,

that the Board of Education approve *Proposed Revised Policy 807: Naming of Facilities*, as attached to this Administrative Memorandum of February 14, 2017.

Seconded by C. Gerlach

An amendment to the motion was tabled to include:

Moved by M. Higgins

...that, add at the end of number 3 the words: such as women, First Nations and visible minorities.

Seconded by J. Stanley

Carried

The main motion as amended was adopted, with the final wording being as follows:

Approved Motion with Amendment

that the Board of Education approve *Proposed Revised Policy 807: Naming of Facilities*, as attached to this Administrative Memorandum of February 14, 2017 and, add, at the end of number 3, the words: such as women, First Nations and visible minorities.

Carried

**B.3. Corporate Banking Services**

Secretary Treasurer Allison introduced the following routine bylaw and resolutions as a consequence of a new Vice Chair assigned signing authority.

**(A) Bank of Montreal – Banking Bylaw 1-2017**

Moved by J. Stanley

that Banking Bylaw Number 1-2017 be read a first time;

Seconded by B. Forward

Carried

Moved by B. Forward

that Banking Bylaw Number 1-2017 be read a second time;

Seconded by J. Stanley

Carried

The Board unanimously agreed to proceed to a third reading of the bylaw.

Moved by J. Stanley

that Banking Bylaw Number 1-2017 be read a third time, passed, and adopted.

Seconded by B. Forward

Carried

**(B) Toronto-Dominion – Resolution re: Bankers and Signing Officers**

Moved by B. Forward

that the Toronto-Dominion Bank Resolution re: Bankers and Signing Officers as per Schedule B.3.(B). be approved.

Seconded by J. Stanley

Carried

**(C) Blue Shore Financial – Resolution re: Bankers and Signing Officers**

Moved by J. Stanley

that the Blue Shore Financial Bank Resolution re: Bankers and Signing Officers as per Schedule B.3.(C). be approved.

Seconded by B. Forward

Carried

**C.1. Summer Learning**

Chair Sacré welcomed Pam Craven, Vice Principal at Seycove and Chair of the *Supporting Student Learning Working Group*, and Kammi Clark, the non-enrolling teacher for the *Supporting Student Learning Summer School Program* to the table to provide a summary and update of the Program.

Ms. Clark spoke to Cohort A, which includes Grade 4 and 5 students with high incidence learning disabilities. Ms. Craven spoke to Cohort B, which includes Grade 5 and 6 students with low incident social learning needs. After the completed Program in the summer of 2016, feedback from teachers, students and parents were gathered and analyzed. As a result, the Supporting Student Learning Working Group proposes a further expansion of the Supporting Student Learning Program for the summer of 2017.

**C.2. Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement - Update**

Mark Pearmain, Superintendent of Schools, introduced this agenda item and updated the Board on the Argyle Secondary School Replacement Project and the Handsworth Secondary School Project.

**C.3. Tuesday, February 14, 2017 Standing Committee Meeting**

Trustee Stanley reported on the meeting that focused on building schools for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and building the budget.

**C.4. Out of Country Field Trips – Secondary**

Provided for their information, Trustees received in their agenda packages an overview of out of country field trips that are being planned for secondary students as follows:

- Handsworth Secondary School – field trip to Japan (April 4-18, 2017)
- Seycove Secondary School – field trip to Arizona and Nevada (April 22-29, 2017)
- Sutherland Secondary School – field trip to Anaheim, California (April 28-May 1, 2017)
- Argyle Secondary School – field trip to San Francisco, CA, USA (May 6-10, 2017)

**C.5. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Mark Pearmain shared highlights of his visits to elementary and secondary schools and shared appreciation for the work that has been accomplished by School District staff.

**C.6. Report Out - BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and BC Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA)**

Trustee Gerlach shared that all the motions put forward from the BCSTA AMG passed and asked the Board for feedback on the upcoming BCSTA Provincial Council which is on February 17, 2017. Trustee Stratton provided information on the BCSTA finances.

**C.7. Trustees' Reports**

Trustees submitted their reports on their activities on behalf of the Board as follows:

1. Meetings attended by Trustees included:
  - Standing Committee Meeting
  - Trustee Seminar
  - President's Council Meeting
  - Inclusion Committee Meeting
  - NoVA Dinner Meeting
  - Artist for Kinds Management Committee Meeting
  - District Aboriginal Education Advisory Council

**C.7. Trustees' Reports (continued)**

- North Shore Integrated Transportation Meeting
  - Backpack Buddies Information Meeting
2. Events attended by Trustees included:
- Sherwood Park Elementary LIT Centre Open House
  - Westview Elementary – At the Grammy's
  - Carson Graham Improv finals

**D. Future Meetings**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Public Board Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Standing Committee Public Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Public Board Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Standing Committee Public Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver

**E. Public Question & Comment Period**

The Chair called for questions and/or comments from the public noting that in accordance with Board policy, questions relating to personnel, negotiations or litigation must not be dealt with in a public session.

There was no one wishing to speak.

**F. Adjournment**

The established agenda being completed, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:54 pm and thanked those who attended.

Certified Correct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Georgia Allison  
Secretary Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christie Sacré  
Chair, Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Schedule A.5.  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **Student Presentation – Blueridge Elementary**

**Narration:**

Throughout the year, students from across the North Vancouver School District engage in a variety of events and programs. The purpose of these presentations is to provide the opportunity to share stories and gain a first-hand perspective from the students in this School District.

Blueridge Elementary students will showcase the importance of developing a sense of belonging by understanding and celebrating differences. Under the guidance of Vice Principal Erin Primas, students have been working on the Big Idea: “Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.” This Big Idea developed through reading the bestselling novel, “Out of My Mind” by Sharon Draper. Blueridge Elementary School has students of all abilities and this novel study and project helped express the importance of all members of our community being able to have a voice. Through communication boards, as presented this evening, students were able to communicate and collaborate without words.

Schedule B.1  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:                    March 7, 2017                     Board                     Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):                    **Proposed School Calendar 2017/18 for Board Approval**

**Narration:**

BC school districts are required by the *School Act* to individually design and establish school calendars for their respective districts, in accordance with the School Calendar Regulation 314/12. The Regulation prescribes the minimum number of instructional hours to be provided to students, and the timelines and processes for the development and submission of school calendars. Further, school districts must also provide an opportunity for employees and parents of students to comment on proposed calendars prior to a Board of Education finalizing and adopting a calendar.

At the Board of Education's December 6, 2016 Public Meeting, Assistant Superintendent Chris Atkinson provided Trustees with an update on the work of the school district's School Calendar Committee, which is tasked with the development of school calendar proposals. The School Calendar Committee is comprised of representatives from the North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVT), Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389 (CUPE), North Vancouver District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC), District Student Leadership Council (DSL), and district staff, including principals and vice principals.

The 2017/18 calendar proposal developed by the Committee was published to the school district website on January 30, 2017 and notification of a one-month public comment period was provided to staff and parents of students via the school district's SchoolConnects communication system.

The 2017/18 Proposed School Calendar provides for:

- the first day of school to fall on September 5, 2017, the first day following Labour Day
- a two-week Winter Break from December 25, 2017 to January 5, 2018, inclusive
- a two-week Spring Break from March 19, 2018 to March 30, 2018, inclusive
- five (5) Staff Collaboration Dates on which students will attend for a shortened day
- the last day of attendance for students to be Thursday, June 28, 2018

Public comments were received by email up to, and including, February 28, 2017. A total of 189 email responses were received from 180 respondents. On seven instances, earlier respondents provided separate, additional comment.

Of those choosing to comment, a 57% identified a preference for a winter break scheduled fully within December, as opposed to the last week of December/first week of January. The winter break dates included on the North Vancouver School District's Proposed 2017/18 School Calendar were selected in alignment with the break period either currently proposed or already approved by other school districts in the Metro Vancouver region, including the West Vancouver School District. Metro School Districts have committed to selecting the same dates for the winter and spring break periods.

The second most common comment was regarding the scheduling of Non-Instructional/Professional Development Days, in particular, the desire that these days be "attached" to existing long weekends (Public Holiday dates). Many respondents identified a preference for the November 6, 2017 and February 23, 2018

## Schedule B.1. (continued)

### Narration (continued):

non-instructional dates to be scheduled on the Friday preceding the Remembrance Day and Family Day public holidays. This is being considered by the School Calendar Committee for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 calendars.

A summary listing of the comments received is provided as an attachment to this schedule.

Assistant Superintendent Chris Atkinson will review the Proposed 2017/18 Calendar and the results of the public comment period with the Board.

### Attachments:

2017/18 School Calendar Public Comments  
2017/18 Proposed School Calendar

### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

that the Board of Education approve the Proposed 2017/18 School Calendar as attached to the Administrative Memorandum of March 7, 2017.

## 2017/18 SCHOOL CALENDAR PUBLIC COMMENTS

January 30, 2017 – February 28, 2017

1	This calendar makes perfect sense. It aligns with surrounding school districts, which is important. I like that the Christmas Break is equally distributed over December/January and gives families enough time to take a vacation after Christmas if they so choose. I also appreciate that Spring Break is scheduled for the last two weeks of March and melds into Easter, eliminating the need for another long weekend immediately after the two week break.
2	I approve of next year's calendar, with the exception of all the scheduled Pro D days. These should be taken during the summer months, rather than eat into the children's school year.
3	Too many pro-d days. Spread time off more evenly in year – better for student learning not to have very long learning breaks. More school closures in winter, less in summer to save on energy costs (less time to heat/light schools). Seems like this (and other year's) calendar is more about what's best for teachers than what's best for students.
4	I would like to request that the District move the planned District-wide Pro D day from Friday October 20th to Wednesday, November 1st. This will take into account Halloween on Tuesday, October 31st which will otherwise result in disrupted and limited learning on Wednesday November 1st.
5a	Hi there, As a parent of two children at Carisbrooke Elementary, I'm writing to express my dismay about the timing of the proposed 2017 Christmas school break. By positioning it so that the first week of January is a school holiday, you're making it very difficult for working parents such as me and my husband, who will have a much tougher time dealing with camps/childcare etc (most of which don't last a full working day) when work is back in full swing after the regular holidays. In my opinion, a much better break timing would be from December 15-Jan 2nd. This eases the burden for working parents, as the week of December 18th is usually quiet for most, and employers are forgiving of shortened days etc, and also allows all families to have a more relaxed lead-up to Christmas, and the ability to spend more time as a family prior to Christmas. The 2016 holiday seemed to work well for most, so I'm not sure why there would be such a change in timing for 2017.
5b	Please amend the Christmas break to start and end one week later. The proposed break is a nightmare for working parents, who are very challenged in trying to take the busy first week of January off (as opposed to taking time in mid-December when work is generally slow and employers are more understanding). This holiday schedule also doesn't allow families to spend nearly as much time together doing holiday activities in the lead-up to Christmas, which is a shame. This schedule honestly feels anti-family and anti-working parents. Please change it!
6a	The winter break does not work with our schedules since it used to be <u>one week prior</u> to Xmas, so we already have travel plans from Dec 16 to 23. This change does not work in a long run. Why are you changing the winter break since it will not give families adequate time to travel if they want to visit with families not living in the same cities prior or over Xmas?
6b	To follow up on my e-mail. It will be my son's first year in his high school and he really does not want to miss any school. I have talked to other parents yesterday during our visit at Sutherland (parent's night) and I know of couple of other parents who said that they already booked a trip for the week prior to Xmas and were surprised when I shared that you might be changing the winter break from Dec 23 2017 to Jan 6 2018. It is hard to book vacation over New Years, super expensive and flights are expensive and also employers and clients expect you being back to work the first week of January since it is back to business. Please do reconsider and keep the winter break from Dec 17 2017 to Jan 2 2018 as it used to be. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
6c	My son does not want to miss any school during his first year in the high school and the only time I am able to take him on vacation is prior to Xmas. I am not able to get the timeshare we go to over Xmas and New Years and I am not able to take him during the spring break in March since it is a tax season for any professional accountant. Also my clients expect me to be in the office the first week in January. <u>For years we have been going on family vacation the week prior to Xmas</u> when the school was always already on the Xmas break to spend time with our family and friends in the warm place. Please do reconsider and keep the winter break from Dec 17 2017 to Jan 2 2018 as it used to be. Thank you.
6d	I can take my son on family vacation only one week prior to Xmas as we have done for years. Your proposed calendar shows the Xmas break from Dec 25 2016 to Jan 7 2017, that will make it impossible for me to take my son on family vacation since I cannot get our timeshare during that time. My son does not want to miss any school since it is his first year in his high school, but we have already booked our timeshare and purchased his flight for the week of Dec 16 to Dec 23 as we have done since he was 3 years old. I do not understand why you are changing the Xmas break from Dec 16 to Jan 2 since all clients and employers expect you to be back at work the first week in January and the time prior to Xmas is easier to get away. I cannot travel during the

## 2017/18 SCHOOL CALENDAR PUBLIC COMMENTS

January 30, 2017 – February 28, 2017

	spring break due to the tax time. Per my conversation with other parents they also already booked vacation off with their employers for the week prior to Xmas. Please consider keeping the Xmas break as it used to be from Dec 16 to Jan 2.
7	I would prefer that the winter holiday start on December 18 rather than December 25. I appreciate that this would result in one additional day off due to the stat holiday on January 1 but that last week just prior to Christmas will likely not be very productive. For those who celebrate Christmas, the kids will be too excited to focus and for those to celebrate Hanukkah, they will be able to be home during the end of it.
8	For the most part I am pretty flexible with the school calendar but this time I have an issue with it. The winter holidays section doesn't jive with me. I think they should have to go back to school at the same time most jobs have to go back to school for those of us who are lucky enough to get those vacations. Not to mention for some of the older children having time off before Christmas allows them to do any Christmas shopping when they normally wouldn't have enough time to do so. Thanks for listening
9	Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I have no objection to the proposed calendar for the 2017/18 school year. Looks great!
10	Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the calendar. I would suggest that the Winter Holiday begin effective December 18. That would provide 69 days of instruction prior to the break. I believe proposed Calendar with 75 instructional days is too long and not appropriately balanced with the days of instruction prior to the Spring and Summer breaks which would be 47 and 59 days respectively.
11	Thank you for allowing parental input to the calendar. One of the things I have noticed is that by linking PD days with holidays it makes it easier for working parents to get family to be in town for child care, promotes family time and may reduce student absences which is hard on everyone. For example: It seems hard to get into a routine when September has school PD day and early dismissal. Could some of these PD days be combined into winter break? or October 9th – thanksgiving and then the next week is a short week as well – suggestion make the Curriculum implementation day on the 20th or PD day school PD day on Sept 25 October 6th or Oct 10. Make new curriculum training scheduled for Nov 6th on November 1 – so teachers to not need to deal with the sugar high after Halloween. It splits up the 2 short weeks in a row. January has winter break, early dismissal, and a PD – this makes it hard for students to get back into routine. Can the January PD (curriculum implementation) on Jan 19 be moved to Dec 22, this would also reduce some absences as some families will want to travel before the weekend before Christmas. The same in May – if you extend the weekend maybe more families will use these longer weekends rather than pulling students from class. Take May 7th PD day and move to May 18th. I know there are many groups to balance, however teachers also may agree that multiple short weeks in a row make it harder for students to focus. Extra longer weekends may encourage more family time rather than putting kids in day camps – which strengthens relationships.
12	My only suggestion for the calendar would be, if possible, to change the Nov. 6 Curriculum Training Day to either November 10 or 14, to make that weekend an extra-long one. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.
13	I would like to comment on the proposed calendar for the coming year. As working parents of three children (two in elementary and one in high school) we find it very hard to find let alone afford day care/clubs etc. for our children in the <b>10 weeks</b> of summer vacation, when you add in the two weeks of Christmas vacation time and two weeks at Spring break it is impossible to cover that time on paid leave offered by any employer. I do not understand why there are so many Admin Days and days for Curriculum Training and Implementation. Why cant this be done during the <b>14 weeks</b> our children already have out of education. Throwing early dismissal's in for our elementary kids which happen to fall on the day of a late start for our one at high school leaves us very frustrated to say the least. It is not easy at the best of times to keep a work/life balance when you have children but is all this time out of school absolutely necessary? Would it not be beneficial for training and admin to be done during the 14 weeks the children are not in school?
14	Move the Pro D Day from Feb. 23, 2017 to Feb. 9. That way families could have a 4 day family weekend instead of a 3 day weekend followed by a 3 day weekend the next week.
15	I would like to propose that spring break be shortened to a one week time period with the possibility of school adjourning for the summer a week earlier. I feel it is difficult for children to focus after a longer spring break as they have time to get out of a normal routine when they are out of school for long time periods. This would also reduce the hardship for working parents that need to find childcare for 2 weeks. This is not enough time to find regular care but is too long for most people to take off work. Please consider making this change.
16	As a parent of a kindergarden student, I am new to the school system since my last exposure to it was over 30

## 2017/18 SCHOOL CALENDAR PUBLIC COMMENTS

January 30, 2017 – February 28, 2017

	years ago in Vancouver. My husband and I both work fulltime and I find the schedule is very difficult to manage. My feedback to the proposed calendar is the following: 1. Spring break: the 2 week break seems unreasonable. I realize that this is probably province-wide but I disagree with the pressure that this puts on the parents to find childcare. I do not support the 2 week break in the Spring 2018. 2. I do not support the excessive number of collaboration and ProD days as well. When I look at the list, there seem to be >10 of these next year. I am not sure of the outcome expected from these comments but I am available if any followup is required.
17	I just reviewed the proposed calendar for the 2017-2018 school year, and I would prefer the Christmas Break and Spring Break to be left in the same time periods as this school year. There are a number of family activities in the week leading up to Christmas, and would be better for the kids if they could focus on their families at this time. Having their 2nd week off in the first week of January is a waste of time. Spring Break - my preference is to leave it as is - the middle two weeks of March. For those families who have jobs that are impacted by "month end", the proposed dates ruins any chances of them getting away with their families.
18	I do not agree the chosen period of Dec 23 to Jan 7 is good for the kids or their families. How are parents supposed to keep their kids busy after all the holiday activities are gone and done Jan 1? The obvious choice is Dec 16 until Jan 2, same as the year just passed
19	Only need December Holiday - time of until January 5 is a waste. Only need 1 week March break. Any more is a waste. End year earlier if you feel time is not needed. Both December/January and March Breaks for 2 weeks are 2 long. We need neither.
20a	2 huge points: 1. Winter break starts way too late. Please move it back a week and start early in January. 2. Then move up spring break a week. Don't share the Easter holiday with spring break. Thank you. And please.
20b	Please move winter break back one week. We need the time before the holiday not in January. Then we could move spring break back a week which is also better and gives us the benefit of Easter break the following week. Thank you for your consideration.
21	I've never really replied to anything like this before as my daughter is just in kindergarten. My one concern with the proposed calendar is the dates for Christmas vacation. I'm not sure if it is just my personal preference but where we travel to visit our family in NB over Christmas it is easier when the week before Christmas is off rather than after the new year. As we all know, traveling over the holiday can be hectic so I feel like having only the weekend before will lead to chaos for travelers forcing us to take her out of school the week before. I'd hate to have her miss school especially leading up to Christmas. I'm wondering what is the reasoning for the change. I like it the way it usually is. One week before and one week after. Thanks for taking the time to read
22	My only concern is the dates of the winter break. To end school two days before Christmas is not conducive to family traditions leading up to the holiday. Do the holidays have to be 2 full weeks or could they be mid-week, e.g. Wednesday to Wednesday. I would prefer to break for the holidays sometime between the 15th and 20th.
23	Thanks for allowing parents the input. At this point, we realize the school board will do what it will do. By delaying the approval of the calendars until March of the previous year, makes it extremely difficult for planning...both for family and school trips. By delaying the process until March 7th, trips that are currently being planned for Spring Break 2018 cannot get approved until after the March 7th decision date. As flights by airlines get released before around the same timing as the School Board making this decision, the cost of trips may increase significantly as the decision is not until then. The school board is permitted to plan 3 years out...but has opted not to. This uncertainty of planning causes much strain and stress for the others who are trying to plan around the school calendar. We look forward to the school board making a decision. Please get this, and future calendars, approved sooner.
24	I approve of this proposal. I really like the idea of going longer in December and having more time off in January.
25	I would like to see the winter break remain the last 2 weeks of December. Most businesses start winding down during this period and start back at it January 2nd, so it is difficult to take time off work the 1st week of January. Also, there isn't as much to do locally after Christmas as there is before, as all of the festivities are over.
26	looking at the draft calendar online, could the curriculum implementation day scheduled for Monday Nov 6 be moved to the Friday at the end of that week to make a four day long weekend?
27	I much prefer the December break from this school year. The new proposed break does not allow for Christmas outing before Christmas Day. By the time the Children are on break Christmas will be over.

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28	I would like to suggest that the winter break run December 18, 2017 to January 2, 2019 rather than the proposed timeline of December 25-January 8th. It would be ideal if the calendar could follow a similar format from year to year and the proposed dates seem to push the holiday too late in the month. Keep in mind that the holiday started on December 19th this school year, only one day later.
29	Two weeks off at both Christmas and Spring Break is excessive and a financial burden on a lot of families.
30	I think it would be great if the Pro D and other non-instructional days could be held in the summer months when school is not in session, so as not to interfere with the school routine and learning process. Thanks for considering my input.
31	I would prefer to see the District (NVTA) Pro D Day currently showing for Friday, February 23, 2018 to take place on Friday, February 9th as Monday Feb 12 is the Family Day stat and may families would go away that weekend anyway. Classes held on Friday, February 9th will likely be very empty. Perhaps the teachers recognize this for their own families and therefore would prefer not to have Professional Development scheduled for the Friday before a long weekend.
32	I do not agree with the Christmas break being the last week of December and first week of January. As a working mom, I must finish all my 2017 holidays by end of the year. This new holiday system would require me to use 2017 and my 2018 holidays. This is very unfortunate as no parent would like to dip into the vacation balance right away as we do not know what the year is to bring. I am finding nothing is easy for the working mom. Please reconsider
33	Please consider shortening spring break to 7-10 days and allowing students to be off school a week earlier in June. The last week of June is filled with students and teacher who are exhausted.
34	My question is why we continue to deliberately plan for disruption throughout the school year by scheduling Professional Development days throughout. Why would you not schedule a week long of training in the summer outside of the school year. Huge benefits would be realized by the economies of scale and collaboration across school districts.
35	You asked for feedback on the 2017-18 calendar. I am wondering whether it is possible for PD or non instructional days to be better combined with stat holidays so that there were more 4 day weekends vs. two 3 day weekends in a row. For example, in November, the 6th and 13th are both days the kids don't attend but give two 3 day weekends rather than adding the 6th on to the following weekend. This is the same with the dates in February as well as May 30 and June 1. It is nice to have extended days off in case a family wants to travel. Thanks for listening.
36	My comment is that 2 weeks for Spring break in March seems excessive and creates substantial hardship for working parents to arrange childcare. Does the NVSD have any reason to suspect that a 2 week spring break provides benefit to students?
37	I am VERY disappointed in the Christmas holiday dates - it leaves no time before Christmas to spend time with my child doing holiday events. Not happy with this proposal at all and hope that an alternate which provides more time before the holidays is considered. Also, my child's ski team does a training camp the week before Christmas. Have these sorts of sporting activities been considered? The last day should be Dec 15 and return to school should be Jan 2. Feeling frustrated and disappointed
38	My strong preference is for Xmas break to begin a week earlier due to all of the events at that time.
39	I will be the parent of a student in Grade 10 at Argyle Secondary in 2017-2018. I really do not like the idea of starting the Christmas break right before Christmas. My nephews and niece are in the Nanaimo school district and they finished on Dec 23 last year and went back a week after the new year and it is tough on families as most people return to work just after the new year. It is far preferable to have the week preceding Christmas off, there are many activities in which families can engage; it is cheaper to travel if you are going away over the holidays; there is the anticipation of the holidays themselves ( i would think particularly so for younger children) such that learning is not going to optimal at that time of year at the best of times but certainly not when the children are not released until 2 days before Christmas. A further comment on travel, for those of us with family far away, it effectively means travelling on Christmas Eve, further eroding family time and increasing stress. There is a big let down after the holidays and bored children are not easy to deal with. For all of these reasons I do not support this proposed school calendar. We ought to learn from the experiences in other School Districts see above Nanaimo) and release the children on December 15th, 2017.
40	I make the following recommendations to you for your consideration into the 2017-18 calendar with the following experience – my wife and I have had two children of our own who attended Dorothy Lynas and then one in Seycove for 5 years, and the other at Argyle/Carson for 5 years doing French Immersion and Culinary

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	<p>Arts Ace-it program. Also, we have hosted over 30 international students from 2009-2017 who mostly attended Seycove and Windsor schools. With this in mind, and with the high number of international students in mind, please consider the following: Moving the New Curriculum Training Day (currently proposed on Mon Nov 6, 2017) to Friday October 6th – this puts it earlier in the school year (for earlier implementation of the curriculum) as well as matches up with the Monday October 9th Canadian Thanksgiving Holiday – thereby minimizing the number of “incidences” where families have to arrange child care – and allowing families an extended time where they can travel if they so desire. For international students – agencies often plan excursion trips at these times (Tofino, Rockies, etc) so it makes these trips more flexible. Moving the District Pro-D day 1 (currently proposed on Fri Oct 20, 2017) to Friday November 24th – this re-balances the non-instructional days currently proposed between October and November as well as matches up with the US “Black Friday” event – a day when many international students currently skip school to take day trips to the USA (with guardian permission). I would hazard a guess that this day currently is a bit of a mess with many missing students. Moving the District Pro-D day 2 (currently proposed on Fri Feb 23, 2018 to Friday, February 9th – matching up with the BC Family Day holiday Monday February 12th – for the same reasoning as Canadian Thanksgiving above. Moving the District Pro-D day 3 (currently proposed on Monday May 7th, 2018 to Friday May 18th – matching up with the Victoria Day holiday Monday May 21st – same reasoning. My last point is a question – but I like the current proposal... in the current calendar (2016-17) spring break 2017 will be 10 days (March 19-30th) and then Good Friday &amp; Easter Monday are April 14 &amp; 17th. In this proposed calendar Good Friday is March 30th and Easter Monday is April 2nd, dove-tailing nicely into Spring Break March 19-30th.... But in the new calendar we have 11 days with the schools closed and in the current calendar we have 12 – so are we picking up a day of instruction? If so, that’s probably a good thing J - but I wanted to bring it to you attention. Thank you for your consideration and work on the calendar and for our students</p>
41	<p>Just my thoughts, but why not make the days work better for families and staff alike. For instance: Move Sept. 27th – Staff Collaboration Day to September 22nd. Move October 20th – to October 10th . Move November 6th - to November 10th. Why is the Christmas break going into January? That messes up my and I’m sure many other’s plans for the Christmas season. Move January 31st - to January 18th. Move February 28th – to February 22nd. Move May 30th – to May 18th. This gives families the opportunity to plan an extra long weekend if they want rather than breaking it up so much. My thoughts.</p>
42	<p>I'd like to comment on the proposed calendar for SD44 for the 2017-2018 school year. My concern is the large number of professional development days, and the burden that these days place on both children (through shortened educational days) as well as parents, who need to find alternative care for their children on these days. I would like to propose that the professional development days be moved to the summer or spring break periods, and that the resultant days become additional education days for children.</p>
43	<p>This calendar requires re-thinking. Christmas and Spring Break both start a week too late. Kids are in school until almost July. Spring break appears to have been pushed back to link with the Easter long weekend. Spring break should start the week of March 12 as it does this year. Christmas should start December 18 with students back January 2. Please reconsider this calendar. It's totally unworkable.</p>
44	<p>I would rather see the Christmas break include more time off for students BEFORE Christmas less time off after; for example off from Dec 18 - Jan 2nd. This would allow for travel time and family activities leading up to Christmas.</p>
45	<p>The winter – break of Jan1-5 is very difficult for a working parent. It is easier to take the time before Christmas.</p>
46	<p>I am wondering why winter break would be split up with one week in December and one week in January. Many parents are not able to book vacation time into the following year.</p>
47	<p>We would like to give our comment regarding the PROPOSED 2017/18 School Calendar. Most working parents would probably say that having the first week of January off is not the best week to have off for Christmas vacation for their children. Please can you look at having the week of December 18-22 instead of the week in January.</p>
48a	<p>I'd like to suggest having the winter break start from Dec.18th and return to school on the 2nd of Jan. This has always been the time frame for winter break and it works well with holiday schedules of working parents. All other dates look good.</p>
48b	<p>We would like to suggest changing the winter break to the last two weeks of December as that would work better with our work obligations. Thank you,</p>
49	<p>I very much prefer this school calendar to last because of the way Winter Break is structured. I did not like starting Winter Break on December 17 (way too early). It is much better to have the days off after actual</p>



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	<p>Christmas. Must say, I still do not understand why we have these early release (Collaboration) days. Teachers claim (and I see it at our school) to be working in the building way past 3:00 pm. Why can't each school find a day where they can meet from 3:00-4:00. It is crazy to release children early so many days in the school year. These are in addition to Pro D days. Neither of these would be accepted in a private organization. I am against Collaboration days during school hours.</p>
50	<p>Hoping this calendar lines up with neighbouring Districts, particularly Burnaby.</p>
51	<p>Thank-you for soliciting and allowing comment on the proposed calendar. The selection of the winter break to begin with the Dec 25 Christmas day stat and run through the first week of January beyond New Year's Day stat seems counter-intuitive. If maximizing student engagement, attendance, and inclusion in school community is a priority, I believe the week prior to the Christmas and Boxing Day stats (Dec 18-22) through New Year's Day more appropriate. That would see December 15th as the last day, with students returning Tuesday Jan 2. As many families travel for Christmas celebrations, I think with the proposed time off, you will see a lot of students leaving school early - thereby missing final instructions, school community events and activities. As well, pushing student learning so close to the actual holiday of Christmas will result in students being more challenging to engage in focused learning, and difficulty contain excitability levels, especially in the younger students. I would be interested in understanding the reasoning behind the winter break starting that late and extending so far into January and how/if the above likely occurrences were considered and addressed.</p>
52	<p>Upon reviewing the Proposed School Calendar for 2017/2018 I'd like to express some serious concerns about the number of days off the students have during a single school calendar year. Eight Full Days of professional days, Five Early Dismissals, Ten Stat Holidays, Two Weeks Christmas Break, Two Weeks Spring Break, approximately Six early dismissals for Parent/Teacher Interviews and a Couple Half Days off. This is far too much time off school for the students. It's hard enough the students have two months off during summer. The number of educational hours for students in BC is far less than the number of educational hours in other Provinces such as Alberta. Alberta has two-thirds less days off than BC plus they do not have early dismissal days for Parent/Teacher Interviews as these Interviews are held between 6pm - 8pm when most parents are off work and have time to attend. Parent/Teacher Interviews in BC are scheduled between 2pm - 5pm when most parents are still at work and cannot attend and our kids are missing out on educational hours yet again. Most Parents cannot get time off work to attend unless they take a leave of absence and loss of wages. This is not fair to working parents and single parents. Most working parents only receive 2 - 4 weeks paid vacation if they are lucky and therefore, with over 12 weeks of non-scheduled school days it is impossible to provide sufficient daycare, as well as it is not affordable to take loss in wages or pay for daycare due to the High Increase in Daycare Costs at Daycare Centres/Programs - again even more difficult for single parents. For the September 2017 it shows a Pro-Day for Sept 25 and an early Dismissal Sept 27 - this is unnecessary as the students have just returned to school after a two month summer break - resulting in only 16 full days of education for the month of September. Why is there a need for this? The Teachers are back to school the last week of August so one of those days should be used as a pro-day or training day instead. For November 2017 it shows a whole day off for Career Training - why can't this training be done on the Oct 20th Professional Day instead? There is already a Stat Holiday Nov 13. For December 2017 in shows the last week of December and first week of January off for two weeks for Christmas Break - in recent years it has always been the last two weeks of December for Christmas Break with the students returning right after the New Years Stat. Why is the Proposed Schedule changing this year? Most employees have already submitted their vacation schedules for 2017 and now those parents who have booked off the last two weeks of December for daycare purposes are now going to be scrambling to find daycare for the first week of January. Two weeks off at Christmas is completely unnecessary and should only be one week at most. Alberta students only have one week - why do BC students need two weeks off? Come January 2018 if the proposed schedule is passed and the students don't return to school until Jan 8 - why is there a need to have a Professional Day 9 days later on Jan 19? Again this is unnecessary to have yet another day of lost educational time for our students. For February 2018 there is a Feb 12 Stat Holiday long weekend - why is there yet another professional day Feb 23 and an early dismissal Feb 28. This is already the shortest month of the year and therefore, our students only get 17 full days of education. With so many early dismissals it is very hard for working parents to arrange daycare for students let out at 2pm. Two weeks off at Spring Break is completely unnecessary as well and should only be one week at most - why not schedule one week before Easter as Easter is already a 4 day long weekend. Again most parents do not get this much vacation time off work so are forced to take a leave of absence and loss of wages - again not fair. Alberta students only have one week off at Spring Break - our BC Students should only have one week off as well not two. June 2018 is the last month of school so why is there a need for a professional day on June 1 when the kids are finishing up</p>

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	<p>and school ends June 28 - during the last week of school not much work is done other than packing up desks and "Fun Days" so a June 1 professional day is really not necessary as there is an Administrative Day already scheduled on June 29. A Proposed Calendar should reflect what is fair to all Parents taking into consideration time loss, wage loss, amount of vacation days, daycare needs, etc...Also, Single Parents need to be considered as well, as they do not always have the resources and/or finances to help with daycare needs with so much Educational Days off. This Calendar needs to reflect more educational hours for the students so they can have equal rights for equal education like other Provinces in Canada like Alberta and Ontario which presently have a far Superior Education System than BC. With so much time off during Summer, Christmas and Spring Break it makes it very difficult for Teachers to settle the students back down into a routine and the first week is very challenging for the Teachers and Students - I've heard this story from several Teachers over the years. Please consider these concerns when reviewing the Proposed School Calendar for 2017/2018 - the less Educational Hours our BC Students receive results in our BC Students being less educated and therefore, other Provinces and other Countries who receive far greater Educational Hours will in return have Higher Educated Students which in turn will result in more Success for them - I would like to see our BC Students given the same opportunity to have the same chance at a Higher Education and Future Success.</p>
53	<p>I think it would be extremely beneficial if the NVan school calendar aligned with school calendars of neighboring districts. Also, having professional days or curriculum implementation days on the school day prior to a statutory holiday would be beneficial to students in older grades as they would have a 4 day weekend to prepare or complete projects, get caught up on homework or (for grade 12 students) prepare university applications. There was a 4-day weekend in January 2017 which was perfectly timed for grade 12 students to prepare university or postsecondary applications (many deadlines are in January). The postsecondary application process is a lengthy and detailed process which requires focus and time. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
54	<p>My comment is i really do not like the proposed Christmas holiday. Would prefer it to start a week early and end after January 2nd. It's a busy time of year and the schools seem to wind down before Christmas - better to start holidays sooner and have them get back at it as soon as possible in January. Spring Break is also quite late, but I can see why tying it to Easter makes sense in this particular year.</p>
55	<p>I would prefer the Christmas break to start the week before Christmas. Several advantages: - kids come back Jan 2nd with a four day week which is a good transition - Christmas lead up is really busy time, it will be easier on kids if they are not in school (probably easier on teachers too) - there are so many activities that week to enjoy with your kids in the lead up to Christmas A- a lot of people plan to go away and many kids may end up missing school that week or part of it</p>
56	<p>It is more difficult for working parents to be away from work after New Year's Day. I would rather the break start the week before Christmas to give families more time together.</p>
57	<p>My choice would be to keep the Christmas break the same because we have a buildup of family arriving before Christmas that include kids from out of town. Having my daughter in school at this time would deny her the seasonal activities we do as a family. My choice for Spring break would be to also stay on the current two middle weeks of March. I run a business that is measured on a monthly basis and having the first and fourth weeks available to work, allows me the time to break away with my family in the middle of the month. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.</p>
58	<p>I think it is very important for families that SD44 aligns Pro D Days with statutory holidays. This allows parents to plan more family events without taking children out of school. I must say I am very surprised that most of the planned Pro D days are near but not aligned with existing stats. The following should be changed: - October 20 should be moved to October 6th or 7th (to align with October 9 Thanksgiving stat) Nov 6 should be moved to Nov 10 (to align with November 13 Remembrance Day stat) Feb 23 should be moved to Feb 9 (to align with February 13 Family Day stat) May 7 should be moved to May 18 (to align with May 21 Victoria Day stat). Thank you for your consideration.</p>
59	<p>I think that it is absolutely perfect! My husband and i usually take the last week of December and 1st week of January for our vacations!</p>
60	<p>Thank you for welcoming comments on the proposed 2017/2018 school calendar. My feedback is around the timing of winter break. I would prefer if winter break began on the week of December 18th. It gives families more time to do holiday/Christmas activities before the holiday arrives.</p>
61	<p>We feel that spring break should only be one week. It currently forces families to either take a vacation at that time of year, which does is not always possible in terms of work commitments, or pay for expensive child care. A one-week break would be plenty, given the two week break at Christmas, just three months earlier. The</p>

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	school year could end one week earlier in June to offset the extra week. Thank you for considering our input.
62	I am concerned that the December break would start so late - a drastic change from what happened this year. I prefer the break to begin on December 16th. The closer you get to Christmas the more expensive vacations get. To be able to make the most of this time with family by being able to afford to go on a trip, I implore you to begin the break on Dec 16. I checked some flights and hotels and the costs are 50-100% higher in the first week of Jan than between Dec 16 and 23rd
63	For years now I am frustrated with all the days off, let alone 2 weeks off twice in the year. All the added long weekends as well. My son has Down syndrome and thrives on schedules and a continuum. We go off schedule, the added costs for a single parent is beyond my budget . I so no thanks!
64a	My only issue is Christmas break. Why have school in session up to 2 days before Christmas? For those that have to travel to join family over the holidays, this will have them pulling children early from school or traveling nearly on Christmas. Can it not start in December 18 and go back in January 2? That would be our preference.
64b	I do not agree with the proposed Christmas break! Would rather see it as December 19 to January 2 like this school year to give the kids more lead time to Christmas Day!
65	I much prefer the Feb. PD day and Family Day holiday sandwiched in one weekend to make it a 4 day weekend. It's much easier to manage time off if it is a one time event in a week and not two 4 day weeks in a row as currently is.
66	I have reviewed the 2017/2018 proposed school calendar and would like to suggest moving the September 27th early dismissal day to the week before or after. The reason being is that it can be challenging for some parents to find child or request time off work for two days in the same week - being the Monday Professional development day and the Wednesday early dismissal day. Please consider this for the upcoming year and future planning.
67	I have a child at Upper Lynn Elementary and I have two comments on the proposed calendar: 1) In past years the professional development day in November has been scheduled to coincide with the November long weekend (Remembrance Day). I suggest scheduling the Curriculum Training Day on November 10th rather than November 6th as this would be less disruptive for parents' schedules than having two consecutive Monday's off school (Nov 6 and Nov 13). Alternatively the Curricular Training Day could be on Tuesday November 14th. 2) It will be challenging for families (and I suspect teachers as well) for school to continue right up until Christmas and then the 2 week break start with Christmas Day. Many families travel for the holidays and if the last day of school is on December 22nd it will be very challenging to travel over the weekend with Christmas on Monday. Also, the kids tend to have trouble paying attention that close Christmas. I recommend scheduling the Christmas Break Dec 18 - Jan 1. Thank you
68	Thoughts: • Prefer longer summer holidays • Prefer longer Christmas holidays and especially a few more days in advance of Christmas • Do not like the 2 weeks in March, would prefer one week or 10 days max.
69	My comments about the proposed calendar are as follows: Is it possible to align the Pro D days to the stat holiday weekends to make extra long weekends or more substantial mini breaks for children and families. For example: move October 20 to October 6; move November 6 to November 10 or 14; move February 23 to the 9; and move May 7 to the 18 or 22 I would prefer the first week at Christmas to start on the 18th, not for their to be no holidays prior to the 23rd. Again, for working parents who try to take their holiday time at the same time as this school-aged children this doesn't allow any prep time for Christmas (shopping, baking, cooking, cleaning, etc). The way the break is currently set will be very difficult on families (well, difficult on mums anyway). Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.
70	I know many families that quite like having a District ProD day on the Friday before the Family Day in February ... that would be Friday, Feb 9th in 2018. As a result, I'd encourage you to consider moving the February District ProD from the 23rd to the 9th or some other non-school day to the 9th. Thank you for considering this request.
71	It seemed as though this year, several of the public holidays were aligned with Pro-D days, effectively making it a long weekend (ie. a 4 day weekend rather than 2 x 3 day weekends in close proximity). For our family, I found this to be more functional rather than trying to rearrange childcare and work schedules more often. Thank you
72	Not everyone celebrates Christmas in Vancouver and this proposed Christmas vacation schedule interferes with travel plans to leave Vancouver and celebrate Christmas elsewhere. For those people planning to spend Christmas in Vancouver with family, it causes unnecessary stress as time to freely prepare for Christmas

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	festivities is hindered. What is the reasoning behind the dates proposed for Christmas vacation?
73	I'd suggest changing the current Feb. 23/18 District Wide Pro D day to Feb. 9/18 — to give families a full 4 day long weekend around Family Day. Or at least have this Pro D on Mon. Feb. 19th to coincide with Family Day in the other provinces and President's Day in the US.
74	Opposed to proposed Xmas break dates of Dec22 to Jan 8th. Many people, like myself, were required by their employer, to choose their 2017 vacation back in Dec 2016. So as it stands now, I have taken my Xmas holidays when my kids are not out of school! Also by extending the break until Jan 8 th, many parents would need to take vacation hours from their 2018 vacation bank to cover this week in January. I myself, would prefer the Christmas vacation to be Dec18 to Jan 2 nd. Thank you
75	May I suggest moving the curriculum training day to the 10th of November instead of the 6th to provide students and families with a four day weekend.
76a	My daughter is in grade 10. After reviewing the proposed calendar I am <u>very concerned</u> that the December break would start so late. I prefer the break to begin on Dec 16th. With the break occurring so late there are very real and costly ramifications. 1. those looking to get away will not have the option to go away before Christmas and be back before Christmas without missing school 2. the cost of almost all vacations will be substantially higher than if they had the opportunity to leave the week prior. For example, below is the cost of the same one week cruise during the times in question. You can see that this trip would cost basically twice as much if booked in the January week as the proposed schedule would force. 12/16/17 \$ <b>1099 pp</b> ; 12/23/17 \$ 1949 pp; 12/30/17 \$ <b>2149 pp</b> . 3. the proposed option is a departure from what happened this year. If people have made plans based on consistency in school year planning, then this is a large problem. Lost deposits on vacations, lost airfare costs or high change fees are just some of the issues if changes need to be made to accommodate the proposed schedule. Please give my concerns serious consideration.
76b	We prefer that the winter break start on Dec 15 rather than the proposed Dec 22 date. This would be consistent with this year and allow families an opportunity to travel for over a week prior to being home for Christmas. The travel would also be at substantially much less cost than the prohibitive travel cost for the week after New Year's or the Christmas week. Thanks for your consideration.
77	Please reconsider the Christmas break. I have spoken to many parents and we find that fact that the children's Christmas Holidays going up to January 8, 2018 unnecessary. Children should have as much time in school in the New Year. We propose the winter break start from Dec 18th to December 29th and children go back to school on January 2nd. This makes more sense and keeps the holidays of Christmas in the same year and let the children start the new year right after the New Year. We hope you make these considerations. Thank you
78	I am writing to ask that you please reconsider the timing for the winter break, current scheduled for Dec 25-Jan 5. Christmas time is a time of anticipation, and there are many fun cultural activities for Children to do in the lead up to the big day. Further, parents generally time their own vacation to coincide with the school break so that they can maximize their time with their children. If the Christmas break does not start until December 22, this leaves very little time for family gatherings and activities prior to Christmas, and also very little time for already stressed parents to complete their Christmas shopping that is herd to do while still working. Further, January is generally a very busy time for working parents (especially those involved in businesses with December year-ends that are compiling financial results, planning for 2018, etc.) I would ask that you <u>please</u> <u>please</u> consider changing the proposed dates to December 18-29, returning to school on January 2. This would be a much more relaxed scheduled and more fun for everyone, kids and parents. Thanks
79	Hi do not like the proposed Xmas break weeks. I think it should be Dec 18-Jan 02. Thank you
80	Based on what has happened over this past long weekend where many families chose to take an extra long weekend including Thursday and Friday.....I would suggest that at least the Friday prior to Family Day long weekend be a Pro D day. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
81a	Hello, I am not happy with the timing of Christmas holidays as they are quite late. As well, the kids would only have 9 days back at school in January and then they have a Curric Impl Day.....another day off! Please strongly consider changing Christmas holidays to begin the week of December 18. Then the kids have one week before Christmas and one week after. Thank you
81b	I strongly disagree with the scheduling of the December holidays. Please change to one week off before Christmas and one after, therefore the break would start Dec.18 and back at school Jan.2. Thank you
82	I have the followings comments on the proposed 2017-2018 as a School District 44 parent: ● Christmas Break. Preference would be to have a week off before Christmas opposed to getting out of school on

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	<p>December 22nd. December 22nd is extremely close to Christmas providing families with limited time to travel prior to the holiday, especially for those families who celebrate Christmas on December 24th. In addition, pre-Christmas is a time when families can enjoy holiday activities and preparation together whereas these activities are not an option in early January which is the proposed second week off. ● Pro-D Days. Preference is to have on Fridays since working parents typically find it easier to take a Friday (opposed to a Monday) off work to be with children on these days. ● Halloween. I understand there are a group of parents lobbying for a later start time the day after Halloween. While this may be beneficial to stay at home parents, it is not feasible for working parents who need to drop children off and attend at work. Unfortunately, most workplaces do to have a later start the morning after Halloween. Thank you for considering these comments.</p>
83	<p>I would like to share some suggestions for your consideration: 1. Spring break. I would prefer to see a one week break in February in the week of family day and a one week break at Easter. This would allow families to take a week vacation for skiing and one week for a warm destination. It is easier for some parents to take two single weeks off instead of 2 weeks at once. The longer Easter break would allow an extended visit to families who are living out of province. 2. Pro d Day. I would like to see the Pro D Days added on to a stat holiday in order to take advantage of a longer week-end. Thank you very much.</p>
84	<p>I agree with the proposed calendar Winter Break dates as it coincides with Alberta school system. However, the number of proposed 'pd' days, early dismissals make it extremely difficult for working families. I would like to see this reviewed.</p>
85	<p>A couple of things... 1. Why is spring break running into the Easter long weekend? Either make the spring break start a week earlier or add an additional day onto the Easter long weekend as it isn't a full 2 week spring break then....going back on the Wednesday, not the Tuesday. 2. Why can't the Christmas break be Wednesday, Dec. 20th and then come back 2 weeks later like they do in Alberta....going to the 22nd is really late.</p>
86	<p>The only comments I have regarding the calendar would be that it would be great to have a professional day following Halloween as the kids tend to be a bit of a disaster for the teachers the day after halloween. Thanks</p>
87	<p>I would like to make a comment on the proposed 2017/2018 school calendar; I would prefer to see spring break and Easter separated, instead of rolled into one. It also looks like there is only one new curriculum training day – is this really enough for teachers? It seems they could use more days to collaborate on new curriculum issues. Thank you</p>
88	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback for the next proposed school calendar. Overall, the proposed calendar should benefit the majority of children and their families. Two weeks off at Christmas and Spring Break is ideal for families like ours, which is blended. The longer breaks allow for children of divorced parents to spend more quality time with each parent/family. My only concern is regarding the month of April. The proposed calendar shows only one day off of school for children: Easter Monday. Is it possible to have a Pro-D day or a Staff Collaboration Day in the middle or end of that month? An extra half day or full day off in April would benefit children. I hope my comments have been useful and I look forward to seeing the finalized calendar in a few months.</p>
89	<p>Keeping spring break and Easter separate would be ideal. Thanks,</p>
90	<p>I would like to suggest that the Curriculum Implementation Day that is currently scheduled for Jan 19th be moved to the third week of September. If we wait until January, it will be too late to implement year long systems, and I believe that the buy-in from teachers would be far less than if we tried to initiate change at the beginning of the year. Thank you for your consideration,</p>
91	<p>As input, I think the Christmas holidays should start sooner than Dec 22, with return in January earlier. Thanks,</p>
92	<p>After reviewing the proposed 2017-2018 school calendar I'm happy to note that there are 5 staff collaboration days. Can you please confirm that Brooksbank will be moving away from a 2pm dismissal EVERY Wednesday and commence a monthly shortened day? I am definitely in favour of moving towards 1 shortened day a month, as opposed to every week having early dismissal. Thank you</p>
93	<p>I would much prefer my kids have the week leading up to Christmas off (Dec 18-22) than the first week of January (Jan 1-5). That way we can do Christmassy things as a family (the Christmas train, see Santa, go shopping...) without missing school. Thanks,</p>
94	<p>The person who created this calendar probably doesn't have young children. The magic of the Christmas holidays occurs before Christmas. Not one week into January. The time off a week before Christmas would allow families to visit Santa Claus and the lights of Van Dusen Gardens or ride on the Polar Express in</p>

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	Squamish. Making the first day of a 2 week holiday begin on Christmas Day is insensitive and ridiculous and then pushing the holidays a week past New Years is a mismanagement of time. I would like to know who created this original calendar and have a discussion with them. I cannot understand their reasoning behind it. Was it laziness or stupidity?
95	It would be nice if March Break was one week. Kids need to be educated and a 2 week break is excessive.
96	With respect to the proposed calendar for the upcoming school year, please note that the proposed Christmas break schedule is, in my opinion, poorly thought out. Many families have numerous activities in the weeks preceding Christmas and not having the Christmas break start until Christmas weekend is, in my view, an unfortunate choice. It will also make scheduling my work calendar very difficult as all other businesses will expect it to be business as usual starting January 2nd. I sincerely hope that the school district will reconsider this planned schedule.
97	My thoughts are many offices are slow the week before and after Christmas. Work for many ramps up the first week in January so many parents will be back to work the first week in January. Many Christmas activities take place the week prior to Christmas and that adds to the excitement of Christmas. If kids are in school that week many will miss out. Please reconsider changing the Christmas break from the 18th until the 2nd. Thank you
98	Just one comment: I think it would be better that the winter break begin a week earlier and the kids go back on the 2nd. There is more time to do Christmas activities/travel. Having Christmas on the first Monday they are off is a bit too abrupt.
99	Having viewed the proposed school calendar for the next school year I would like to express my disappointment in the Christmas vacation beginning so late. I would much rather have the previous week off, as there are so many fun things to do in the run up to Christmas. What a shame to still be at school on December 22nd. I really hope this can be amended.
100	Thank you for letting us have feedback to the up coming school calendar. I would prefer to have a week before Christmas off than a week in January. It too busy, hard to make family vacation plans and the kids are too excited and worn out. Please consider this. Kindly,
101	I am emailing my input regarding the proposed school calendar for this upcoming 2017-18 school year. I am a teacher in Vancouver, and my son will be starting Kindergarten in the fall at Lynnmour Elementary this fall. The VSB also proposed the same Christmas break for this coming school year to align with other districts including North Vancouver. It would be very unfortunate to not have my break as the same time as my son's. Hopefully you will keep the break consistent with other districts in the lower mainland!!
102	I'd like to provide feedback for the 2017/18 school calendar. I do NOT agree with the idea of moving one week of the Christmas break to the first week of January. Most workplaces tend to have a "down time" in the week leading up to Christmas (when it is acceptable to take vacation days to align with decreased work responsibilities). This aligns with the current school calendar, where Christmas vacation is over the last 2 weeks of DECEMBER. Work responsibilities usually gear up after New Years' day, when employers expect their employees to be present, ready, and able to work. Therefore, it would be much less acceptable to take vacation days in the first week of January. Keep in mind that workplaces are not just local, but national/international, so if the "rest of the world" is working the first week of January, it would be very difficult for parents to take vacation during this period and would result in even higher childcare costs than we already experience in the District.
103	I'm emailing with comments on the calendar. I'm wondering if its possible to pair District-wide pro-D days with existing stat long weekends. For example, pairing the February pro-D day with the Family Day long weekend. Or in October with Thanksgiving. Or in November with the Curriculum day and Remembrance Day. Or at least migrate to a mix of spreading out the pro-D days and stat holidays, and pairing them. Right now you have chosen to only spread them out, making a lot of 3-day weekends in the school year, and a lot of time where parents have to find child-care for pro-D days. Then families can take advantage of a 4-day weekend (with perhaps both parents taking time off, perhaps going on holiday) instead of several 3-day weekends. This may be easier on families especially where there are two working parents. Many thanks for asking for feedback!
104	I would like to vote against this calendar because the Christmas holidays is moved up one week which makes it a huge inconvenience for Christmas holidays, to book flights and be at destination before Christmas Day. Also , the second full week is in 2018 and is hard to book off time off work as it taps into my 2018 holidays. This makes it hard to obtain coverage in the summer being 1 week less of holidays in the summer due to taking it 1st week of January. I'm sure many families will be in this position.

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105	what is the Christmas Break scheduled so late in the year?
106	I'd prefer the winter break to be a week earlier. Thanks for allowing feedback
107	I think I would rather have my kids off the week before Christmas, rather than the weeks after.
108	I would prefer to have a week before christmas off as holiday as opposed to the week after new years
109	I would much prefer to see Spring Break 2018 start sooner i.e. during the weeks of March 12 & 19 as opposed to Mar. 19 & 26. Thank you
110	I would prefer the old holiday schedule (leading up to the break). It is always fun to do activities leading up to the holidays and I imagine the kids would have a difficult time Focusing in class anyways that close to Christmas. Thanks
111	I would personally rather have Christmas break start a week earlier like it has been for years and also spring break to happen earlier in March instead of tacking onto Easter holiday. Thanks
112	Thank for letting me provide my input into the proposed new schedule for North Van District schools. My one item for consideration is the change to the Christmas two week period. While I appreciate not everyone celebrates the Christmas holiday, there are lots of fun and exciting activities to do around Vancouver in December, leading up to the holiday. I use that first week of school break to enjoy the various activities, knowing that my son will be out past his bed time most evenings. However, with the next day not being a school day, this makes it more enjoyable for us, even though I still work that week. If the calendar was to change to have the second week off during the first week of January, I worry that the break won't mean as much to our family. Most offices are back to work on January 2, so that means that kids are in camp that week and honestly it just becomes another week. No events or sights to see as Christmas season has passed. I worry that this change will take away some of the magic we enjoy at Christmas, and for the District, it could impact the revenue from parents paying for these attractions prior to the holiday. Thank you
113	I am pleased to see that the spring break and winter breaks in the two week proposal line up with the Sea to Sky district as I work there, but we live and we have our children attending school in North Van. The two week spring break calendar looks excellent.
114	Would like to voice my opinion on the 2017/2018 proposed calendar. I dislike the changes to the winter break and spring break being later. Thank you
115	Hello, can I suggest you move the Christmas Break back one week to have it start on the 18th December? That is a fun time for families, especially with youngsters in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you very much for inviting our input. Best regards.
116	We understand that teachers need time to collaborate. However, scheduling a PRO D Day the same week as Staff Collaboration (shorten day for student) is very disruptive for working parents. Please consider: · moving the proposed SCHOOL-BASED PRO D DAY from the 25th of September to October 6th · moving the proposed SCHOOL-BASED PRO D DAY from June 1st to June 4th I would also like to suggest giving parents an extended family day weekend by moving the proposed PRO D Day from February 23rd to February 13th. Thank you.
117	Looks great for both students, teachers and parents!
118	Hello! I am a grade 11 student at Argyle secondary school [...] so I have a few notes on the proposed calendar that have come up when talking with fellow members of these two committees. First of all, late starts. When I started school at Argyle in grade 8 we had 7 late starts in the year. Right at the end of the month when students are starting to get worn out we had a small chance to catch up on sleep or our schoolwork, perfect. But, we only have 4 late starts this year, and 5 next year. At a DSLC meeting a couple months ago one of our teacher sponsors asked how many of us feel we need 7 late starts in a year and every single member raised their hand. There aren't any professional days in April on the proposed calendar, so at the very least we should get a late start in April. Second of all, winter break. December 22nd is far too late to have as the last day of classes. Many families like to get together or travel to visit other relatives in the days leading up to Christmas, and this just doesn't give them enough time. Now I can't speak for everyone, but many students that I have talked to have said that they like to have more time off school before Christmas to make plans or prepare gifts as opposed to more time after New Years. So, I have two proposed options for winter break. The first is to have the break start on Friday the 18th of December, and have classes resume Tuesday January 2nd, although the problem with this plan is that classes would be resuming just one day after New Years, and people may still be returning from holidays. So my other option is to have the break start on Wednesday December 20th and have classes resume Wednesday January 3rd. I know that we always have classes end on a Friday but why? I truly believe that it would be in the best interest of the students and staff to have winter

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	break start earlier than the 22nd, so why not try starting and ending break mid week to see how it goes? Thank you for the consideration of my comments.
119	As a parent I do not like the proposed changes. Kids are fairly checked out most of December as it is, keeping them in school longer that month doesn't make a lot of sense to me. Also, there are a lot of community building events that go on in the weeks before Christmas that do not happen in January. I think these things are important for students, families, teachers and administrators to be able to tke advantage of in December. My feedback is that Christmas break remain as it has been. Thank you.
120	I do not like the shift in Christmas vacation to the proposed Dec. 25 – Jan. 5 dates. This provides families with no time ahead of the holiday to travel to family or enjoy Christmas activities. As a mother of a Kindergarten student, I know how excited the children are all of December. Much of that month, the teachers are just trying to hold the kids together. Excitement is through the roof. The week before December is not an educational / learning week. Far more can be taught the first week of January when routine has returned to normal. I am in STRONG disagreement with this shifted Christmas break.
121	I have two children at Queen Mary Community School, and am writing with feedback on the proposed 2017/2018 school calendar. We would much prefer if the Christmas Holidays were moved to one week earlier than proposed. The lead-up to Christmas is a special time of year when many family traditions and community events take place. We feel our family would miss out on a lot if the kids were in school right up until the 22nd! Thank you for considering,
122	I propose to add one of the other random professional days in May to the 3 day weekend already in place for the May long weekend so families have a longer opportunity to get out of town. Thank you
123	Thank you for putting up the proposed calendar for comments. I understand the later start to the December break is to align with other districts, however I really feel it would be better to have the December break start on the 18th instead. I personally don't celebrate Christmas, however we greatly enjoy all the winter activities leading up to Christmas in the community, most of which end on Christmas Day. They really foster a sense of community Sprite and togetherness, which we do not want our family to miss out on. In all likelihood, we would pull our daughter out of school that week anyway, as I am sure many other families would as well. Additionally, our daughter is starting kindergarten in September, and that first term is just so long for a little one just starting school. One week makes such a difference. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback.
124	I would love to see a pro-d day on November 1st so that the kids can enjoy their Halloween evening and not be tired for school the next day (and teachers won't have to deal with tired and over-sugared kids either).
125	I would prefer the Christmas vacation be the last 2 weeks of December. My employer made me decide my 2017 vacation schedule by the end of 2016 so I took the last 2 weeks of December off(as was the schedule for 2016) and now would have to find alternate child care for the first week of January. Thank-you
126	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft school schedule. I do not think it is necessary to have two weeks off in March given that the children already receive two weeks off in December. Particularly in French Immersion, it is difficult to get back into French learning when there is a two month summer break, two week breaks at Christmas and in the spring, and a multitude of days off with pro-d days, etc. While an extra week during spring break may provide the benefit of saving money for the District, I don't think it helps with student learning.
127	I would prefer to keep winter break as it is means "Two weeks in December and going back to school in January". Lots of parents do work and have their office/job closes end of December. Families need that time to spend it together and plan things together. I would appreciate it if you keep things as is.
128	I would like to voice my concern on the holiday break dates. My preference would be to have the second week added to before Christmas versus the new year. All other proposed dates are fine.
129	We have found, and have heard from countless others, that having the extra week off prior to Christmas is extremely beneficial. It really lowers the overall anxiety around the Christmas holidays. Having the second week break after the holidays is simply too late. It also provides family holiday time in advance of the hectic holiday season, instead right in the heart of the maximum chaos. It also makes the term between Christmas and March Break very short. We strongly advocate for having the two weeks of holidays fall the week before and the week of Christmas.
130	I'm hearing from a lot of parents they would prefer Christmas break shift forward a week. I have to agree it makes more sense to enjoy more holidays before Christmas, instead of after New Years. There may be reasons I am unaware of, but hopefully a change can be considered.
131	As one of the increasing number of families who have children attending school in SD45 as well as SD44, I



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	believe that it would be very helpful if the two districts could align their calendars so that families like ours can use professional days to better advantage and enjoy quality family time over "long" weekends. Providing a professional day on November 1st was also very well received by parents, teachers and students when we tried it at Cleveland a few years ago. The kids are always so tired and unreceptive to learning the day after Halloween that everyone felt it was well worth allowing kids to sleep off their Halloween festivities and return to school well rested the following day. Teachers also appreciated not having to deal with over-tired students. Thanks for considering my input,
132	My thoughts for the proposed calendar ... March break falls too late in 2018. Many of us on the north shore have kids that ski, and we utilize ski camps during the break. I would much rather see the break in the first or middle of March (as it is this year) as opposed to the end. I realize this is only a one week difference, but a week at that time of year has a potentially profound impact on (quality) snow pack. Also, I would love to see March break reduced to just one week (can we make school end a week earlier in June instead?). As a parent, I would much rather have the benefit of good weather and longer days to occupy my kids than a rainy week in March with much more limited options. Not everyone can afford to go to Mexico or Disneyland. And on that note, please lose some of the excessive pro D days. Again, can we quit school earlier in June? (Assuming, of course, that one or neither of these will be considered a viable option, clearly both simultaneously will not or there would be no school in June at all). But honestly, why does there have to be as many four day weeks as there is a full five? Incredibly inconvenient and expensive for parents in elementary school seeking child care.
133	I just looked at he calendar and would prefer to have the week before Christmas off. We have all of our family on the East Coast and it doesn't leave much time for us to travel before Christmas and to enjoy all of the festivities that December holds. Also we will have time off that week before and not in January so we will find it hard to get daycare.
134	I understand that you are seeking feedback on the proposed 2017/18 calendar. I have two concerns. We would prefer that winter break be shifted so it starts a week earlier giving a week off before Christmas rather than a week off after New Years. With spring break being combined with Easter, students and staff are being given 1 less day off. Good Friday is March 30, which is already a day off for spring break. In a recent year when spring break and Easter were attached, Langley school district recognized this issue and they too the Tuesday after Easter Monday as part of the break too. Thank you.
135	It would be much easier I'd the Christmas Break started Dec. 18th. For those of us that travel to see family during the holidays it will be significantly more difficult having the break so late this year. I know the proposed schedule aligns with the other districts but this isn't a great fit for a lot of families! Please reconsider the Christmas break. Thanks,
136	I have my first child entering the school system next year, so not sure of reasons behind certain timing, but my observations are: - some months have 2 days off for PD things and other months none. For parents and kids I believe having 1 per month makes good sense but not sure why structured as is. - having kids in school right up to the end of June seems a little late for me (kids rather be outside!). If it were up to me if go back to school January 2nd and end June 22nd.
137	Please consider moving 2 professional days: Proposed November 6 to move to November 10; and proposed Feb 23 one to piggy back on the friday before Family day weekend. It is disruptive to have random pro-d days thrown in so close to other long weekends, and the momentum of school is lost. If you extend an already long weekend, it is a nice opportunities for families to have a mini break as well as kids to re-set and return refreshed. Thank you for your consideration.
138	Overall, I happy with the proposed calendar. I would like the committee to reconsider the winter break start and end dates, however. In terms of planning for care and participating in other Winter festivities, I feel it may be more practical to schedule this particular break to commence on either December 20th or mid week Dec 20 (perhaps a half day).
139	I want to comment on the SD44 proposed calendar for 2017/2018. I notice that the 2 week holiday break at Christmas does not start until 22nd December – with the first holiday day being 25th December. This means the students are not back in school until 8th January. I appreciate that the 25th falling on a Monday makes for either a very late or very early holiday, but I request that you move this break back two weeks to begin on 15th December. I work in film and television in Vancouver, and – like many other sectors - the whole industry winds down before Christmas, but starts promptly in the new year. These are the only two weeks of the year when I do not get constant emails and work calls. By having the holiday so late, I will effectively only have one week with my kids – and they will have to go into child care for the second week as both my husband and I will

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	<p>be expected to be in the office. Also, if we are traveling to elderly parents overseas, we will realistically leave a week before Christmas day – so would probably have to pull the kids from school anyway. For these reasons, could I please request that you revisit these dates. I am sure there are plenty of other families in a similar position.</p>
140	<p>Please consider moving the winter break to start one week earlier. The current proposed break starts too late and makes December a very long month for children who are already worn out. It gives us very little chance to have time off as a family before Christmas for activities and makes traveling nearly impossible.</p>
141	<p>For all the proposed holidays.</p>
142	<p>I prefer to have the week off before Christmas and go back shortly after the new year. Would like to keep the Christmas holiday Dec 18-Jan 1. Thanks!</p>
143	<p>I don't understand why the holidays have been shifted a week. Why are they not the same as this past year with a week off before Christmas and a week after? It is very difficult to plan Christmas activities etc when the kids get out of school 2 days before Christmas. It is also extremely difficult for the children to stay focused on school work when Christmas is so close. I would like to see the holidays as they were this past year with school ending on December 15th and returning January 2nd.</p>
144	<p>My comment is that there is no time prior to Christmas for a family to prepare for Christmas together. I would think the week prior to Christmas rather than after New Year's, or even split the week and leave on the Tuesday and go back a day after New Year's would be better.</p>
145	<p>The Christmas break running into January is not optimal for a typical parents work expectations and childcare arrangements. Many parents that I have talked with would prefer that the Christmas break run from December 18th onwards for two weeks.</p>
146	<p>It really helps parents if you put pro d days tagged onto a stat holiday weekend... like family day and Remembrance Day. Putting it on a different breaks up the complete weeks - having them together allows family breaks to be</p>
147	<p>I would like to voice my opinion for the proposed calendar for the 2017-18 school year. I noticed that the 2 week Christmas break has shifted to have the 2nd week of xmas holidays during the first week in January instead of the week BEFORE Christmas. I think this is a very bad decision since the Christmas break is supposed to allow family time over the holidays. The holidays stop more the majority of working parents after New Years Day, then it's back to work for everyone. It doesn't make sense to have this week off and makes it very inconvenient for working families. Also, having the week before Christmas off allows families to have more time to spend together celebrating the holidays, shopping, going to Christmas events and visiting other family members. Come January, it should be back to work and back to school. Please keep the Christmas holidays in December, and allow the families to get back into the swing of things for the new year. Please consider this seriously before finalizing your calendar.</p>
148	<p>I would like to register comments about the timing of the Christmas break. I understand that some districts shift the break, and many parents enjoy the freedom to travel in January, but I think the timing is very difficult on families. Many daycares / preschools close earlier, parents have time off work earlier, and kids are simply done by then. They lose focus in December already, anticipating Christmas, and this would make it more pronounced. We also do appreciate the days before Christmas to do special outings as a family, which don't make as much sense in the <i>after</i> Christmas time. Thank you for the consideration,</p>
149	<p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the calendar. Here are my thoughts: - Too many pro-D days - Recognizing you have to take them could they be moved to off school hours (after 3 for staff meetings), or in blocks during the holiday breaks (eg: take 3 pro-d days off the calendar and put them into the first three days of the Christmas break) - At minimum, it would be great to get an idea of what a Pro-D day actually consists of... I am sure there is value in them, but I have no idea what you do while having them. All I know it is another day my kids aren't in class, and there is no transparency on what your Professionally Developing in that time. I would argue that if parents knew that your time was spent in something that brings benefit to the kids, there wouldn't be as much hostility to the Pro-D days in general. In my opinion of course. Thanks for all you do for the kids, it is appreciated. All the best!</p>
150	<p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Calendar. As with previous years I am disappointed to see the number of pro- d days, curriculum, and staff collaboration days spread though the year. There are only 20 weeks in the year where school is scheduled with no interruptions. I believe this is ineffective from a teaching perspective. It is also highly frustrating for families with working parents. It would be very helpful if the early dismissal days were discontinued. Surely teachers can meet after school hours once a month rather than the loss of productivity and inconvenience of hundreds of parents for each school. Also it would be great if the</p>

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	professional development could be moved into the summer months or extended spring break. There is no consistency to the school year as it is constantly broken up with days off. Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.
151	September 25th 2017- Why do we need to have a pro d day in September given that children will only have been back at school for 2 1/2 weeks after a very lengthy summer break and are just getting into a routine with new teachers ? It should be moved to later in the year. Nov 6th- is this another holiday? Nov 13th is a public holiday so children will miss 2 Mondays in a row if this is the case.
152	Just providing my comments about the proposed 2017/18 school calendar. I would much rather have the time off with my children the week before Christmas as opposed to the first week of January. There are so many Christmas activities to enjoy, as well as the fact that many people go away at this time of year so will be pulling their children out of school earlier anyways.
153	I feel like you may get a lot of negative feedback regarding the proposed Christmas Break schedule - but I for one think this is a much better option for the children and their families. Best of luck,
154	The 2017/2018 calendar looks good. My preference would be to start the winter/Christmas break the week earlier, Dec 18. Most of the kids' extracurricular activities will start the week of Jan 1st.
155	I would suggest keeping the Christmas break holiday from Dec 18 until January 2nd.
156	I oppose changing the timing of the Christmas vacation period. As a parent of two elementary school children; having the Christmas break start one week sooner and end one week later than it has in the past many years will create difficulty for me regarding my work holiday. I am not able to get time off after January 2nd since I am needed at work. Additionally, there are many family traditions that happen for us on the lead up to December 25th that we would not be able to take part in if the kids are in school. Thanks,
157	Just wanted to voice my opinion that I support the proposed Christmas break on the 2017/2018 calendar. Looks good. Thank you!
158	Hello – I'm writing to provide feedback re: the 2017 calendar. I feel like the Christmas break begins too late (Dec 22) – particularly for families who need to travel to see family in other parts of Canada or other countries. Furthermore, many people (including myself) have already booked time off with their employers based on past precedent. I would love for the board to consider this opinion, and consider pushing back the break by 1 week to align better with parents work schedules (and to provide travel time for the holidays). Thank you in advance,
159	I have no issues with the proposed Calendar.
160	Thank you for not turning 3-day stat long weekends into 4-day weekends by scheduling ProD days before or after. In the past this has made it difficult for many families to find the extra care or take extra time off work.
161	I like the Christmas holidays proposal. I don't mind the other days although having a 4 day weekend in either November or February is nice, rather than 2 three day weekends in a row. My kids are at Highlands Elementary school. Thank you.
162	I'm the mother of two school age kids and I don't normally comment on calendar proposals but I feel this time it is extremely important. I dislike very much the idea of having half of the Winter break scheduled for early January instead of before Christmas. The majority of holiday and winter events happen in the month of December NOT January and this would take away the ability for many families to participate in such festive and enjoyable activities. Not to mention the fact that many have already planned holidays around the usual schedule. We are planning on going to Australia this December and this would cause our kids to miss an extra full week of school that we weren't intending and would cause us to scramble for childcare in January. I think this is too big of a change at such an important time of year for so many families and I hope it gets put back to 2 weeks winter break in December.
163	After speaking with numerous parents, the changes to the winter break would likely result in children being absent the week before. This is a week where family's get together to do Christmas activities as well as plan there trips home to see family. There has been no thought put into this as the children would be off right at Christmas???? Do we rush home, no, we would pull them out early to be able to go home and spend those precious days with family. I hope this consideration will be taken into account when planning next years holidays.
164	As working parents, the last two weeks of DECEMBER would be preferred, not the first week of JANUARY. That would mean working parents would again have to come up with childcare for that first week of January when business are getting back to business. Again, as working parents, combining SPRING BREAK and EASTER LONG WEEKEND is too LONG. Much prefer there to be at least a week or two in

## 2017/18 SCHOOL CALENDAR PUBLIC COMMENTS

January 30, 2017 – February 28, 2017

	between the end of SB and Easter long weekend. Actually we would prefer SPRING BREAK go back to ONE WEEK and end school a week earlier in JUNE as the kids are ready to be off then. Have you been in the classrooms during the last two weeks in June? Thank you for the consideration.
165	Would you please consider moving staff collaboration day in November to Nov 23 or 24? We have dual citizenship (US and Canada) and the American Thanksgiving (Nov 23) remains a very big holiday and tradition to us (and to most Americans) and we celebrate with family at this time, oftentimes going back to the states to visit family, grandparents etc. We love Canada and the Canadian Thanksgiving but it is so important to us to celebrate our American tradition of Thanksgiving.. I don't want our kids to lose their roots or feel stressed about missing school (or penalized for doing so) to celebrate this one important holiday that we hold dear to us! I am sure there are other families at Argyle in the same boat. Thanks for your support and consideration!
166	Our feedback on the proposed calendar is that December 22 is very late to be dismissed for Christmas. There are so many opportunities for families to enjoy festive events in the lead up to Christmas and the proposed calendar does not allow for this.
167	It would be much nicer to have the Christmas break a week earlier (like it was this year 2016-2017) to enjoy the festivities leading up to Christmas rather than going to school until a couple of days before Christmas. I would suggest the Christmas break to be from Dec 18th to Jan 2nd. Thank you.
168	I'm in full support of this proposed calendar. Many thanks!!
169	Hi there. I would prefer to stay the way the holiday is right now. We have family all over the globe and this gives us the chance to go visit them for Christmas without taking any/too much time out of school. Thank you.
170	I was just looking at the proposed 2017/2018 school calendar. I noticed that the timing of the Spring and Christmas breaks is quite different. I quite like how the Spring break comes just before the Easter long weekend. I don't however like how the Christmas break is pushed back to start the December 25th with the kids returning January 8th. I have planned our holidays for the 2017 Christmas break based on past years, to include the week before Christmas and the week after, returning to school/work on the 2nd of January. Thank you
171	I would prefer that the Christmas break be from December 18th to December 29 <sup>th</sup> . Thank you.
172	I would like to comment on the calendar school year. I think it is unfortunate that it is currently planned for Christmas break to be the two full weeks following Christmas. I would suggest moving the Christmas break one week before Christmas, and one week after Christmas. It is Just a suggestion, maybe there are reasons why it has been placed after Christmas but it sure seems like families would appreciate spending time together in the lead up to Christmas, rather than after the holidays. Kind regards,
173	I would like to see the Winter/Christmas break moved one week back so that it begins on Dec. 18th rather than Dec. 25th with the kids returning to school Jan. 2 and not the 8th. I think having the kids in school until the 22nd will cause many families to pull their kids out early and have them miss school as a lot of parents, as myself, have already booked their work vacation days to match the 2 weeks that were off as per the winter break for Dec/2016. Thanks
174	I have reviewed the proposed calendar. I am not aware of all of the factors that need to be balanced/considered, but from a parent perspective I would much prefer that the week of school holidays in December came the week before December 25th, rather than the week after. There are so many fun, holiday activities to do with kids leading up to Christmas - and work commitments at the office are often less, whereas the first week of January things tend to go back to full steam ahead. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Best regards,
175	I would like to register a request to please move the February 2018 Pro-D day from Friday Feb 23rd to Friday Feb 9th. This would give families a 4 day Family day weekend - which really allows families to get away for some quality time. We had a 4 day weekend last year I believe and it was great. I am not sure why we didn't have that this year - many families ended up making their own 4 day weekend and missing a day of school. It seems silly to have 2 separate 1 day holidays in the month of February, when you can just combine them. Please consider this change. Thank you,
176	I have reviewed the proposed 2017/2018 school calendar. My only comment is that I think the Christmas break should remain the same as it has in years past. Mid-December to just after New Years Day. I recognize that the school board has proposed this because it likely works better for the schools. But it does make it difficult logistically for those families who may have extra time off during the holidays as those extra days will never land in the first week of January. Most people are returning to work right after the new year. Thank you,

## 2017/18 SCHOOL CALENDAR PUBLIC COMMENTS

January 30, 2017 – February 28, 2017

177	Proposed calendar looks good. We like that Spring Break is slightly later in March 2018.
178	I am in favour of the proposed 2017/18 school calendar for North Vancouver SD 44 as it is in line with the school district of West Vancouver. This is very helpful as we have daughters that attend school both districts and there are numerous families that find themselves in the same situation. Thank you.
179	I would like to see the Professional Days put with existing long weekends: Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Family Day and Victoria Day. This makes the day off more valuable especially for those parents who must take time off from paid work. It gives the family a chance to have a larger block of time to go away, have family come into town or just have time together at home. West Vancouver has scheduled pro days with Remembrance Day, Family Day and Victoria Day weekends.
180	We support the proposed calendar. Thank you,

180 Respondents

189 Comment emails received

# PROPOSED 2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR

181 Student Instructional Days, 2 wk Winter Break, 2 wk Spring Break, Sept 5th start, Jun 29th end, 5 Collab

AUGUST 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5*	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

MARCH 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28★	29	

5*	1ST DAY OF SCHOOL (PARTIAL DAY)
	STAT/WINTER/SPRING HOLIDAY
	NVSD CURRIC IMPL DAY (1)
	NEW CURRIC TRAINING (1) <small>Required by Ministry of Education</small>
	SCHOOL-BASED PRO D DAY (2) <sup>1</sup>
	DISTRICT (NVTA) PRO D DAY (3) <sup>2</sup>
	STAFF COLLABORATION (5) <small>shortened day for students</small>
	ADMINISTRATIVE DAY
28★	LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS IS JUNE 28

6-Dec-2016

<sup>1</sup> Highlighted dates are *example* dates only - actual dates will be selected by the school Staff Committees as per contract. Will be available prior to May 31, 2017

<sup>2</sup> Highlighted dates are *example* dates only - actual dates to be identified by NVTA

Schedule B.2  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **North Vancouver School District and Squamish Nation Protocol Agreement**

**Narration:**

At a recent Board of Education and Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council dinner meeting, discussion occurred around the notion to enter into a communication and collaboration protocol agreement between Squamish Nation and the North Vancouver School District to maintain and enhance a cooperative relationship. While the North Vancouver School District has signed an Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Squamish Nation and Metis Association of BC, there is a desire to formalize and standardize communication and collaboration opportunities between the North Vancouver School District and Squamish Nation.

The protocol agreement will have a focus on the implementation and use of the goals of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA) with all students and, more particularly, with the students from the Squamish Nation. The goals of the AEEA will be used as a foundation to support the students, educators and community in the continued growth of understanding, valuing and validating the importance of Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and the First Peoples Principles of Learning.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

that the Board of Education direct staff to work with the Squamish Nation staff to create a Protocol Agreement for Communication and Collaboration Between the Squamish Nation and North Vancouver School District, and;

that School District staff present a draft Protocol Agreement to the Board of Education, for their consideration, in the 2017/2018 school year.

Schedule C.1  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **School District Facilities Plan (SDFP) – Matrix Consulting**

**Narration:**

The Ministry of Education states that boards of education are expected to have a School District Facilities Plan (SDFP) in place that supports projects being submitted to the Ministry for capital investment consideration. A SDFP must identify and rationalize current and future capital requirements for new schools; school expansion and consolidation; school replacement or upgrades based on building condition, seismic vulnerability and ongoing maintenance/life cycle costs; as well as new government initiatives. The SDFP provides critical context for discussions with the Ministry regarding high priority project requests.

The North Vancouver School District contracted Matrix Planning Associates to prepare the School District Facilities Plan 2017 Update. Previous SDFP's were completed by Matrix in 2004, 2007, 2013, and 2015 to support the Five-Year Capital Plans and assist in identifying capital planning priorities.

Bill Wood, of Matrix Planning Associates, presented the report to the Capital Planning Committee on March 2, 2017. The Capital Planning Committee has staff representation from the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Committee, CUPE (Local 389), North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTAs), North Vancouver Administrator's (NoVA), and two Trustees representing the Board of Education.

Bill Wood will present the summary highlights of the 2017 School District Facilities Plan this evening.



Schedule C.2  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement - Update**

Narration:

Updates on the Board's Land, Learning and Livability Community Engagement process have been provided at each of the monthly Public Board Meetings.

Mark Pearmain, Superintendent of Schools, will present the attached *Land, Learning, Livability Community Engagement Update* (March 2017).

Attachment:

Land, Learning and Livability Community Consultation Engagement UPDATE – March 2017

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## **Land, Learning & Livability Community Engagement Update**

### **Handsworth Secondary School: Revised Submission to the Ministry**

A revised Project Definition Report (PDR), from the original submission in September, has been submitted to the Ministry of Education Capital Delivery Branch for review. The revised submission provided further clarification, and addressed comments and questions, as requested by the Ministry of Education. The North Vancouver School District is awaiting further direction from the Ministry.

### **Argyle Secondary School: Replacement Confirmed**

Design work continues on Argyle Secondary.

### **Braemar Elementary School: Parcel**

There has been no change in the status of the Braemar parcel.

### **City of North Vancouver:**

The initial meeting between staff from the North Vancouver School District and the City of North Vancouver was held. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a process that could be used to explore site options for a Lower Lonsdale Elementary school. Future meetings will be organized.

### **Lucas & Cloverley: Status**

There has been no change in the status of the Lucas and Cloverley sites.

Schedule C.3.  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017             Board             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the Memorandum):            **Out-of-Country Field Trips - Secondary**

Narration:

*In accordance with District Policy 207: Field Trips requirements for advance notification to the Board, Trustees were advised by email, on March 1, 2017, of the below field trip to New York.*

**Seycove** – a field trip to New York, New York, USA, has been scheduled for March 7-12, 2017. The trip involved approximately 44 Grade 10-12 students from the Senior Chamber Choir and Senior Concert Band, as well as Fine Arts 12 and Photography 10 classes. The students will be accompanied by four teacher supervisors.

Travel to New York will be by air and students will travel by bus and public transit during their stay. Students will be accommodated in a hotel. The trip cost is approximately \$2,600 per student, which will be paid by the students.

The purpose of this extracurricular trip is to provide the opportunity for students to experience first-hand the art and performance culture for which New York City is famous, visiting cultural sites and musical and theatre performances. Additionally, music students will attend respective Band and Choir workshops and will perform at the Performing Arts Consultants Festival at the College of Staten Island Centre for the Arts. Art and Photo students will visit additional museums and will have opportunity to tour the Staten Island Centre for the Arts.

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Schedule C.4  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **Superintendent's Report**

Narration:

The Superintendent will provide an oral report on items of interest or concern to the Board not otherwise covered in the agenda.

Schedule C.5  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **Report Out - BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and BC Public Schools  
Employers' Association (BCPSEA)**

Narration:

Trustees will provide an update on information related to BC School Trustees Association and BC Public Schools Employers' Association.

Schedule C.6  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date: March 7, 2017  Board  Board, in camera

Topic (as per the Memorandum): **Trustees' Reports**

Narration:

The Chair will call for reports from Trustees on their activities on behalf of the Board.

Schedule .....D.....  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **Future Meetings**

Narration:

Date and Time	Event	Location
Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Standing Committee Public Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Public Board Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Standing Committee Public Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at <b>7:00 pm</b>	Standing Committee Public Meeting	Education Services Centre 2121 Lonsdale Ave, N Vancouver

All meetings will take place on the 5th Floor in the Mountain View Room, unless otherwise noted.  
Pedestrian Access: Main West Entrance at 2121 Lonsdale Avenue, proceed by elevator to 5th Floor.  
Vehicle Access: Parkade Entrance off West 21st Street and Lonsdale Avenue, park on Level P1 and proceed by elevator to 5th Floor.

Schedule .....E.....  
of the  
Administrative Memorandum

Meeting Date:            March 7, 2017                             Board                             Board, in camera

Topic (as per the  
Memorandum):            **Public Question & Comment Period**

**Narration:**

In accordance with Board Policy 104: Board of Education – Meetings; twenty (20) minutes will be provided at the end of a regular Board meeting during which attendees may provide comments or ask questions of the Board on business conducted during that meeting or on any matter pertaining to the School District. The Chair may defer a response if a question cannot be answered at that time.

In accordance with Board policy, questions relating to personnel, negotiations or litigation must not be dealt with in a public session.