

April 13, 2021

To the members of the New Westminster School Board.

I apologize for not being present to speak but unfortunately, I have a conflict with childcare.

I am a long time New Westminster resident, an NWSS alumni and a parent. I want to express my support to remove police from all schools in New Westminster.

School is supposed to be a safe space for students, but Canadian BIPOC students have been speaking across our country about their experiences of violence, intimidation, and profiling by police within our school systems. New Westminster is no exception and I urge the members of the school board to take the steps to protect current and future students, knowing that you have the support of our community to do so.

I have a few memories of watching student interactions with Child and Youth officers during my time at NWSS. None of these interactions were positive, but one stands out to me. A friend had been skateboarding down the hall and was caught by the Child and Youth officer. She confiscated his skateboard and restrained him. She attempted to kick his legs out to bring him to the ground, but whenever she swung her leg, he would jump. We cheered him on until SID 10 BDC 0 0 62 2 reV