

Dear Trustees:

I wish to express my thanks to you for continuing to engage with DPAC as we continue to provide you feedback on the LRFP process. We are tough critics and we are thankful for your time.

We are genuinely heartened by the draft educational vision you have shared for the LRFP. With respect to staff, we have felt from the start of this process that our democratically elected trustees should drive this critical document. We will provide our feedback prior to the November facilities meeting.

At our most recent executive meeting, we agreed to write trustees with additional comments on the continuing LRFP process. I have modified some comments to reflect the release of the LRFP vision and the expectation that we will be holding a facilities meeting in November.

Consultation process to inform the LRFP - We believe that the public consultation process was not a robust, informed consultation. In both phases, participants were asked to comment on and rank a limited number of scenarios. At the build2learn workshop, numerous parties were specifically told that the consultation was not part of the LRFP process. The DPAC Facilities Committee will provide a report from parents soon. Parents want more robust consultation so if there is any scope to attain it, they would be thankful.

Additional meetings of the Facilities Planning committee - We understand that planning for this meeting is underway. Thank you for making time for this. The processes leading to the development of the LRFP should be as transparent as possible. In addition to an update on the status of the 17 recommendations from the 2019 process, we believe it is prudent at this meeting to review:

- Master List of all planning assumptions in the LRFP
- Written evidence from the Ministry that supports the planning assumption that the Ministry will only fund approximately 50K safe seats across the district
- What's in the Base Case of the LRFP
- What's in the Study Areas of the LRFP

LRFP Vision - planning horizon - We support the forward-looking vision expressed in the planning horizon and agree fully that the education vision intersects with the evolution of our region. We believe that trustees could take important steps to working with local governments by bringing forward these motions regarding the City of Vancouver:

1. Write to the city to propose creating a joint vision statement that would appear in both Vancouver Plan and the LRFP, stating how VSB schools will help to create complete communities;
2. Write to the city to request population projections for school aged children in each school catchment area, based on proposed zoning changes in Vancouver Plan

These requests would strongly tie schools to community planning and speak strongly to our belief that “where kids WILL live” is a key part of the LRFP.

LRFP feedback timeline - The LRFP is a public document that will guide our district for many years. The last LRFP draft was around 250 pages including appendices. We expect that the 2020 LRFP will be similarly detailed. In the interest of transparency and to allow for informed public feedback, we ask that the draft 2020 LRFP be shared during the week of December 14th, 2020. Should that not be possible, we encourage the release of as much of the document as possible, as early as possible for public scrutiny and comment.

Again, sincerest thanks for your engagement with DPAC.

Gord Lau
Chair, Vancouver DPAC