



Chair (Vancouver DPAC) <chair@vancouverdpac.org>

DPAC positions on facilities and planning

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Dear trustees:

I am writing to you on behalf of parents regarding positions we have adopted regarding facilities.

At their core, these positions speak to the importance of clarity and transparency in VSB planning processes, which has been a cornerstone of DPAC feedback for years. The VSB should endeavour to increase transparency by making the objective easily understandable and increase accountability by addressing the duality of high growth and no growth areas of our school system. These motions will be part of the guidance DPAC uses in our advocacy.

The first motion relates to the Land & Asset strategy, and was approved by our executive this spring. We believe the Land & Asset strategy should be a public document and included in the Long Range Facilities Plan. The strategy should serve the vision and goals articulated in the LRFP. (Approved motion in minutes here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S7cjEdflqvdtNC_tOkRsBP-USQEmXzb9cj3v4mxo11U/edit?usp=sharing)

The second motion relates to facilities decisions such as closures, consolidations and land disposals. This motion was approved by our membership, with over 30 PACs voting in favour. A similar motion was also passed by our executive. We call on trustees to defer these types of facilities decisions until the following are in place:

- Policies and plans (including the Long Range Facilities Plan) are based on enrollment projections that include the latest data on current population (Census 2021) and approved plans and policies (such as Vancouver Plan, etc.)
- All underlying enrollment assumptions are shared publicly in an accessible way
- The Trustee Vision, including definition of Neighbourhood Schools, is coded into plans and policies
- A school capacity utilization target is articulated and explained
- School facilities are scored and prioritized using clear criteria, including equity

Parents and the public are served best when decisions are made with transparent data, assumptions and metrics. (Approved motion with rationale here: http://vancouverdpac.org/s/Oct-2021-General-PACs--_DPAC-Transparent-Planning-First.pdf)

Thank you,

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Gord Lau
Chair, Vancouver DPAC

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Honouring the traditional, unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples

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