



Date: March 7, 2019
Time: 18:30 - 21:30

Vancouver DPAC
School District 39

Location: Room 180
Vancouver School Board Centre

DPAC LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN Q&A SESSION

Chair: Shaun Kalley (Chair) **Note Takers:** Amanda Hillis (Secretary) & Anne Montgomery

Executive: Gord Lau (Vice-chair), Sandra Bell, May Ke, Allison Tredwell

VSB Staff presenters: J. David Green (Secretary Treasurer), John Dawson (Director of Educational Planning and Student Information)

VSB Trustees: Janet Fraser (Chair), Allan Wong (Vice-Chair), Carmen Cho, Estrellita Gonzalez, Barb Parrott, Jennifer Ready, Hazel Pangilinan (Student Trustee)

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm

1. Standing Items

- 1.1. **Welcome, acknowledgement**
- 1.2. **Roundtable Introductions**

2. VSB Presentation on Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP)

- 2.1. **The LRFP is not a closure list** (this message was repeated often)
- 2.2. **David Green**
 - Brief history: from Newfoundland, then ST at Nanaimo, then Langley before VSB. Past president of BCASBO (BC Association of School Business Officials)
 - While in Ladysmith-Nanaimo the district created the first LRFP in the province. Langley created theirs in 2012.
 - LRFP is a planning document used to provide input into district's 5 year capital plan request to ministry. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) creating Vancouver Project Office (VPO) requires VSB to update LRFP annually.
- 2.3. **John Dawson**
 - Brief history: first taught in Granisle in the late 1980s in a K-12 school of ~250 students; then Langley for 7 years before teaching in VSB (Templeton); SFU faculty association before returning to VSB as VP for David Thompson and then becoming district staff.
 - Understands need for continuity for students but acknowledges the VSB hasn't adapted to change (boundaries have hardly changed in 20 years), and buildings are old.
 - Funds spent maintaining aged building - 12-13% of VSB's budget is spent on maintenance of facilities; other districts spend 10-11%.
 - If VSB could contribute \$2-5 million to provincial SMP funds for each project, would be able to meet community expectations with school design principles of maximum flexibility, smaller communities within a school, and connections to the wider community so collaboration can take place.

- Until enrolment capacity and deferred maintenance are dealt with, the VSB can only deal with some SMP's resulting in fewer schools being done and at less than optimal size.
- If VSB was to not consolidate schools:
 - Within a patchwork of schools there will be some that aren't safe.
 - Enrolment challenge - increasing number of students unable to attend neighbourhood school - continued uncertainty - biggest impact on secondary schools, especially on eastside with lower enrolment.
- If you see errors in LRFP document, email him (jdawson@vsb.bc.ca) marked up copy of the text.

3. Questions & Answers Session

- 3.1. **Demographic data - where does it come from?**
- (John) Analytical data in section 4 of the LRFP. "If we get stuck on data we won't get anywhere". Baragar uses customized software vs. Stats Can or BC Stats which generalize.
- 3.2. **Total Operating capacities are defined by the Province based on the original building designs. Are total capacities adjusted for new class sizes and class usage?**
- (John) The operating capacity as defined by the Province is what the VSB uses and they aren't going to change their numbers unless the Ministry changes them.
- 3.3. **Some schools have smaller class sizes due to designations. This isn't accounted for in the LRFP**
- (John) No information on school organization in LRFP but would look at closely if were to move forward.
- 3.4. **Previous LRFP ranked schools in order (expansion, new, SMP); here just a list**
- LRFP is to help supply list for capital plan request in June. This year's capital plan request not in LRFP but last year's is in the Appendix
- 3.5. **\$7.8 billion in capital assets; Kingsgate Mall worth ~\$48 million - How do you define 'rainy day' if talking about selling schools? Will board entertain different framing of plans moving forward?**
- (Janet Fraser) One recommendation in the LRFP is to look at Kingsgate Mall. In past, district decision not to top up SMP funds.
 - Need to be clear with Ministry on who controls how funds raised by selling property are spent. Don't want to pay for what Ministry would have covered.
- 3.6. **Projections around King George seem to suggest skew between enrolment and capacity and balancing. Section seems to contradict itself**
- Know that downtown is growing (stability)
 - Coal Harbour will have space for LRA kids plus additional 200 which will take pressure off Elsie Roy and Crosstown at the elementary school level
 - King George is very full and is in capital plan expansion requests, but hasn't yet had to turn away students, many choose to go to Kits. Foreseeable that it will be over capacity..

- 3.7. Is there a way to have the LRFPP be holistic? SMP and expansion together, easy to follow?**
- (John) LRFPP is a high level document. Can add a table to have SMP and expansion together.
 - (Redirect) VSB only district where trustees aren't involved in SMP projects. Deferred maintenance not including in SMP decision making. Demographics not considered i.e. Hamber currently 1700 students; new build will be for 1700 students even though area is growing. Would like to see a motion to have MOU reflect holistic LRFPP.
 - (Janet Fraser) Board working under MOU signed in 2014 and again in 2017. Goal - all students in safe schools asap. Have work to do with Ministry to find where they are flexible and not flexible. Note: Ministry controls the funds and set the rules.
- 3.8. We're all talking about one plan. Why only one plan with one vision which is to consolidate? Is there another plan looking at a different vision i.e. other income revenues, sharing sites with community organizations?**
- (Janet Fraser) Some recommendations do get at that. Recommendations such as right-sizing, capital asset management plan. The recommendation that board ask staff to come up with closure list is just one of 17 recommendations.
- 3.9. What is the current optimal capacity? Where do art/music/childcare etc. Are they considered 'empty space'?**
- (John) No reference to empty space in the LRFPP. Regardless of how a classroom is used/converted, the space counts as capacity except for StrongStart, libraries, or other non-enrolling uses (basically art, music, etc!)
 - (David) A consultant worked with the Ministry to come up with capacity. They recognize classes aren't used for "instructional purposes like art rooms..."
 - (John) Requirement to follow Ministry capacity calculations, and "Vancouver district capacity has declined and enrolment will continue to go down".
 - (Janet) We have to use the Ministry's framework but be creative in showing them we value arts, music, etc.
- 3.10. Do trustees want LRFPP to reflect childcare in schools? Report mentions childcare but doesn't count for it anywhere else.**
- No recommendation for childcare in LRFPP currently
 - Typically childcare is not held in enrolling classrooms.
 - Few types of childcare provided. Classroom leased for 0-4 is not counted towards capacity, but classrooms leased for out of school care are.
- 3.11. Does the plan reflect quality education?**
- Missing part in plan to link to educational vision for district.
 - (John) recommends book "Make Impossible Possible" by Bill Strickland. Quote "beautiful buildings inspire people." Poor people deserve the best.
- 3.12. #12 - going to make school closure list. What is the criteria for short-listing closures? 17 recommendations - what's next. How will trustees be involved?**
- (David) Can't deal with all 17 at same time. Priorities will change over the years.
 - Board has a school closure policy that includes process on how to identify.
 - (Janet Fraser) These are recommendations coming to board. Trustees can agree, amend or ignore recommendations.
 - (John) Staff see severe risk to district. Will be schools in zones of low enrolment that the Ministry won't fix - schools may close themselves at end of SMP process.

- 3.13. Why limited to 28 study areas? Begbie and Nelson not considered as new schools. Both too small (Begbie by a little, Nelson by a lot) - the kids that won't fit into their catchment school (because it was built too small) haven't been considered going to other schools.**
- (John) Options limited - AR Lord unlikely to be upgraded even if other kids go there. "There has been no upsizing in the district". Criteria - to get kids into seismically safe schools. (not seismically safe, has low enrolment and/or is in a zone of low enrolment).
 - (Shaun) If there are to be closures, what is the speed of closing?
 - (John) No list that will look like 2016 with 12 plus schools. Big challenge with secondary schools to get SMP'd.
- 3.14. Lots of gentrification happening in Britannia area and growth is projected. If Britannia and Templeton secondaries were combined, the catchment would be from Main Street to Boundary. What about partnerships with community organizations? Could provide opportunities for students.**
- (John) "I don't perceive the growth that you see".
 - (Karen) Britannia's #'s in the LRFPP don't reflect the true enrolment because the school was on the last closure list and many parents chose to move their kids elsewhere for that reason.
 - (John) #'s will be updated and commitment to update plan annually
- 3.15. School utilization - where do non-catchment kids come from?**
- Want discussion on in-catchment population.
 - (John) We can share that, although he doesn't feel having kids stay in their own catchment will change things.
- 3.16. In engineering full capacity isn't optimal. What is the effective capacity versus the maximum capacity? What is the projection for future special needs requirements?**
- (John) No projection on special needs in the LRFPP but it's done annually.
- 3.17. More than numbers - people/culture/history. Some people want to move away from school to avoid being in a school community that is undergoing seismic mitigation (Techumseh Annex referring to Weir)**
- 3.18. Carleton is functioning inside Cunningham for the past 3 years, and many Carleton kids have been going to Weir and McCorkindale. Will this be taken into consideration (when creating closure list)?**
- (David) Carleton is up for SMP; they have to decide whether catchment kids go back or it's closed to become a swing site.. 200 kids live in catchment; school capacity of ~500.
- 3.19. Why not ask for larger schools? What is the best way to effect change?**
- (David) If the district had the money they could do more but they don't have the revenue
 - (Janet) Ministry makes the rules
- 3.20. Would like a list of sites used for swing sites**
- (John) Can include a list of swing sites in the LRFPP
- 3.21. Point Grey seems to be stuck in the SMP process**
- Same as John Oliver, Britannia and Prince of Wales
 - David Green - talked to VPO today re: PG getting the PDR back up to date (done 2-3 years ago)

- 3.22. **Any evaluation on the impact on children with possible change? Academics, music, families, extra curricular, distance to travel, etc ...**
■ (John) Weighted in process but will take the feedback
- 3.23. **AR Lord/Templeton has been rezoned by the city for multiple dwellings. Requested the Trustees argue with Ministry and speak up for students of Vancouver**
■ (Janet) Kids are declining according to their current #'s but recommended getting validation of the #'s
- 3.24. **David Livingston, moving ahead with PDR? Entrance has a broken window covered by recycled cardboard for years.**
■ (David) Livingston is moving ahead. Will get someone to fix broken window
- 3.25. **Estrellita Gonzales (Trustee) - need a national housing plan that defines affordable and equitable housing. Suggested a partnership with the city**
- 3.26. **Some schools, like Queen A, have been mentioned in documents for possible closure for years. Concern vulnerable kids will fall through the crack if schools are consolidated.**
- 3.27. **Don't build cheap schools. Better to build 10 quality schools instead of 10 shoddy ones. Many new schools have issues (leaking windows, panels falling off).**
- 3.28. **Stand-alone district programs. Worried those programs could be rapidly relocated without considering the implications for the students.**
■ Issue with operating budget
■ No timeline, no recommendation
- 3.29. **Who else are you communicating with? Are you working with other districts to get Area Standards to go with new curriculum?**
■ (Janet) Wrote to Ministry on Area Standards, Minister was non-committal in his answer (it's on the VSB website)
■ Motion coming up at BCSTA on Area Standards
- 3.30. **Any definite plans on where choice programs may be relocated?**
■ (John) It's a strategy to decrease capacity in some schools, no criteria available right now
■ (Janet) Area identified that can be examined more closely - would be consultation before any changes would happen.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm