

School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Meeting Summary of the Board's Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting held in the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre, 810 West 21st Street, North Vancouver, British Columbia on Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

PRESENT:

Ian Abercrombie, Director, Facilities & Planning
Doug Beveridge, AEA Rep
Ginny Diebolt, Trustee
Chris Dorais, Trustee
Lisa Cartwright, NVPAC
Sandy Fleming, Trustee
Pat Heal, Trustee
John Lewis, Superintendent
Sandy Shaw, Manager, Business Development
Rick Danyluk, NV Resident

Susan Skinner, Trustee
Jane Thornthwaite, Trustee
Vickie Vinaric, Trustee
Irene Young, Secretary Treasurer
Pamela Doherty, NV Resident
Helen Hughes, SANE
Barbara Leigh, Windsor House
Meghan Arrico, Windsor House
Bill Wood, Matrix Planning

A. Call to Order

Standing Committee Chair Sandy Fleming called the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee to order at 7:10 pm.

C.1. Long Range Facilities Plan

Standing Committee Chair Sandy Fleming introduced Bill Wood of Matrix Planning and Associates indicating that Mr. Wood would be presenting an update of the 2004 Report "Facilities Implications of Enrolment Trends". Chair Fleming noted that this report was being made available to the public in the interests of transparency and for discussion purposes only emphasizing that the Board has not made any decisions with respect to possible future school closures or consolidations.

In this updated report, Matrix Planning projects that the trend of declining enrolment will continue for the next ten years before it plateaus between 2016 and 2021. This trend means that there will be more than 1600 surplus secondary spaces and more than 2400 surplus elementary within ten years.

The report recommends that the Board consider closing smaller schools that are in poor physical condition. Closing smaller less efficient schools that are more costly to operate will protect operating funds for educational purposes. Closing schools in the worst physical condition protects maintenance budgets by allowing them to go further. The Board will need to continue to monitor enrolment trends and develop a plan to improve the overall quality and safety of schools.

The Board has implemented numerous initiatives (including Sustaining Schools Working Committee, new programs such as IB and the North Vancouver High Performance Program) to minimize the impact of declining enrolment and diminishing resources, however, there are certain demographic realities related to lower birth rates and insufficient affordable housing on the north shore that may eventually force the Board to consider further school consolidations in the future.

C.2. Summary of the November 6, 2007 Meeting

The summary notes were provided to Standing Committee participants.

D.1. Future Agenda Items

None were identified.

D.2. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee will be March 4, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre.

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Date

Susan Skinner on behalf of
Sandy Fleming, Committee Chair
Finance and Facilities Standing Committee

Date

Irene Young
Secretary Treasurer