



NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

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March 12, 2009 Education Week message from the Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to provide you with an update regarding a number of important decisions and reports from the Public Board Meeting of March 10, 2009.

Meeting highlights and [Board Motions](#)

Investigating the Possible Closure/Consolidation of Balmoral Secondary with Carson Graham Secondary

The Board introduced a consultative public process (through Policy 610) to investigate the possible closure of Balmoral Junior Secondary and consolidation with Carson Graham Secondary effective June 30, 2012. This community consultation process will enable the School District to achieve the best possible educational opportunities and facilities for our students. The Board will be required to make some challenging decisions related to this capital project and will do so through its consultation with the Carson Graham and Balmoral communities as well as all other school communities across the North Vancouver School District.

At present, the Project Agreement with the Ministry of Education provides for two options: accommodate 800 students at the rebuilt Carson Graham, while continuing to operate Balmoral, or consider the closure of Balmoral, and accommodating 1100 students at the new, seismically sound Carson Graham. It should be noted that continuing to operate two separate schools, one with a student population that is significantly under-capacity, would have consequences that will need to be addressed in future planning and decisions.

Recognizing the significance of the decision that the Board of Education would be facing for the future capacity of Carson Graham and the implications that this will have for the entire School District, the Board of Education will be conducting a series of meetings across the School District. In addition to the Public Meeting for the consideration of the potential closure and consolidation of Balmoral School with Carson Graham School, a series of *Towards the Future for Schools 2009* meetings will be held.

Parents and community members are invited to attend these consultation meetings to receive information and to provide their input into the important decisions that the Board of Education will be facing in regards to the potential consolidation and closure of schools. All members of our community are encouraged to participate in these important opportunities.

The Community meeting for the consideration of the possible closure of Balmoral School is scheduled for April 1st at Balmoral Junior Secondary School.

Report on the Location of Neighbourhood of Learning Proposal in Conjunction with Windsor House

The Board received the Report on Possible Location of Neighbourhood of Learning proposal in Conjunction with Windsor House and approved the option of relocating Windsor House, in conjunction with the SANE Neighbourhood of Learning Proposal to Maplewood School, effective September 2009, upon the expiry of the current lease with the Lions Gate Christian Academy (LGCA). The School District will look into viable options for LGCA at other school district facilities.

North Vancouver High Performance Program – Site Relocation

The Board received the report on the relocation of the North Vancouver High Performance Program (HPP) and provided its support to Option A: an elementary program for Grades 5 through 7 at Brooksbank Elementary and a secondary program for Grades 8 through 10 at Windsor Secondary. This relocation option provides support for the promotion and expansion of the High Performance Program.

Report on the Viability of Introductory Pilot Early Mandarin Bilingual Program

The Board received a very comprehensive report into the Viability of an Introductory Pilot Early Mandarin Bilingual Program. While expressing general support for continuing to provide increased opportunities for students, including language instruction, the Board recognized the complexity of introducing this program and the need for increased consultation with the community. The Board has requested the establishment of a district review committee to conduct research and a feasibility study with respect to a potential Mandarin Bilingual Program within the North Vancouver School District and will receive a report by December 2009.

Report on the Feasibility of Providing One or Two Specialized Classes for those with Autism in Two Separate Schools in the District – March 10, 2009

The Board will be implementing a "Learning Centre for Autism and related disorders" for September 2009 upon consultation with the Student Services Department. This Centre will take into account certain elements of the "Report on the Feasibility of Providing One or Two Specialized Classes for those with Autism in Two Separate Schools in the District" and many of the notable considerations contained within the "Autism Learning Environment" proposal.

Further decisions

The Board:

- Approved the *School Community Connections* grant applications valued at \$8,000 each to support projects at Canyon Heights, Norgate Elementary, and Handsworth Secondary.
- Received a report on the status of recommendations contained within "A Study of Services for Students Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder" – October 2006.

In closing, we encourage all students, staff, parents and the community to check our website for regular updates and for the dates, times and venues of all of our public meetings.

Future Meetings and Community Consultation Sessions

(all meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.)

Proposed closure of Ridgeway Annex

Wednesday, March 25th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Ridgeway Annex 450 East 5th Street

Proposed closure of Balmoral Jr. Secondary

Wednesday, April 1st, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Balmoral Jr. Secondary 3365 Mahon

"Towards the Future for Schools 2009" Series of Meetings

Windsor & Seycove families of schools meeting

Thursday, April 2nd, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Windsor Secondary School 931 Broadview

Argyle and Sutherland families of schools meeting

Monday, April 6th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Argyle Secondary School 1131 Frederick Road

Handsworth, Balmoral and Carson Graham families of schools meeting

Wednesday, April 8th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Carson Graham Secondary 2145 Jones Avenue

Finance and Facilities Standing Committee

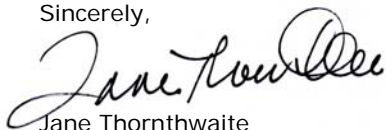
April 7th 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre

Public Board Meetings

April 14th and April 28th at the School Board Office

On behalf of the Board of Education, I thank you for your continued support. Enjoy your spring break!

Sincerely,



Jane Thornthwaite
Chairperson
Board of Education