



## **NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44**

721 Chesterfield Avenue, North Vancouver BC V7M 2M5  
Tel 604.903.3444 Fax 604.903.3445 [www.nvsd44.bc.ca](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca)

### **Carson Graham Replacement Capital Project**

#### **FOLLOW UP from FEBRUARY 5, 2009 MEETING**

In order to proceed with the Capital Project for the Replacement of Carson Graham and to provide for the accommodation of students during construction, meeting participants acknowledged that disruptions are unavoidable and will occur. Concerns were expressed regarding the impact on programs and the opportunity to continue certain program offerings. Recognizing that significant changes would be taking place, there was also an understanding that numerous decisions need to be made as quickly as possible for everyone concerned.

As a result of the uncertainty related to the future capacity of the Carson Graham Replacement School being either 800 or 1100 students, there was also a degree of urgency expressed by meeting participants to decide this matter at the earliest opportunity.

#### **Use of Balmoral to support the Carson Graham Replacement Project**

The plan to relocate students to Balmoral to support the demolition and construction of the replacement school at Carson Graham is now being confirmed by the Board of Education.

- The plan approved by the Ministry of Education in the Capital Project Agreement for Carson Graham provides funding to support the relocation of students to Balmoral during the construction period. Funding includes costs for renovations to Carson to provide supports to students and to facilitate the continued operation of most programs. Some programs may not be possible to continue during the construction period. Funding has also been provided for the addition of portable classrooms at Balmoral to support the increased student population during the construction period
- Options for the construction of the replacement school on alternate sites owned by the City of North Vancouver and at different locations on the existing site were previously examined during the feasibility studies. Site restraints (set backs, right of ways) and land use restrictions do not support a plan that would allow for the continued operation of the current school while a replacement building is constructed in an adjacent location. The approved plan contained within the Project Agreement was determined to be the most viable option (financially and practically) and was provided support by the Ministry of Education

#### **Preparing Balmoral to receive additional students**

School District staff will work with the Architect to develop plans for the interior renovations to Balmoral and the location of portable classrooms (four) to accommodate the increased student population and to address program needs

#### **Program accommodation, transportation, building design, and construction schedule**

Assistant Superintendent Pearce will work with both the Carson and Balmoral communities (starting February 16) to establish Representative Steering Committees (and sub-committees) to provide input into; program accommodation during the construction period, transportation planning, building design, future program offerings for Carson, and to facilitate communication with the PACs and the local community of both Carson and Balmoral.

### **Program accommodation during construction**

- The extent that programs will be impacted at both Carson and Balmoral has not been finalized. With the need to demolish a significant portion of Carson Graham and relocate students to Balmoral, interior renovations are being planned to accommodate students and their programs to the greatest extent possible during the construction period
- Programs identified for further consideration during construction include: special education and supports for students with special needs, First Nations Integrated Studies Program, First Nations Carving Program, Chef Training, Automotive, Woodworking, Electronics, Metalworking, Art, Drama, Music, Drama, breakfast program and Physical Education
- Many participants at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting raised questions regarding the operation of the sports programs between Balmoral and Carson Graham; how these would be structured during the period of construction; what sports (wrestling, rugby, football) would be offered at which school and at which grade levels, and how a number of sports (basketball, wrestling) would be accommodated with the loss of the Carson gym during demolition and construction
- Additional concerns identified during the construction period include cafeteria space, access to the artificial turf field and parking adjacent to Confederation Park.

### **International Baccalaureate (IB) Program**

The School District's IB Working Committee continues to work in support of the approval of the Middle Years Program at Balmoral School and remains in close communication with the IB Organization regarding the Spring Authorization Visit to Balmoral and the continuation of the MYP Program in regards to the potential for the future consolidation of Balmoral and Carson.

- The IB Middle Years Program (MYP) (Grades 8 to 10) is an 'instructional framework' and educational approach that is suitable for the full range of students, regardless of their academic standing. The IB Diploma Program (Grades 11 and 12) is more academically challenging and is taken by a small number of students through an application process. Teachers have received specific training to support the implementation of the IB Program. Additional training is planned to ensure that there will be sufficient teachers for the delivery of the MYP at Balmoral.
- The Middle Years Program would be the program provided at Balmoral School to all students, while the Diploma Program would only be available to a limited number of Grade 11 and 12 students through application at Carson Graham. The School District received confirmation that Carson Graham has been approved as an IB World School for the Diploma Program. The Middle Years Program at Balmoral is currently in the application process and will be receiving an Authorization visit in the spring. The IBO is aware of the capital projects at Carson Graham and Balmoral and has indicated that the MYP Program would be able to continue at Balmoral, or be 'transferred' to Carson Graham should the schools be consolidated in the future.

### **Transportation Planning, building design and construction schedules**

- Transportation planning will be developed in consultation with parents to determine how these needs may best be addressed. Discussions would include; possible shuttle bus, pick up locations (feeder schools, Carson?) and pick up times, public transit options, etc.
- Building design input will address concerns related to program offerings, functional spaces (e.g. special needs) and environmental considerations. Building design must also adhere to all Ministry standards related to space allocations, energy efficiencies, 'green' initiatives and be within the available budget
- Program planning for the new Carson replacement school will provide opportunities to examine a variety of specialty program options that would be desired in the new facility. In addition to those program that have traditionally been provided at Carson Graham (wood working, chef training, automotive, cosmetology), there would also be consideration of other programs of interest (electronics, textiles, etc.)
- Partnerships would also continue to be explored with VCC, BCIT and Capilano University as the new facility would provide increased opportunities for shared programs.
- Construction schedules are subject to change and contingency plans will be developed in the event that delays are experienced. Asbestos removal and demolition is expected to take up to six months for completion and would start at the earliest opportunity to take advantage of the summer months.

### **Future Capacity of Carson (800 or 1100 students?)**

The Board of Education will proceed with the introduction of a motion at the March 10<sup>th</sup> Public Board Meeting to consider the potential consolidation of Balmoral Junior Secondary with Carson Graham Secondary, effective 2012. Balmoral will continue to be used for the accommodation of students until the completion of construction of the new Carson Graham replacement school during the summer of 2012.

- Participants at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting identified concerns regarding the timeline to reach a decision regarding the capacity of the replacement school at Carson Graham, the process by which this would occur, and the impact that this would have for the future of Balmoral.
- Meeting participants expressed their support for the larger capacity of 1100 students noting; increased opportunities for more specialty programs, access to greater capital funding, and operational efficiencies and financial savings from reduced overheads. Others expressed their view that the school should be built to 1100 as a new school with attractive programs would outweigh the benefits of keeping Balmoral open. Additional observations made were that Balmoral would still require a seismic upgrade (at a cost of more than \$15 million) and that these funds may not be available for some time.
- Views were also expressed that the closing of Balmoral should remain as a separate issue from the replacement of Carson Graham with interest in keeping Balmoral open.

- Others expressed their desire to build Carson at the 1100 capacity to gain revenue by using classrooms for other revenue purposes, allowing Balmoral to remain open. Additional concerns were expressed regarding the capacities being sufficient to accommodate the future student population.
- Transfers are available to students through the current transfer process. The ability to accommodate transfers is dependent upon space available at other schools.
- The transfer deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup> will be extended for Balmoral students, if necessary.

### **North Shore Neighbourhood House**

Alternative locations for the North Shore Neighbourhood House program presently situated at Balmoral are in discussion with the service providers to enable continued support to families.

### **Staffing concerns**

The School District will arrange meetings with its employee groups regarding the capital project, plans for timetables and staff schedules, and the staffing processes related to the increased student population at Balmoral and decreased student population at Carson

### **Communications**

Contact persons will be established at both the School District and school levels (including feeder schools) to facilitate ongoing communications

PAC meetings will include regular project updates from School District staff and representatives of the Steering Committee and ongoing opportunities for questions and answers. Project updates will be provided at PAC meetings that will be open to the local community.

Separate meetings will be conducted with feeder schools as necessary.

Separate meetings will be conducted with community groups as necessary.

The School District website ([www.nvsd44.bc.ca](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca)) will continue to be used to provide regular updates related to the Carson Graham Replacement School Project