

Appendix C: Letter from Deputy Minister of Education (Dec. 23, 2015)



December 23, 2015

Ref: 185450

Scott Robinson, Superintendent
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
Email: smrobinson@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing in response to the request of the Vancouver School Board (VSB) for clarification on required content in the January 31, 2016, Long Range Facilities Plan and further to Minister Bernier's letter dated December 10, 2015.

This clarification is in addition to the August 20, 2014, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines that:

*"The VBE shall develop and submit to the Province for approval a long range facilities plan, with **agreed upon levels of projected enrolment growth and location, ultimately to determine how to achieve 95% capacity utilization** through the SMP and **maximize the existing capacity as swing space** to complete the SMP in a manner that is as fiscally sound as possible."*

Additionally, the Ernst & Young June 8, 2015, Special Advisor's Report recommended that:

"VBE must complete the district-wide LRSFP and new Five Year Capital Plan as soon as possible"

In 2007, the Ministry of Education in partnership with the BC School District Secretary Treasurer's Association published a document titled "Education Facilities Planning and Procurement Process Review"; which includes "School District Facilities Plan Outlines" for the purpose of... *providing district-wide framework for key local decisions, such as school consolidations, locations for district programs and maintenance priorities and a comprehensive rationale for specific capital projects.* This publication outlines the purpose and content, which form the basis for many other school districts' facility planning and has been referenced within our Annual Plan Instructions over the past number of years.

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On June 30, 2015, VSB submitted to the Ministry their “Long Term Strategic Facilities Framework”, which outlined in a draft “infographic” format, plans for seismically mitigating high-risk schools and utilizing swing space through to 2028. At that time, VSB indicated “*This is still a work in progress. We intend to continue to work on this framework over the summer in consultation with Ministry of Education staff. Once we agree the framework is more firm, we will undertake a public consultation process and request Board approval in the fall.*”

Subsequently, Ministry staff provided feedback on the June 30 submission, requesting the submission be described in a word based document with the infographic appended, identify catchment areas with current capacity and utilization outlined, forecast utilization projected over the standard 10-year planning horizon by catchment area, and identify catchment areas requiring future consolidation and potential future closures to achieve 95 percent utilization; along with the approximate number of schools impacted.

By January 31, 2016, as committed to by the Vancouver School Board in the August 20, 2014, MOU, the Province requires a Board approved Long Range Facilities Plan for the Province’s approval. The plan must include all of the information described within the MOU, the information contained within the June 8 draft submission, as well as any additional information necessary to inform prioritizing and successfully delivering the Seismic Mitigation Program in Vancouver schools.

Sincerely,



Dave Byng
Deputy Minister

pc: Shanna Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning & Major Projects