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educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Re: District of North Vancouver Support for Argyle Secondary School Replacement

Please accept this letter as an expression of the District of North Vancouver's support for the North Vancouver Board of Education's submissions to enable the replacement of Argyle Secondary School.

North Vancouver District municipality and North Vancouver School District 44 share a strong commitment to working collaboratively to meet educational, social and other needs of the community. From our 2008 Collaboration Agreement to the recent establishment of a joint subcommittee focused on disposition of surplus school lands, we continue to seek ways to foster dialogue, align policy and channel resources to best serve the community.

The District of North Vancouver strongly supports the replacement of Argyle Secondary school, which is located in the Lynn Valley town centre, an area designated for significant growth and redevelopment. It is understood that to achieve the full replacement project requires School District 44 to contribute capital funding from specified sources within a prescribed time frame. Despite the significant impacts associated with the disposition of public assembly lands – requirements for supporting policy, Official Community Plan amendment and rezoning processes, meaningful consultation -- we can demonstrate our support for the Board of Education's funding strategy in the following ways.

Disposition of Small-Scale Land Parcels at Argyle Secondary and Braemar Elementary

The District has adopted the Official Community Plan (OCP) amendment and rezoning bylaws required, and issued a Development Permit, for a townhouse development on surplus lands adjacent to Argyle Secondary school.

Similarly, a pre-application for residential development of an additional surplus parcel at Braemar Elementary school has been completed and the applicant is now preparing a formal application.

Monteray Elementary

The District provided input to the development of the Request for Proposals for disposition of Monteray by reference to our Public Assembly Lands Policy, including criteria for considering potential changes from public assembly to other land uses. The resulting proposal for single family development, still subject to OCP amendment and rezoning processes, reflects OCP directions and measures up well against Public Assembly Lands Policy criteria.

Keith Lynn Site

The District supports re-purposing of the Keith Lynn site in support of achieving public benefits through broader transportation improvements in this area and the potential relocation of municipal services.

While we take this opportunity to underscore the importance of involvement of and coordination among Provincial Education, Finance and Transportation ministries to ensure the site is viable for the future uses being contemplated, the District is actively advancing work on options to relocate public safety services to this site, including the development of an offer to acquire it.

We trust that this letter adequately conveys the District of North Vancouver's support for the replacement of Argyle Secondary school, including our specific efforts relative to the Monteray and Keith Lynn sites in support of the Board of Education's funding strategy. Please feel free to contact me, or David Stuart, CAO (604-990-2206), should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Richard Walton, FCA
Mayor

cc: Franci Stratton, Chair, Board of Education, School District 44
John Lewis, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District
David Stuart, CAO District of North Vancouver