

December 5, 2013

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

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2013 to Franci Stratton, Board Chair. We are pleased to provide this response on her behalf with the following documentation related to the conditions identified for the risk screening process by the Ministry of Finance.

District of North Vancouver letter of support

The District of North Vancouver has provided a letter (attached) supporting the Board of Education's request to proceed with a full replacement project for Argyle Secondary and commitment to fund the premium costs of the replacement school and Neighbourhood Learning Centre through proceeds from the Monterey and Keith Lynn properties.

The North Vancouver Board of Education has regularly engaged the District of North Vancouver in discussions regarding the need for Boards of Education to contribute towards capital reinvestment. The Board's Land Management Strategy, consistent with the Release of Assets for Economic Generation initiative of the Government, has identified a number of surplus properties for disposition including the Monterey and Keith Lynn sites, located within the District of North Vancouver. The Board of Education has also identified other surplus properties for long-term retention.

Proposed Neighbourhood Learning Centre and intended use of space

The replacement option selected by the Board of Education provides for a capacity of 1200 students (building area of 11,770 square meters) with a Neighbourhood Learning Centre (area of 1,766 square meters).

The Board's objective for the replacement project is to use the NLC area to include a community theatre/performing arts area (approximately 1,100 square meters), increased space for community access to recreational facilities (approximately 175 square meters), and the allocation of NLC space (approximately 500 square meters) to enable the continued accommodation and future expansion of the International student program in North Vancouver.

Community theatre/performing arts area

The Board of Education (the Board) and the Corporation of the District of North Vancouver (the District) have both expressed their interest and commitment towards the inclusion of Neighbourhood Learning Centres in new and replacement schools in the North Vancouver School District. The support for Neighbourhood Learning Centres is identified within the Official Community Plan, recently adopted by District of North Vancouver. Section 6.3 Community Services, Programs and Facilities includes; *Policy 7. Support the role of schools as neighbourhood centres of learning with comprehensive and integrated community facilities and services.*

.../2





Most recently, the Board provided supplemental funding through local capital to allow the heritage restorations of Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary, with the inclusion of Neighbourhood Learning Centres (NLC). The supplemental funds needed for these projects were generated through local initiatives related to the redevelopment of the former Lonsdale School site and the former School Board office site.

The Official Community Plan for the District of North Vancouver identifies the need to prepare a community amenity strategy for the Lynn Valley Town Centre to deliver community amenities and public benefits. *These will include, but not be limited to: multi-purpose community spaces, community art and cultural facilities, and enhanced public recreation facilities and services.*

As the main feature of the Neighbourhood Learning Centre, a community theatre/performing arts area would mutually benefit the extensive fine arts programs of the school and those situated in the nearby community. Community arts members have identified the need for a medium-sized theatre (approximately 250 seats), with adequate storage for sets and props, as well as a flexible multi-purpose area that could serve the performing arts, the visual arts and other cultural events.

The design of the community theatre/performing arts and associated seating area will likely be integrated into the new school design, rather than being constructed as a stand-alone facility. A total of approximately **1,100 square meters** is intended for this purpose.

Recreational facilities

Additional recreational facilities (fitness room, weight room, exterior washrooms/change rooms) have also been identified for potential inclusion through the NLC area. While the new building will be designed to facilitate evening and weekend access to the gymnasium, washrooms, change rooms and playfields, additional space is intended to increase community access and use of these facilities. A total of approximately **200 square meters** is intended for recreational facilities.

The Board and the District recently completed a collaboration project at Windsor Secondary School resulting in the replacement of the grass field with an Artificial Turf Field, lighting, a six-lane track, separate washroom facilities and increased parking. The replacement of Argyle will require the rebuild of the fields at Argyle, with an artificial turf field being considered as the best option.

The Board will engage the District of North Vancouver, the Recreation Commission, and the Field Users Group to determine the potential for a partnership agreement for the development of an artificial turf field at Argyle Secondary, supported by access to exterior washrooms/change rooms.

International Student Program: support and expansion

Presently, there are 78 International students enrolled at Argyle School and we anticipate increasing enrolment to 100 international students in the future, thereby supporting the Provincial Government's objective of expanding international student programs throughout British Columbia. To provide for this increased enrolment we would add capacity through three instructional modules and associated design space for a combined total area of approximately 450 square meters. This increase in area is consistent with the Ministry's Area Standards for the school capacity of 1200 and 1300.



We look forward to receiving a positive response to our request in order that we may proceed with this vitally important project for the benefits of the students and community served by the North Vancouver Board of Education.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any further clarification that may be necessary to support our request.

Yours truly,
NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lewis'.

John Lewis
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Georgia Allison'.

Georgia Allison
Secretary Treasurer

JL/th

cc. Board of Education, North Vancouver School District
Doug Stewart, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division
Richard Walton, Mayor, District of North Vancouver
David Stuart, CAO, District of North Vancouver