



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

May 3, 2019

Marie-Pierre Lavoie, Chairperson
Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF)
100 – 13511 Commerce Parkway
Richmond, BC
V6V 2J8

Dear Ms. Lavoie,

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2019, expressing interest in collaboration between our Boards for the use of school facilities. As publicly funded public school boards, our two Boards have a shared commitment in providing quality public education for students.

As you have indicated, we already have a strong relationship, evidenced by the lease of the three annexes you occupy. We acknowledge that the current leases are short term and with CSF's enrolment growth, we understand that the CSF needs to secure ownership of additional space or leases that are longer term in nature.

The Board has provided direction to staff to review the implications of the new Ministry of Education Long-Range Facilities Plan guidelines, and further recommendations in the current draft LRFP will be considered by the Board at the end of May.

We are open to exploring options for the use of our school facilities and will ask VSB staff to identify opportunities with CSF staff that will benefit both our districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janet Fraser'.

Janet Fraser
Board Chair

cc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer

Board of School Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Board Chair

Allan Wong – Vice-Chair

Fraser Ballantyne Lois Chan-Pedley Carmen Cho

Estrellita Gonzalez Oliver Hanson

Barb Parrott Jennifer Reddy



April 15, 2019

Janet Fraser, Chair
Board of Education
Vancouver School Board
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8

Via Email: janet.fraser@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Fraser:

Re: Expression of Interest of the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) to collaborate with the Vancouver School Board (VSB) regarding the potential for the CSF to lease or purchase underutilized school facilities

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Regional Trustees of the CSF. As you may be aware, the CSF is a provincially funded public French-first language school board that provides French-language elementary and secondary education throughout the province. The demand for French-first language programming has been increasing substantially throughout British Columbia. In fact, over the last five years the CSF has experienced enrolment growth of over 25% and, in the 2018-2019 school year, has over 6,100 students in 41 schools across the province. The increased demand for French-first language programming is particularly acute in Vancouver. As a result, the CSF is very interested in working with the VSB to identify potential opportunities for the CSF to lease or purchase schools the VSB may determine to be surplus to its needs.

In Vancouver, the CSF owns three schools: École élémentaire Rose-des-vents, École secondaire Jules-Verne, and École Anne-Hébert. As a consequence of significant enrolment growth in Vancouver, all of the CSF's schools are overcrowded and there is no additional space available to accommodate its current and growing student enrolment. In order to find a temporary solution to the problem of overcrowding during the 2017-2018 school year, the CSF worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Education and the VSB to secure the Maquinna and Henderson Annexes by means of a short-term lease with the VSB. For the 2018-2019 school year, the CSF also secured the Laurier Annex through a short-term lease with the VSB. The CSF greatly appreciates the opportunity to lease schools from the VSB on a short-term basis, the primary objective of the CSF is to secure ownership or long-term tenure of its own school sites with purpose-built schools. Thus, while these three facilities are assisting the CSF in providing an interim response to the current overcrowding problems, the CSF is in dire need of permanent solutions in Vancouver.

For over ten years, the CSF has been searching for school sites to accommodate two new elementary school facilities west of Main Street in Vancouver, one west of Granville Street and one between Granville Street and Main Street. The CSF also requires a new elementary school in the northeastern sector of Vancouver. You may also be interested to know that, in the Government of British Columbia's 2017-2018 Fiscal Plan, the CSF was provided with a dedicated, rolling capital funding envelope within the Ministry of Education's budget to assist the CSF in realizing its priority capital projects. For many years, the CSF's requirements in Vancouver have been identified as priorities within the CSF's Capital Plan submissions to the Ministry of Education, and therefore have a funding allocation within the capital funding envelope.

It is within this context that the CSF read the VSB's 2019 Draft Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP), with great interest and hope that our two publicly funded school boards can continue to collaborate on capital planning projects that are mutually beneficial. The CSF's Board of Regional Trustees was very pleased to

Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique

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note that one of the four priorities to guide VSB decision making is to “effectively manage the VSB’s capital assets” by:

- a) considering the use of school sites for educational purposes first, and
- b) generating capital fund revenue through capital leases and the disposition of property, which can then be used to fund and/or enhance VSB approved projects (2019 Draft VSB LRFP, p. 9).

The CSF’s Board of Regional Trustees agrees it is good public policy that priority for the use of buildings belonging to the British Columbia school boards should be given to public education programs serving students from kindergarten through grade twelve, before they are leased or potentially sold to other organizations. The CSF is very interested in working with the VSB to determine whether there are school sites that may be surplus to the VSB that could meet the CSF’s needs in Vancouver.

I would be happy to meet with you and your officials to discuss the matters set out in this correspondence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marie-Pierre Lavoie", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Marie-Pierre Lavoie
Chairperson