

February 24, 2014

**Schedule 12 to the Minutes of the
Council Meeting for Public
Hearings held on Tuesday,
February 25, 2014.**

Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Councillors
c/o City Clerk's Office
City of Richmond
6911 No.3 Road, Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie:

Re: Hamilton Area Plan

Thank you for referring the proposed Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendment Bylaw 9078 on the Hamilton Area Plan to the School District for comment as part of your Public Hearing process. The School District has reviewed the City of Richmond's Report to the Planning and Development Committee dated January 28th, 2014 and also the proposed OCP Amendment Bylaw. Comments resulting from this review follow.

The Report states that the proposed Plan will add an additional 4,093 homes to the area and projects an increase from the area's present population of about 5,100 persons to about 12,000 persons at build-out. Based on Statistics Canada student yield rates for housing, the above population growth will increase the school age population in the area by more than three hundred students. Both land and buildings will be required to accommodate the proposed population increase as the current elementary school is near capacity.

It is commendable that the City has identified and provided sustainable funding mechanisms for many community amenities in the Hamilton Area Plan; however, the Plan does not identify potential school sites, and has deferred the practical issue of providing for the needed school land and buildings to others.

The School District has identified a \$22 million requirement for funding in its present 5-year capital plan for additional facilities in the Hamilton area. Because the District relies solely on the Ministry of Education for funding of school construction, in the absence of City support through amenity funding, we are unable to determine the likelihood and timing of funding approval. The District will need to expand the current bussing of high school students to accommodate the increased numbers that result from the higher proposed density. It may also be necessary to provide a similar service for the new elementary students that result from the Hamilton Area Plan while the District awaits Ministry approval of additional school facilities.

Board of Education:

Donna Sargent - Chairperson
Eric Yung - Vice Chairperson
Rod Belleza Kenny Chiu Norm Goldstein
Debbie Tablotney Grace Tsang

The Board of Education firmly believes that schools are the hub of any community, and are one of the first amenities that community members seek. We look forward to working with the City and members of the community to help make Hamilton an even more prosperous and thriving neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Sargent". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Donna Sargent, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

cc: Monica Pamer, Superintendent of Schools
Mark De Mello, Secretary Treasurer
Clive Mason, Director of Facilities and Planning