

November 6, 2012

Mayor Malcolm Brodie
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

To Public Hearing
Date: <u>Nov. 19 2012</u>
Item #: <u>3</u>
Re: <u>Bylaw 9000</u>

Dear Mayor Brodie:

Re: 2041 Official Community Plan Bylaw

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank City Council for the opportunity to comment on the 2041 Official Community Plan Bylaw that will be the subject of a Public Hearing on November 19, 2012. We have reviewed the 2041 OCP, and have the following comments to make:

- It is our belief that schools are integral parts of the community and are often the focal point for community gatherings. We are pleased to note that the OCP reflects this, in particular the reference to schools as being "hearts of the community";
- The population growth and dwelling unit increases that are set out in the OCP are consistent with those used in our recently completed Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP). Our LRFP indicates that, while some of the growth will be accommodated within existing school district facilities, there will also be a need to provide additional school facilities, especially in City Centre. Funding for new school facilities is provided by the Ministry of Education, and while we make every attempt to ensure that facilities are available when needed, it may not always be possible to do so.
- The identification of potential school sites in the OCP is a key component of planning for sustainable infrastructure. To this end, it is noted that OCP Chapter 3.0 "Connected Neighbourhoods With Special Places" addresses the planning of schools, as follows:

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



- **OBJECTIVE 3:**
Recognize the importance of schools in neighbourhoods (e.g., education, day care, recreation, health, literacy and community life).
 - **POLICIES:**
 - a) *continue to consult with the School Board to ensure that Richmond residents have access to a range of educational, jobs, recreation, sport, special event and community wellness opportunities, including where new school sites may best be located and how closed school sites may be used; Page 3-10*
- We suggest that the City Centre section of the "Connected Neighbourhoods with Special Places" chapter reflect the need for an additional school, and that consideration be given to amending the City Centre Area Plan to facilitate the Board developing potential school sites (e.g. certain text and map references).

The partnership between the school district and the City is highly valued, and is essential to ensuring that the residents of Richmond are well served. We look forward to the continued close working relationship between our two organizations.

Sincerely,



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

cc Trustees
D. Weber, Director, City Clerk's Office ✓
M. Pamer, Superintendent of Schools
M. De Mello, Secretary Treasurer