

December 12, 2023

City of Richmond - Mayor's Office
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, British Columbia
V6Y 2C1 Canada

To the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Richmond,

The Richmond Board of Education greatly values the positive working relationship we have developed with city council and staff. The Council Board Liaison Committee has played a pivotal role in our collaborative efforts, effectively bridging our organizations to better serve the broader community. We sincerely appreciate this partnership and look forward to continuing our joint endeavours.

We are writing to you today to address an ongoing challenge that requires immediate attention. Over the past four years, our four City Centre schools have experienced a significant 42 percent growth in student enrollment, representing more than 600 additional students. As of September 2023, these schools, with a combined operating capacity of 1,641 seats, now have a total enrollment of 2,089 students. This substantial increase has pushed these schools well beyond their operating capacity.

With this in mind, we would like to initiate discussions on potential land acquisitions and exchanges that can more effectively address our immediate requirements. One specific proposal we would like to table for consideration involves exchanging Dover Park for a more centrally located site. We are also fully receptive to exploring any proposals that the City may put forward, as we are committed to pursuing collaborative solutions for the betterment of our community.

Connected to these discussions, we would also like to formally request involvement in the review and update of the City of Richmond's Official Community Plan. Our participation in this process will help ensure that educational facilities are appropriately integrated within the City's infrastructure.

We kindly request a meeting at your earliest convenience for a collaborative discussion on these important matters. Subsequently, we suggest organizing a follow-up meeting that brings together the Board, City Council, and our local MLAs to broaden our dialogue and collective action. Together, we can demonstrate our collective commitment to providing an enriching and supportive educational environment for learners who live in the City Centre. We look forward to your response and to continuing our partnership in addressing the critical needs of families in Richmond.

Sincerely,

Heather Larson, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

cc: Aman Singh, MLA – Richmond-Queensborough
Henry Yao, MLA – Richmond South Centre
Kelly Greene, MLA – Richmond-Steveston