

June 19, 2018

## West Vancouver School District No.45 Correspondence List – June 19, 2018

Letter Date	From	To	Type	Description	Copied To
June 19, 2018	Board Chair Carolyn Broady	Mayor Michael Smith and Council	Sent	<p>On behalf of the West Vancouver Board of Education, Ms. Broady writes to congratulate the Minister on approving the new Official Community Plan for West Vancouver.</p> <p>She also outlines issues raised by the Board of specific concern, and indicates the Board would be pleased to work with Council to resolve these issues.</p>	WV Board of Education WV District Leadership Team WV District Parent Advisory Council WV Administrators' Association WV Teachers' Association WV Municipal Employees' Association



**WEST  
VANCOUVER  
SCHOOLS**

*A world of opportunity*

June 19, 2018

**Mayor Michael Smith and Council  
District of West Vancouver  
750 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
West Vancouver, BC**

Dear Mike,

**Congratulations on approving the new Official Community Plan for West Vancouver. At a May 2018 meeting of the Board of Education we reviewed the proposed OCP and committed to share with you and council areas we see as priorities for our families, our staff and our students.**

**Issues that were raised by the Board that are of specific concern are:**

- **Changing demographics that clearly show a downward trend with fewer young people moving into our community. A more diverse housing mix would create opportunities that would appeal to this group who are currently unable to live in West Vancouver due to affordability and lack of housing options**
- **Demographics also indicate an ongoing shift in the number of new families for whom English is not their first language. Our data shows that during the 2017/2018 school year, 1 in 7 students in our schools is a designated (ELL) English Language Learner**
- **The growing problem of gridlock along our major transportation routes is an issue for many of our employees who travel from out of district to work in West Vancouver**
- **The need for versatile design of public spaces that are accessible to all and encourage active recreation. We appreciate the wonderful learning, recreation and cultural resources that our students are able to enjoy throughout our community including the West Vancouver Memorial Library, Ferry Building, Kay Meek Centre and community centres, and we hope that our joint support for 'A Place for Sport' will help see the project completed**

**With these themes in mind, the following points in the OCP are of particular interest:**

- **Transportation Network:**
  - **Develop integrated transportation plan, working with the District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, Squamish Nation, communities on the Sea to Sky corridor and BC Ferries to address traffic issues and to focus on improving public transportation**
  - **Increase the level of Active Transportation in the daily commute to our schools and worksites by encouraging walking and biking**

- **Housing and Neighbourhoods:**
  - **Focus on diversified housing options, creating more affordable opportunities for families, educators and other individuals essential to ensure West Vancouver continues to be a vibrant community**
  - **Dedicated land for a school or mixed-use Community School (like BICS) in the upper lands/Cypress Village**
- **Access and Inclusion:**
  - **Continue to engage new families, many from different cultural and language backgrounds, by improving channels of communication and offering unique programming to support successful settlement**
  - **Work to create child care spaces for young families to entice them to live and work in West Vancouver**

**We would be pleased to work with Council and support your efforts around these areas moving forward. We want to ensure our community can continue to attract and retain high quality staff and also be the kind of community in which young families want to raise their children. We know that areas from housing, to transportation, to infrastructure, to welcoming of new residents goes a long way to continuing to have the kind of community we want.**

**We have close to 7,500 students attending West Vancouver Schools and over 700 employees working in our community, and we know a future focussed community plan will help ensure we continue to have robust enrolment moving forward.**

**We look forward to continuing to work together.**

**Sincerely,**



**Carolyn Broady, Chair  
West Vancouver Board of Education**

**cc: West Vancouver Board of Education  
West Vancouver Schools District Leadership Team  
West Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council  
West Vancouver Administrators' Association  
West Vancouver Teachers' Association  
West Vancouver Municipal Employees' Association**