

A Voice for Carleton: Why This School Closure Must Be Stopped.

I. Introduction: The Community Opposition

Good evening. I am here to speak against the closure of Carleton Elementary. [REDACTED]

The community survey showed fundamental opposition to this closure. The petition, signed by **2,298 concerned citizens**, confirms this. This is not a marginal issue; this is a clear, powerful mandate from the community you serve.

I am here to directly challenge the core rationale for the closure: the claim that surrounding schools have sufficient capacity. Based on my own lived experience and current enrollment data, **this claim is demonstrably inaccurate.**

II. The Current Capacity Crisis and Family Equity

The VSB must reconcile its projections with the present reality: **Our local schools are already at their breaking point.**

We have immediate evidence: In 2025, Weir, Waverly, and Cunningham all had a Kindergarten waitlist. At Weir Elementary, in spite of running three KG classes, at least four in-catchment applications were unmet. [REDACTED]

Why are [REDACTED] different schools if according to VSB, there is room to serve the current needs of the community? The current KG waitlists contradict the claim that these schools can absorb any influx. Did you know that the enrollment at Weir has been growing at 5% annually, from 360 in 2023 to **399 in 2025**. Total capacity is 420. This is not enough buffer to continue taking three KG classes year after year, let alone absorb more students.

This strain causes **family fragmentation and deep inequity**. I know [REDACTED] neighborhood who settled on sending their children to non-catchment or independent schools because either there was no room for both kids in the closest local public school or the catchment school was a drive away anyway. These families are all residents of the “original Carleton catchment”. Trustees, **Taxpayers' money should bring fair access to educational infrastructures to each one, irrespective of which community they reside in.**

Trustees, if VSB schools in this neighborhood are already turning away in-catchment students now, on what grounds does VSB claim that the projected influx from densification will be taken care of ?

Trustees, Carleton is not surplus. We need Carleton.

III. Flaws in Long-Term Planning and Process

The opposition extends beyond capacity numbers to the fundamentally flawed process and planning data underpinning this proposal.

First, there is **inconsistent data application**. I question the reliance on the VSB's preferred capacity models for a land disposition decision when the Board's own guidelines emphasize the use of **Metro Vancouver population statistics for long-range planning**. The population statistics and densification plans as per the City of Vancouver guidelines clearly indicate the need for *additional* school capacity, not consolidation. Joyce-Collingwood is one of BC's fastest-growing Transit Oriented Areas (TOAs). 1,816 extra units are already approved in various developments. Around 8,300 units are expected in the Joyce-Collingwood and Norquay village area in the next 30 years (Sources:

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20160614/documents/rr2.pdf> talks about 4900 for

Joyce-Collingwood precinct and 3400 for Norquay at

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20130516/documents/cfsc1.pdf>). The CoV projections also say that the proportion of families with children living in apartments is higher than the city average overall (21 per cent versus 13 per cent). See

<https://guidelines.vancouver.ca/policy-plan-joyce-collingwood-station-precinct.pdf>. Trustees, why does VSB project that the number of enrollments in this area are going to stay the same until 2039, when the data on ground and projections clearly shows a steady increase. Trustees, I ask you - is a public engagement process fair if it uses **misleading data** ?

Second, the VSB is showing **contempt for this public process**. The attempt to **subdivide the Carleton land** well in advance of a final closure decision undermines the transparency of this consultation. It suggests a predetermined outcome focused on land disposal, not educational need. In my opinion, redrawing the boundaries before the closure is approved was **just wrong too!**

IV. The Path Forward: The Business Case for a \$33.3M Investment

The VSB has a mandate to coordinate with the City and Province to ensure educational facilities align with housing growth, closing Carleton runs counter to that responsibility.

In 2020, the VSB completed a **Project Definition Report for \$33.3 million in seismic upgrades for Carleton**. That report, referenced in a Memorandum dated September 28, 2020, stated that a business case was needed to proceed.

Trustees, that business case is no longer hypothetical. **It is here now.** With all the planned densification in our area, our capacity crisis, there is a clear, urgent business case to invest in Carleton and ensure this asset serves us now and the next generation.

BTW, at the public engagement on October 23 and the public delegation in Nov, the blame was passed unequivocally on the province for having denied funding requests. Province denying funding requests is **not the same thing** as VSB's failure to make a business case. Trustees, the distinction is an important one and it matters.

V. Conclusion

The data, the enrollment pressures, and the community's needs are clear. We ask you to listen to the parents and residents who oppose this closure. Reject this proposal. Commit to a long-range plan that supports, rather than sacrifices, the future of this growing neighborhood.

Trustees, No amount of money will bring back public land for education once it is gone. We need Carleton now - not just for us, but for all future generations.

Thank you.

Vancouver, December 15, 2025

To: Board of Trustees of the Vancouver School Board
delegations@vsb.bc.ca



From: Gabrielle Trépanier
President – Parent Advisory Council of École Norval-Morrissette
2882 East 4th avenue, Vancouver BC
Presidence@apenm.ca

Dear Trustees of the Vancouver School Board,

My name is Gabrielle Trépanier. I am the President of the PAC for **École Norval-Morrissette**, a school of the **Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique**.

You may think our school community is far from Joyce–Collingwood Station. But Norval-Morrissette only serves students from Kindergarten to Grade 3. That means that very soon, all of the French-language families in our neighbourhood will be travelling—by school bus and very likely by car—through the Joyce–Collingwood neighbourhood every day to attend **École Anne-Hébert**.

You have already heard from Anne-Hébert’s PAC President. You know their school is overflowing and in need of significant repairs. And you also know—because many of you have sat at the same tables as I have, and because you have read the same court decision released this past May—that this is not an isolated issue.

In **S.C., Gomery J., 2025 BCSC 962**, the court was clear: **all of our schools in Vancouver need betterment**. We are overflowing everywhere. The Court also confirmed that Francophone families in Vancouver still do **not** have access to educational facilities that are equivalent in capacity or quality, and that decisions about school sites in the North-East of the city must be made with **meaningful, proactive consideration of Section 23 minority-language rights**—not after the fact.

Norval-Morrissette is currently only a **K–3** school. Yet in 2020, the **Supreme Court of Canada** confirmed that Francophone families are entitled to a **full elementary school in the Vancouver North-East catchment**. That constitutional obligation remains unmet. Since that ruling, enrollment pressure has only intensified.

We need more learning spaces.

Maybe those spaces are created when our children transition to **Anne-Hébert**.

Maybe Sir Guy Carleton could be re-imagined—as a mixed or **middle school**—to relieve pressure on **Jules-Verne Secondary School**, which serves Grades 7 through 12 and is already overflowing.

I know it is not technically my role to propose solutions. [REDACTED] I walk these neighbourhoods. I see the children. And I know your projections are too small. They do not



reflect what is coming. There will be a much larger school-space crisis in the east of this city very soon.

This concern is not mine alone. The **Collingwood Recreation Society**, along with many local residents, has mobilized to protect Sir Guy Carleton as a vital community asset. Their advocacy reflects what parents see every day: this is a growing, transit-oriented neighbourhood that needs *more* public infrastructure for children—not less.

In these same neighbourhoods, the City plans to build more low-income and rent-controlled housing. I fully support this. And you know who this will attract: **families**. People with children.

You cannot pass bylaws to increase density while simultaneously selling or closing land that is dedicated to learning. Those two actions do not align.

I do not know whether the CSF would ultimately choose to use the Sir Guy Carleton site. What I do know is that the Board chose to discuss its **closure before ideas could be meaningfully brought forward**—before there was time for real collaboration and brainstorming about the best use of this public space.

Maybe Sir Guy Carleton should remain a VSB elementary school. If that is the right answer, then good. All I ask is this:

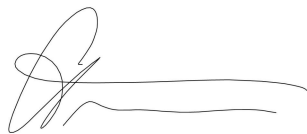
That the VSB rely on **credible, forward-looking growth projections**, which it has not done to date.

And that there be **real consultation** between the VSB and the CSF—consultation that includes the **Vancouver DPAC** and the PACs of **École Anne-Hébert** and **École Norval-Morrisseau**.

If we are invited to sit at the same table, I am confident we can create a **thoughtful, creative, and sustainable plan** that serves *all* students in East Vancouver.

Thank you for your time and for listening.

Respectfully,



Gabrielle Trépanier

Présidente, Association de Parents

École Norval-Morrisseau

Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B.

