

# **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

## **AGENDA (Revised)**

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 5:00 to 7:00 pm**  
**In the Boardroom**

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

#### **1.1 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and sə̱lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

#### **1.2 OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting is currently being broadcasted live, and both the audio and video recordings will be accessible to the public for viewing even after the meeting ends. Footage from this meeting may be viewed from Canada or anywhere else in the world.

### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

2.1 Public Delegation Meeting of November 24, 2025

2.2 Special Public Delegation Meeting of December 15, 2025

2.3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

*That the minutes of the November 24, 2025 Public Delegation Board meeting and December 15, 2025 Special Public Delegation Board meeting be adopted.*

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

3.1 Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School

- (1) That School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School Closure Bylaw 2025 be given three (3) readings at this meeting. (VOTE MUST BE UNANIMOUS)*
- (2) That School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School Closure Bylaw 2025 be:  
Read a first time the 17th day of December, 2025;  
Read a second time the 17th day of December, 2025;  
Read a third and final time, passed and adopted this 17th day of December, 2025.*

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

# **PUBLIC DELEGATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:00pm**

The Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) met in Room 114 (the Boardroom), VSB Education Centre, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. on Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:00pm. The meeting was live-streamed.

**Trustees Present:**

Victoria Jung, Chairperson  
Janet Fraser, Vice-Chairperson  
Alfred Chien  
Lois Chan-Pedley  
Preeti Faridkot  
Suzie Mah  
Jennifer Reddy  
Christopher Richardson  
Joshua Zhang

**Senior Team Members Present:**

Helen McGregor, Superintendent  
Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer  
Jessie Gresley-Jones, Executive Director of Facilities

**Also Present:**

Patricia MacNeil, Director of Communications  
Cornelia Haack, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

## **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

### **1.1. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and acknowledged that with deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

### **1.2. Opening Remarks**

The Chairperson informed everyone the meeting was being live-streamed, and the audio and visual recording would be available to the public for viewing after the meeting. The footage of the meeting could be viewed inside and outside of Canada. She reviewed meeting decorum for respectful behavior and the Procedure for Delegations to the Board.

## **2. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF SIR GUY CARLETON ELEMENTARY**

### **2.1. Presentation of Rationale for the Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary**

The Chairperson invited the Executive Director of Facilities to present on behalf of the Board the Rationale for the Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary. A copy of the presentation is on file with the agenda.

The Chairperson welcomed the registered delegations presenting on the Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary and noted that the input and information received including the perspectives shared at the November 24, 2025 Public Delegation Board meeting would help inform the Board's decision. She acknowledged the attendance of former VSB school trustees and a former VSB superintendent in the audience.

## **2.2. Delegations re: proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary**

The Chairperson introduced the first presenter as Suresh Yenuga and noted that delegate, Frederico Melo had withdrawn his delegation request.

### **Delegations**

1. Suresh Yenuga joined the meeting online and spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
2. Monica Kang spoke in favor of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
3. Patti Bacchus spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School and also raised a governance issue.

Trustee Chan-Pedley asked a question of the presenter that led to discussion concerning meeting decorum. The Chairperson called for a recess. Trustee Mah raised a point of privilege to request that Trustee Chan-Pedley withdraw the question, which Trustee Chan-Pedley subsequently retracted.

The Chair called a recess at 5:41 pm to address matters of decorum. The meeting reconvened at 5:53 pm.

Trustee Chan-Pedley issued an apology for asking the question.

4. Judy Zaichkowsky spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
5. Arlene Rocha spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
6. Mona Stilwell spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
7. Siu Pergel spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

The Chair called a second recess at 6:25 pm as the meeting decorum was not maintained. The meeting reconvened at 6:35 pm.

Trustee Chien left the meeting at 6:35 pm.

After reconvening, the Chair mentioned that in case of further disruptions the meeting would be continued in another room with delegations presenting to the Board one at a time and the audience being able to watch the proceedings online.

Trustee Mah called a point of privilege to ask the process if delegations and the work of the board needed to be moved to another room. The Chair explained the process detailing that the livestream would continue and members of the audience could continue to follow the meeting online.

8. Karin Bernauer spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

Following the presentation of delegate Karin Bernauer, the Chairperson noted that delegate April Tom was not available to present.

9. Vivek Khanna spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
10. Linden Wong spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
11. Emily Tsang read a joint statement from MP Don Davies and MLA Adrian Dix against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
12. Ann Wong spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
13. Vishal Khanna and Ravi Khanna spoke against the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

Trustees asked questions and delegations provided responses pertaining to their presentations.

### **3. DELEGATIONS**

#### **3.1. Delegations re: governance and public access and engagement**

The Chairperson noted that there was one registered delegate, Melina Auerbach, who would present on the topic of governance and public access and engagement.

Trustees asked questions and the delegate provided responses pertaining to the presentation.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustees agreed to adjourn by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

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Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer

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Victoria Jung, Chairperson

# SPECIAL PUBLIC DELEGATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:00pm

The Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) met in Room 114 (the Boardroom), VSB Education Centre, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:00pm. The meeting was live-streamed.

<b>Trustees Present:</b>	Victoria Jung, Chairperson Janet Fraser, Vice-Chairperson Alfred Chien Lois Chan-Pedley Preeti Faridkot Suzie Mah Jennifer Reddy Christopher Richardson
<b>Trustees Absent with Regrets:</b>	Joshua Zhang
<b>Senior Team Members Present:</b>	Helen McGregor, Superintendent Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer
<b>Also Present:</b>	Patricia MacNeil, Director of Communications Judy Mah, Executive Coordinator (Recorder)

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

### 1.1. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and acknowledged that with deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

### 1.2. Opening Remarks

The Chairperson informed everyone the meeting was being live-streamed, and the audio and visual recording would be available to the public for viewing after the meeting. The footage of the meeting could be viewed inside and outside of Canada. She reviewed meeting decorum for respectful behavior and the Procedure for Delegations to the Board, noting that this information could also be found in the presentation slides and on page 2 of the agenda.

## 2. DELEGATIONS

The Chairperson welcomed the registered delegations presenting on the public feedback received regarding the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary. She noted that the Board would consider all input and feedback gathered during the engagement process, including viewpoints shared at the December 15, 2025 Special Public Delegation Board meeting, when making their decision at the Special Public Board meeting on December 17, 2025.

## **2.1. Delegations re: public feedback received regarding the Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary**

Eleven delegations shared their perspectives on the public feedback received regarding the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

### **Delegations**

1. **James Schultz** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School and suggested alternative options for potential use of the property.
2. **David Finnis** spoke against the sale of school lands and presented alternative options for potential use of the property.

The Chair reminded delegates that presentations should focus on the public feedback received concerning the proposed closure of Sir Carleton Elementary, rather than on matters related to surplus or disposition, as the Board was presently considering only the closure decision.

3. **Subrata Dasgupta** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
4. **Devin Harlos** presented a written statement opposing the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and the delegate responded.

The next delegate, Marie-Eve Boudreau, requested that a co-presenter join her. Before they could present, staff verified that the co-presenter had signed the recording consent form.

5. **Marie-Eve Boudreau and Gabrielle Trépanier** spoke on retaining Carleton as an educational facility either as a Francophone or Anglophone school.

The Chair informed everyone that delegate, Tiffany-Anne Timbers, had withdrawn her delegation request, and introduced the next delegate, Kaori Lau.

6. **Kaori Lau** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

Florence Li was not available to present.

7. **Indu Bhagat** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
8. **Trevor Falkenhagen** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

Trustees provided comments in response to the delegates presentation.

Anjali Lacerte was not available to present.

9. **Jennifer Gray-Grant** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.
10. **Vivek Khanna** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

A trustee asked questions and the delegate responded. At the trustee's request, the delegate agreed to email the information that he received through a past freedom of information request.

11. **Vik Khanna** spoke in opposition of the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School.

### 3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustees agreed to adjourn by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

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Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer

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Victoria Jung, Chairperson

December 17, 2025

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Helen McGregor, Superintendent

**RE:** Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School

*Reference to  
Education Plan*

**GOAL:** Goal 2: The Vancouver School Board will increase equity by:

**OBJECTIVE:**

- Improving stewardship of the District's resources by focusing on effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

## INTRODUCTION

This report sets out the rationale for consideration of closure for Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School, a summary of the process undertaken in accordance with [Policy 14 – School Closure](#), and the detailed factors considered in making the consideration of closure recommendation to the Board.

## BACKGROUND

**August 2016:** Carleton Elementary was badly damaged by a fire. Water damage also occurred. The damage has not been repaired because funding was not provided through the Schools Protection Program (i.e., insurance plan administered by the Ministry of Finance).

At the time of the incident, the enrolment at Carleton was 308 students.

**September 2016:** Following the fire, most Carleton students attended school at Cunningham, others attended nearby schools.

**June 2017:** The Carleton Elementary restoration and seismic upgrade project was submitted to the Ministry of Education as a priority project within the five-year capital plan. The Ministry did not support the project and funding was not provided.

**June 2018:** The Carleton Elementary restoration and seismic upgrade project was again submitted to the Ministry of Education as a priority project with the five-year capital plan. The Ministry asked the school district to develop a business case. Based on the business case, in 2019, the Ministry did not approve funding.

**January 2023:** The Board approved adjusting the Carleton Elementary school catchment to the footprint of the school site.

**June 2023:** The Board approved a motion to initiate a public engagement process for the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary.

**September 2023:** The Board directed the update of enrolment projections in response to recent zoning changes and neighbourhood plans approved by the City of Vancouver as well as Provincial housing initiatives. The Board also decided to suspend the public engagement process for the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary until a review of enrolment projections was complete.

**June 2025:** Updated enrolment projections were presented at the Facilities Planning Committee.

**October 1, 2025:** VSB restarted the public engagement process regarding the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary.

**December 17, 2025:** Special Public Board meeting for consideration of closure.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Please refer to the Engagement Summary Report (Appendix A) for the detailed description and analysis from the public engagement process. All engagement submissions were provided to the Board and made available for public review on December 3, 2025. These documents and submissions are provided to the Board for consideration prior to their final decision with respect to the proposed school closure.

The District follows best practices for public engagement as outlined in the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). Since October 1, various engagement opportunities have been made available including early engagement with school communities in close proximity to Carleton, stakeholders and inherent rights holders. Broader public engagement has included an in-person information session at Weir Elementary, an online information session, a survey, a public delegation meeting and email feedback. An additional Special public delegation Board meeting was also held in order to allow the public to present their views on the feedback received throughout the process.

The public engagement process followed VSB Policy 14, and included the following components to present information, answer questions, and gather feedback:

- **October 2-December 2:** Engagement period - Feedback accepted via [engage@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:engage@vsb.bc.ca); Information about the proposed closure available on VSB website
- **October:** Early engagement with school communities close to Carleton, stakeholders and inherent rights holders
- **October 21- November 26:** Public survey open
- **October 23 & 28:** In-person and online public information sessions
- **November 5, 2025:** Feedback from stakeholders at Facilities Planning Committee
- **November 24, 2025:** Public delegation Board meeting
- **December 15, 2025:** Special public delegation Board meeting

## SCHOOL SITE AND CONTEXT

Sir Guy Carleton Elementary is located at the intersection of Kingsway and Joyce Street. Before the fire, it could enrol up to 465 students (operating capacity).

The school buildings at Carleton include:

- a large masonry building (1)
- a wood frame building (2)
- and a gymnasium building (3)

These buildings have remained vacant since the 2016 fire and continue to deteriorate.

Buildings 4 and 5 were renovated in 2013 and are leased to the Green Thumb Theatre. If the Board decides to close the school, the existing lease will remain in effect.

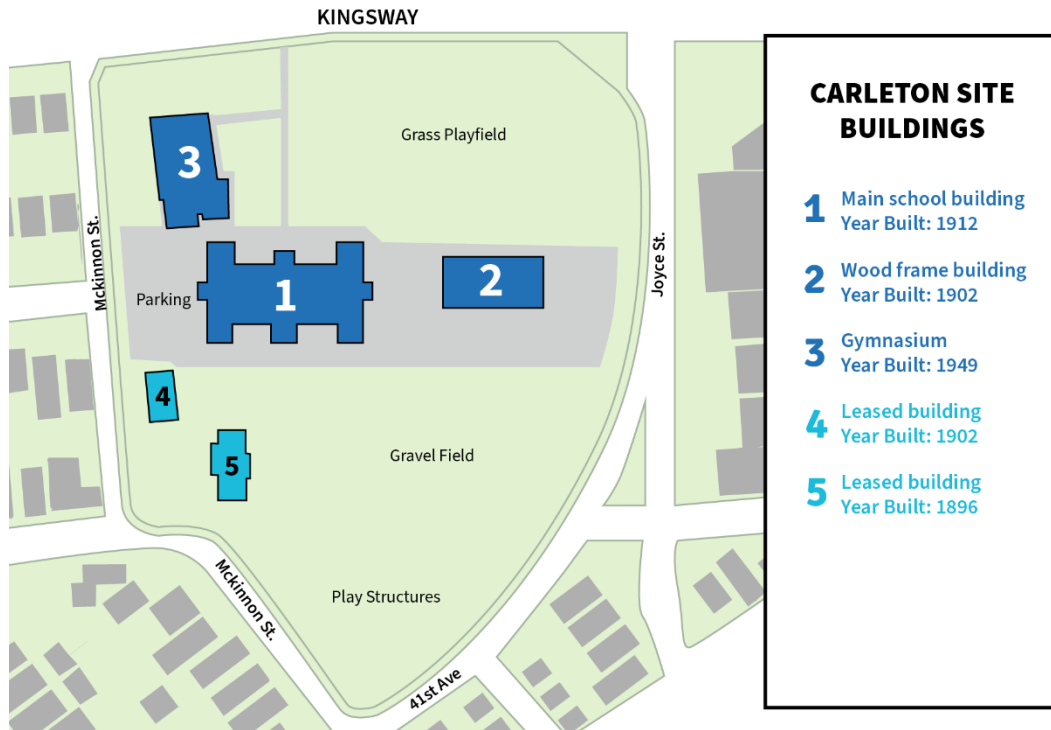


Figure 1 – Carleton site plan

## WHY IS CLOSURE BEING CONSIDERED?

### Maintenance Costs

The Carleton site continues to carry significant maintenance costs, roughly \$65,000 per year (or \$650,000 to date) to keep vacant buildings safe and secure. The unoccupied buildings are vulnerable to vandalism, graffiti and have ongoing issues with flooding of the ground floor. The buildings continue to significantly deteriorate.

Funds are used to make only critical repairs that address vandalism, break-ins, servicing required for sprinkler systems, heating and necessary maintenance. Spending does not include any restorative work or preventative maintenance for the buildings to make them operable.

### No Funding for Restoration

There are currently no options for re-opening the school in its current state. To return the school to a safe and usable condition, major capital funding would be required from the provincial government. However, VSB has been denied multiple funding requests to repair and seismically upgrade the school because the business case does not support the significant investment in Carleton when sufficient enrolling space is available in the other schools in the area.

**No Students Currently Attending Carleton Elementary**

On January 30, 2023, the Board approved adjusting the Carleton Elementary school catchment to the footprint of the school site. There are now no families residing within the Carleton school catchment. All students who previously attended Carleton are now attending or have graduated from secondary school. Families in the former Carleton catchment are now part of other catchments.

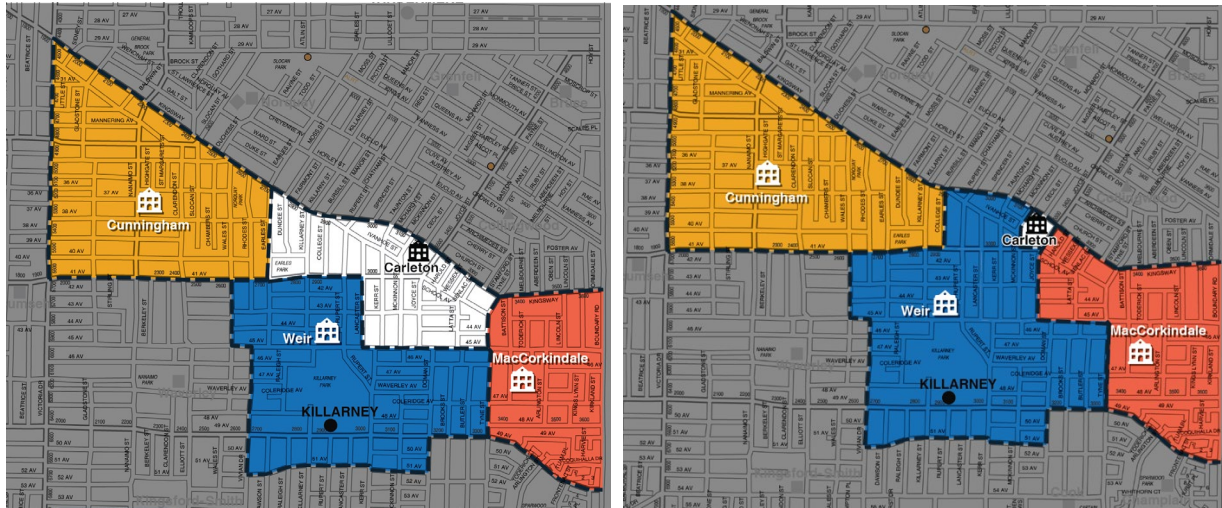


Figure 2: Catchment prior to readjustment in 2023 and catchments after adjustments

**Available Space at Receiving Schools**

Schools that now serve students from the former Carleton catchment (Cunningham, Weir and MacCorkindale) currently have available space and are projected to be able to accommodate the projected student enrolment for the next 14 years.

School	Operating capacity	Nominal capacity	Enrolment (2024-2025)	Estimated enrolment (2039)
Cunningham	598	660	428	408
Weir	421	465	379	318
Maccorkindale	444	490	294	284

Nominal capacity is the number of students a school was originally built to hold, based on its physical layout. The nominal capacity is used to determine the number of student spaces in a school and is calculated based on the following formula:

- Kindergarten: 20 pupils per classroom
- Elementary: 25 pupils per classroom
- Secondary: 25 pupils per classroom

Operating capacity is the number of students the school can currently support, considering how spaces are used and the required staffing levels. Operating capacity is often lower than nominal capacity due to specialized programming (e.g. Strong Start) or other space uses (e.g. classroom used as staff room).

**High Seismic Risk, No Funds to Seismically Upgrade**

Carleton is rated H1 for seismic risk - the highest risk category. There are no seismic upgrades or school replacement projects for Carleton currently prioritized or supported by the province because nearby schools have space available to accommodate enrolment. Capital investments in areas with enrolment pressure are prioritized in our five-year capital plan.

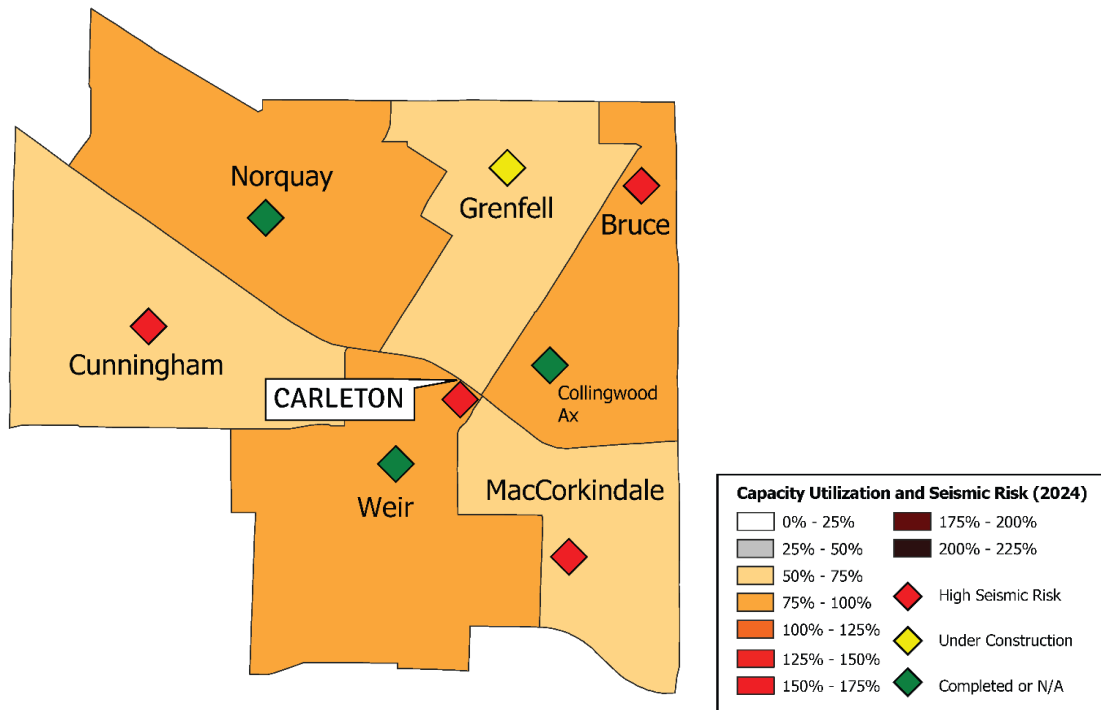


Figure 3: Seismic stats of Carleton Elementary and surrounding schools

**ENROLMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**Carleton Historical Enrolment**

In the years leading up to the 2016 fire (between 2007 to 2013), Carleton experienced gradual enrolment decline.

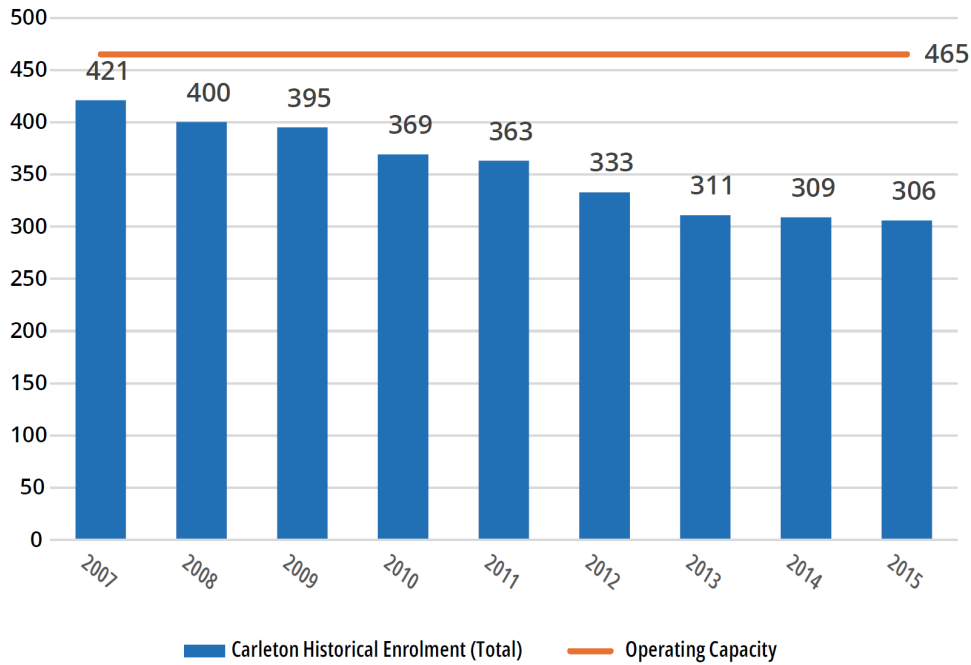


Figure 4: Historic enrolment of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary compared to operating capacity

**Total Combined Enrolment at Schools Near Carleton**

A gradual enrolment decline in the schools surrounding Carleton (Cunningham, Weir, MacCorkindale, Norquay, Grenfell, Bruce and Collingwood Annex) was observed from 2007 to 2021. Moderate enrolment growth has occurred since 2021. The Carleton fire in 2016 reflects the drop in available operating capacity from 2016 onwards.

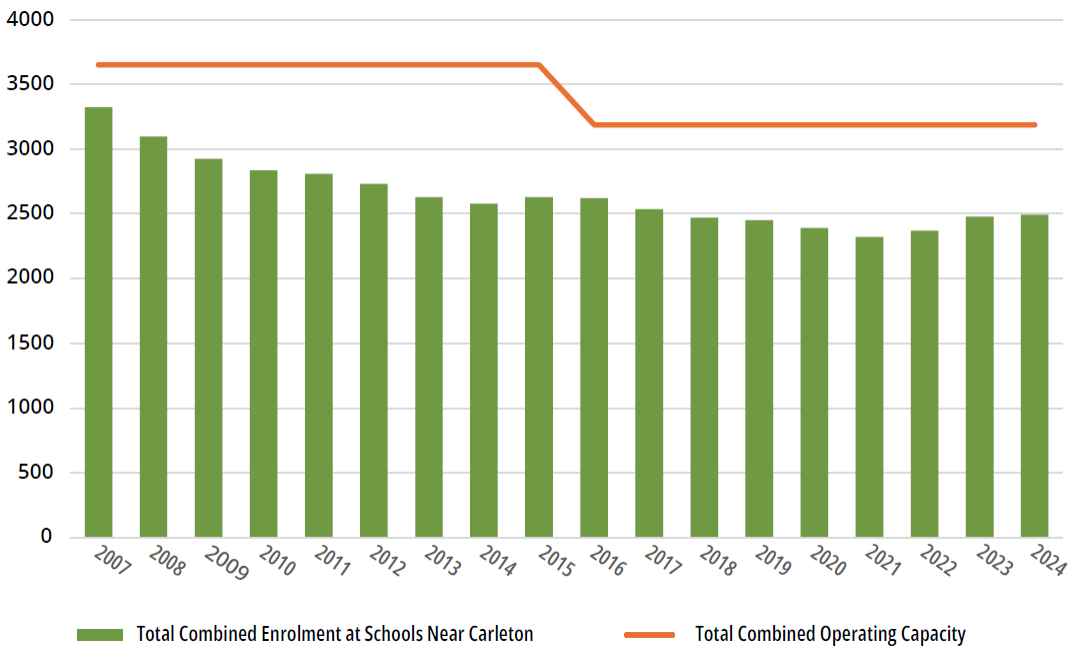


Figure 5: Combined enrolment of schools near Carleton compared to total operating capacity

**Enrolment Projections**

In June 2025, updated enrolment projections were provided to the Board outlining several forecasts broken down by catchment. Enrolment projections guide both operational and capital planning decisions. Current data shows relatively stable student enrolment in this area.

Increased student enrolment from new developments in the area can be accommodated within existing nearby school facilities. The enrolment projections consider the impacts of increased development potential in the area as well as growth in the region.

Read the Enrolment Update Report: [govsb.ca/enrolment-update-report](https://govsb.ca/enrolment-update-report)

**Historical and Projected Enrolment at Schools Near Carleton**

This graph below illustrates projected enrolment for the schools surrounding Carleton (Cunningham, Weir, MacCorkindale, Norquay, Grenfell, Collingwood Annex and Bruce). Nominal capacity is the number of students a school was originally built to hold, based on its physical layout. Operating capacity is the number of students the school can currently support, considering how classrooms are used and staffing levels.

**2039 forecast:** The projection uses localized data from Baragar planning software plus local knowledge of development potential. The Baragar plus local knowledge model combines demographic data with local development information and enrolment assumptions and projects enrolment to remain within the operating capacity. It is important to note given the neighborhood-level factors, Baragar plus local knowledge projections only extend to 15 years into the future.

**2053 forecast:** The projection uses Metro Vancouver population data, which is less precise due to the long-term outlook but remains the best available source for extended planning. Even under this higher growth forecast, effective enrolment management strategies can be used to accommodate students within existing capacity.

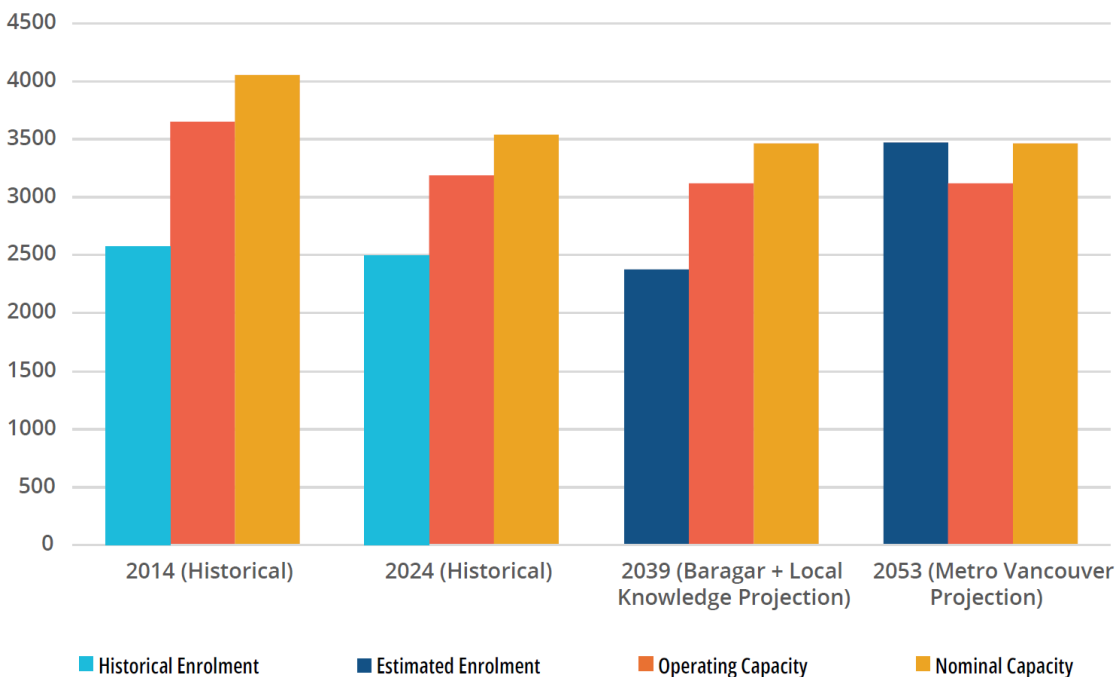


Figure 6: Historic enrolment of schools near Carleton Elementary compared to forecasted enrolment

It is important to note that in September 2025, Metro Vancouver’s average annual net population growth projection was revised from 50,000 to approximately 42,500 residents per year, reflecting the impact of recent federal policy changes affecting immigration and non-permanent residents. While Metro Vancouver is still anticipated to grow in future years, it is growing at a slower and less predictable pace. The Metro Vancouver population modelling included in the June VSB enrolment update is not reflective of this most recent change. As this data was just released, staff are reviewing the impact of the revised Metro Vancouver projections and will continue to monitor any future changes.

## POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY USE FOR ALL OR PART OF THE SCHOOL

In January 2024, Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) made a request to VSB to acquire the Carleton school site. CSF would use the school site for a new secondary school for Francophone rights holders in the area.

CSF is a unique school district in British Columbia that provides French-first language education to students across the province. CSF is not geographically bound, has schools throughout the province and serves Francophone students province-wide, ensuring access to education in French for those with rights under Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

On May 23, 2025, the British Columbia Supreme Court, in *Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique v British Columbia and Vancouver School Board*, 2025 BCSC 962, declared that:

*In addressing the [CSF]’s requests for underutilized or surplus sites and facilities, the [Vancouver School Board] must reasonably consider and proportionately balance the importance of minority language education as a value underpinning section 23 of the Charter.*

The VSB will consider the following information provided by the Conseil on July 9, 2024:

### **Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School**

The Conseil has an immediate need for a site for a second secondary school in Vancouver to deliver constitutionally guaranteed educational services.

École secondaire Jules Verne (“Jules Verne”) is the only secondary school located in Vancouver and serves students residing in Vancouver, Richmond, parts of Burnaby and New Westminster. It was built to accommodate 350 students. In the 2023-24 school year, 527 students are enrolled. To accommodate the additional students, the Conseil has divided the woodworking shop to create additional classrooms (eliminating its ability to offer a woodworking course). Students at Jules Verne are accommodated in portables on the school site (that were meant to serve École Rose-des-Vents elementary students) and use classroom space in the École Rose-des-Vents elementary school facility. The Conseil also leases the basement of the 7th Day Adventist Church to provide additional classroom space.

Further, enrolment at Jules Verne is depressed by the long travel times experienced by most students who attend. The vast majority of section 23 parents living in the Jules Verne catchment area live much closer to an English-language secondary school. A secondary school on the Guy Carleton Elementary School site would be far more accessible to many of those families – such that the Conseil’s secondary enrolment numbers would increase.

Once École Rose-des-Vents is relocated, Jules Verne will take over the entire site. However, the site will still be inferior to VBE sites as it is significantly smaller than all VBE secondary sites and there is no sports field.

On November 14, 2025, the CSF reiterated their interest in the Sir Guy Carleton Site and offered additional information for consideration in the school closure process.

The CSF has a significant population of students residing in East Vancouver who would benefit from local access to a francophone secondary school. The absence of such a facility contributes to long daily commutes, limits enrolment growth, and affects equitable access to French-language education guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The CSF's planned and ongoing expansion of elementary programs in Vancouver West-of-Granville, Vancouver Centre, and Vancouver North-East will significantly increase enrolment pressure at the secondary level.

Developing a secondary school on the Guy Carleton site is therefore an essential component of the CSF's long-term infrastructure strategy. Given that acquisition, funding approvals, and development can extend over a decade, and given the projected doubling of secondary-level enrolment east of Main Street, this reinforces the strategic value of securing a suitable site as early as possible. A secondary school in East Vancouver would:

- Support anticipated growth and relieve pressure on Ecole Jules-Verne;
- Provide appropriate access for students residing east of Main Street and reduce excessive travel times; and
- Temporarily accommodate secondary students from Burnaby and parts of New Westminster until additional CSF schools are established.

The acquisition of the Guy Carleton site aligns with both the CSF's long-term educational planning and the constitutional obligations under Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees francophone families access to schooling in facilities comparable to those of the majority.

Before the Board can consider the sale or lease (disposal) of a site it must first make the decision on the proposed school closure. A separate formal process for land disposition will take place, should the Board choose to proceed under Policy 20 – Disposal of Land or Improvements.

## SUMMARY

VSB does not have the funds to restore Carleton Elementary, and the provincial government has not approved funding to restore it. Approximately \$65,000 in VSB operating funds are spent annually to keep the school buildings secure and safe. These funds could be directed toward supporting students and schools in active use.

- The school buildings have not accommodated students since 2016
- The school buildings are costly to maintain
- The school buildings have a high seismic risk rating
- The school buildings cannot be used in their current state
- Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) has requested to acquire the site to build a secondary school

## NEXT STEPS

The proposed closure of Carleton, currently under consideration, would result in the closure of the school effective December 19, 2025. As stated in Policy 14, the Minister of Education and Child Care would be notified about the closure.

Alternate use of the closed facility will be determined by the Board after receiving a recommendation from the Superintendent.

If the Board decides to close the school, it may then consider declaring, by Board resolution, the Real Property surplus to the needs of the School District and may instruct the Superintendent to proceed with the Real Property disposal process. This is a separate process outlined in Board Policy 20 - Disposal of land or improvements.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School Closure Bylaw 2025 be given three (3) readings at this meeting. (VOTE MUST BE UNANIMOUS)
2. That School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School Closure Bylaw 2025 be:  
Read a first time the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025;  
Read a second time the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025;  
Read a third and final time, passed and adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

### **Attachments:**

- A. Engagement Summary Report
- B. Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School Closure Bylaw
- C. November 14, 2025 Letter from the Conseil scolaire francophone

# Engagement Summary Report: Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary

*December 10, 2025*



*Photo from community info session for the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary held on October 23, 2025 at Weir Elementary.*

*With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əjəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətəł (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

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## Executive summary

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The Vancouver School Board (VSB) is considering the closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School (Carleton) located at 3250 Kingsway, in Vancouver's Joyce-Collingwood neighbourhood. The school sustained severe damage by a fire in 2016 and has not accommodated students since.

At its public meeting on June 26, 2023, the Board approved a motion to begin public consultation in accordance with [Board Policy 14 – School Closure](#). This process was paused to assess the impact of provincial housing changes and updated city zoning on student enrolment.

In June 2025, updated enrolment projections confirmed that nearby schools can accommodate students both now and in the future. On October 1, 2025, the Board restarted the public engagement process regarding the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary.

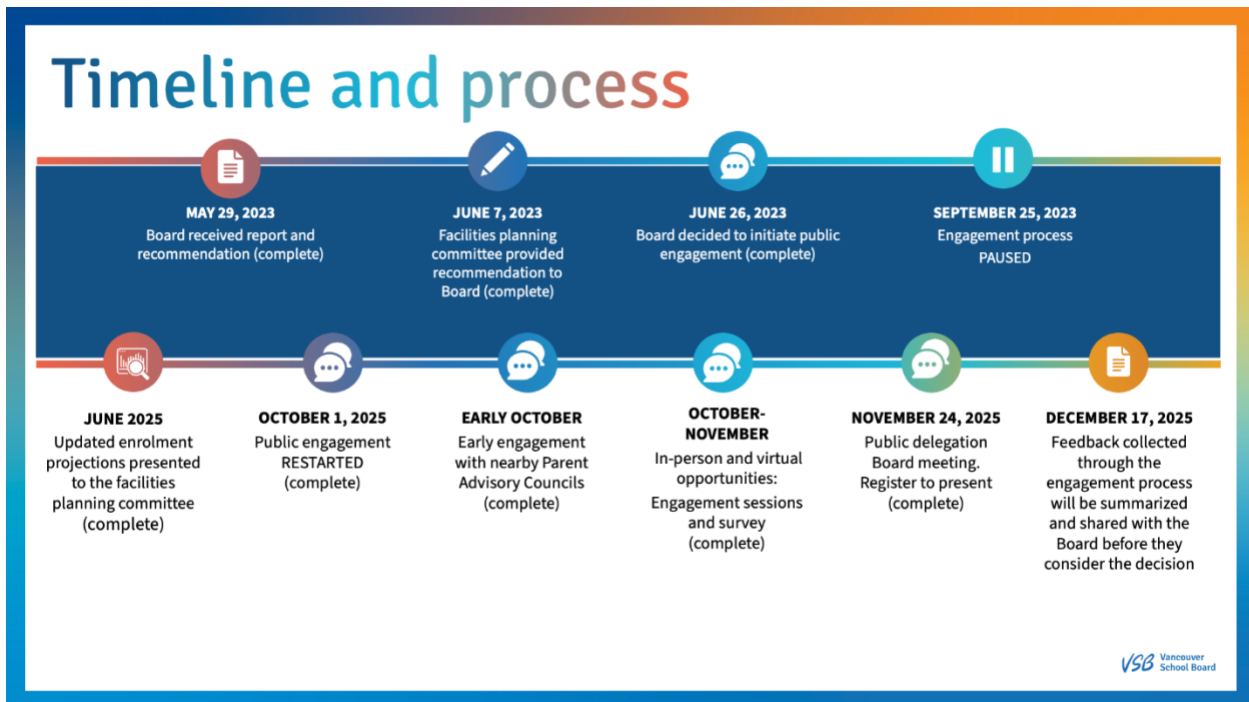
Rationale for the proposed closure and information about the engagement process were published on VSB's website on October 1, 2025.

Engagement opportunities included:

- Submitting email feedback to [engage@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:engage@vsb.bc.ca) between October 2 – December 2, 2025
- Attending an in-person (October 23, 3-6 p.m.) or online (October 28, 6-7 p.m.) information session
- Gathering feedback from inherent rights holders and VSB's formal stakeholder groups (October – November)
- Sharing stakeholder feedback at a facilities and planning committee meeting (November 5, 2025)
- Participating in an online survey between October 21 – November 26, 2025
- Presenting to the Board at a public delegation meeting on November 24, 2025

The public engagement process aimed to ensure that community members understood the reasons for considering the closure of Carleton and had an opportunity to provide feedback. It was designed to support informed input before the Board makes its decision on the school's future. When making decisions, the Board considers many factors, including feedback from those most affected, inherent rights holders, formal stakeholder groups, students, staff and the broader Vancouver public.

Through multiple engagement activities, there were more than 1,500 engagement touchpoints, reflecting a mix of single and repeat participation.



(Note: a special delegation Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15 at 5 p.m.)

## What we heard

We heard a range of responses from participants across all engagement activities: community information sessions, a public delegation meeting, a stakeholder feedback meeting, email submissions and an online survey. Some consistent themes raised during engagement activities included: strong attachment to the school, consideration of future neighbourhood growth/impact on school capacity and opposition to the sale of school property. While this was not unanimous among all participants, it is reflective of feedback received through all engagement activities.

Notably, the online survey yielded the most extensive feedback among all engagement activities. It attracted the largest number of participants, gathering a variety of perspectives regarding the proposed closure of Carleton. The survey received 1,478 submissions, which may include partial responses and potentially multiple entries from some participants.

Respondents to the survey were divided about whether they support (41 per cent) or oppose (43 per cent) the proposed closure, with the remaining number indicating they were unsure (16 per cent). Participants indicated general satisfaction with the engagement process with 82 per cent (51 per cent strongly agreeing; 31 per cent somewhat agreeing) that, “it was easy for me to participate.”

# Communications and engagement overview

## Communications

Communications and engagement efforts followed the Board’s requirements for school closure considerations as outlined in [Board Policy 14 – School Closure](#).

Several notices about this engagement were sent directly to all families of VSB students (distribution list of nearly 90,000 email addresses) and shared on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X). Notices about the engagement were also shared with inherent rights holders, the local MLA for Vancouver-Renfrew, Vancouver’s Mayor and Council, VSB’s formal stakeholder groups and the on-site tenant (Green Thumb Theatre).

Information regarding the engagement including rationale for the proposed school closure, ways to engage and timeline for the decision was also shared publicly on an engagement project web page for the duration of the engagement period and remains available.

### Engagement activities promotion:

Date	Notice
October 1, 2025	Information made available on the Carleton closure <a href="#">engagement web page</a>
October 2, 2025	<a href="#">Email</a> shared to surrounding school communities (Cunningham, Weir and MacCorkindale) about engagement for the proposed closure of Carleton
October 2, 2025	<a href="#">Letters</a> sent to Vancouver-Renfrew MLA and Vancouver Mayor + Council about engagement for the proposed closure of Carleton
October 2, 2025	Letters sent to the following stakeholder groups about engagement for the proposed closure of Carleton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bargaining Council of Vancouver School Board Construction and Maintenance Trades Unions (BCVSBCMTU)</li> <li>Canadian Union of Public Employees 15 (CUPE 15)</li> <li>Canadian Union of Public Employees 407 (CUPE 407)</li> <li>District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)</li> <li>International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)</li> <li>VSB Professional and Administrative Staff Association (PASA)</li> <li>Vancouver Association of Secondary School Administrators (VASSA)</li> <li>Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC)</li> <li>Vancouver Elementary Principals and Vice Principals Association (VEPVPA)</li> <li>Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators’ Society (VEAES)</li> </ul>

Date	Notice
	Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA)
October 9, 2025	<a href="#">Email</a> shared to members of surrounding school communities (Cunningham, Weir and MacCorkindale) regarding engagement opportunities
October 9 and October 14, 2025	Emails to stakeholder groups regarding October 15, 2025 stakeholder engagement workshop
October 20, 2025	Information about engagement for the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary shared with inherent rightsholders during Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meeting
October 21, 2025	<a href="#">Email</a> shared with all VSB families regarding engagement opportunities
October 22, 2025	Link to engagement activities shared on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X)
October 23, 2025	Email to stakeholder groups regarding November 5, 2025 facilities planning committee meeting
October 31, 2025	Notice of facilities planning committee meeting sent to inherent rights holders and stakeholder groups
November 3, 2025	Call out for requests to make delegation presentations to the Board shared on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X)
November 4, 2025	Reminder to complete the online survey shared on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X)
November 10, 2025	Reminder <a href="#">email</a> shared with all VSB families regarding engagement opportunities
November 25, 2025	Reminder to complete the online survey shared on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X)
December 3, 2025	<a href="#">Email</a> shared with all VSB families regarding engagement results (survey, delegations and written feedback) and a notification regarding a special delegation meeting to collect feedback about the results of the engagement process, scheduled, December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
December 3, 2025	Email shared with inherent rights holders regarding engagement results (survey, delegations and written feedback) and a notification regarding a special delegation meeting to collect feedback about the results of the engagement process, scheduled, December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
December 3, 2025	Email shared with stakeholder groups regarding engagement results (survey, delegations and written feedback) and a notification regarding a special delegation meeting to collect feedback about the results of the engagement process, scheduled, December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

## Engagement

VSB follows best practices for engagement as set by the International Association for Public Participation standards (IAP2) and follows the engagement spectrum under [AP106: District public engagement](#).

The goals of this engagement were as follows:


### Foster public understanding and trust in VSB’s decision-making process regarding the proposed school closure of Carleton.

- Create awareness among surrounding school communities about the rationale for the proposed closure, including alignment with [VSB’s Education Plan](#).
- Ensure transparency by providing clear, consistent and accessible information about the closure process to the public.
- Facilitate meaningful engagement by offering multiple, inclusive forums for community members to share their perspectives which will be among factors considered by the Board.
- Reinforce the District’s values through all communications materials, emphasizing equity, respect and responsiveness.
- Inform the community that VSB must be reasonable and that decisions by the Board should reflect a proportionate balancing of VSB’s future needs against the present needs of Francophone-language rights holders and the importance of the French-language education offered by Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF).

## IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



IAP2’s Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public’s role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

		INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 				
		INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL		To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
	PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Accordingly, this engagement process operated in the consult area of the spectrum, meaning feedback from participants was sought to help inform the Board’s decision-making.

The following engagement activities took place:

Date	Activity
October 1, 2025	Information made available about the proposed closure of Carleton on an <a href="#">engagement web page</a>
October 2 – December 2, 2025	<a href="mailto:engage@vsb.bc.ca">engage@vsb.bc.ca</a> email was open for feedback
October 10, 2025	Meeting with Green Thumb Theatre
October 14, 2025	Early engagement meeting with invited PAC executives of schools near Carleton (Cunningham, Weir, MacCorkindale)
October 15, 2025	Early engagement meeting with VSB stakeholder groups
October 20, 2025	Early engagement with inherent rights holders at the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meeting
October 21 – November 26, 2025	Public survey open
October 23, 2025	In-person information session held at Weir Elementary
October 28, 2025	Online information session held via Microsoft Teams
November 5, 2025	Facilities planning committee to collect feedback from inherent rights holders and stakeholder group representatives
November 24, 2025	Public delegation meeting

## Report preparation

A mix of quantitative and qualitative engagement activities were implemented and analyzed. An inductive approach was used to assess the information gathered, providing an objective presentation of data across engagement activities. To support the review, artificial intelligence (Microsoft Copilot) was used to reduce manual input. Staff took deliberate steps to protect participants' privacy by removing all personal details from the data, ensuring compliance with privacy standards. All data was reviewed by qualified professionals and assessed for accuracy before this report was developed. Feedback presented in this report, along with other relevant considerations, will inform the Board as it considers this matter.

## Early engagement

Early engagement regarding the Carleton closure consideration occurred October 14-20, 2025 and was designed to gather initial feedback from Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) executives, VSB's formal stakeholder groups and inherent rights holders. One of the main objectives of early engagement is to consult with participants to identify and address barriers in participation, to ensure an inclusive process.

## PAC executives and stakeholder representatives

As part of early engagement, meetings were held with PAC executives and stakeholder representatives. Each meeting began with a presentation by staff providing background information about the Carleton site, rationale for the closure consideration, enrolment projections, the Board’s decision-making process and timeline as well as an overview of the engagement plan. Participants were then offered an opportunity to ask any clarifying questions about the information presented. We also asked participants the following questions:

1. Was the information presented today about the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary clear?
2. Are there supports or things we can do to make public participation easier and more inclusive?
3. Are there any other ways we can encourage public participation?
4. Are there any additional topics or information you suggest we include in future public sessions about the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary?
5. Any additional questions or feedback?

### Summary of early engagement attendees:

Date	Audience	Attendees
October 14, 2025	PAC executives of surrounding school communities (Cunningham, Weir and MacCorkindale)	Two PAC executives from Weir Principals of Cunningham, Weir and MacCorkindale
October 15, 2025	VSB stakeholder groups	Representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 15 (CUPE 15)</li> <li>• District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)</li> <li>• International Union of Operating Engineers (IOUE)</li> <li>• Professional and Administrative Staff Association (PASA)</li> <li>• Vancouver District Students’ Council (VDSC)</li> <li>• Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators’ Society (VEAES)</li> <li>• Vancouver Secondary Teachers’ Association (VSTA)</li> </ul> Trustees present as observers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee Victoria Jung</li> <li>• Trustee Janet Fraser</li> <li>• Trustee Suzie Mah</li> </ul>

## Green Thumb Theatre

A meeting was held with Green Thumb Theatre on October 10, 2025 to provide an update regarding the timeline and process for the proposed closure of Carleton and collect feedback from them.

Representatives for the theatre group noted that the buildings they occupy have significant heritage value. They expressed concerns about having to relocate as affordable space in the city is limited. VSB staff noted that no termination clauses are outlined in the theatre group's lease which is effective until December 31, 2031. Staff further shared VSB's desire to continue respectful and transparent communication moving forward.

## Indigenous Education Council

At the October 20, 2025, Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meeting, with inherent rights holders from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) present, staff delivered a presentation providing background about the Carleton site, rationale for the closure consideration, enrolment projections, the Board's process and timeline as well as an overview of the engagement plan.

The inherent rights holders representatives who were present did not provide immediate feedback. However, staff shared the various methods available to provide feedback, such as a written submission, a survey, through existing structures such as the facilities planning committee and the public delegation Board meeting or through direct conversation with staff. An additional presentation for each Host Nation was also offered, if desired. No further requests for information or meetings were received.

## How early engagement formed our next steps

Early engagement activities helped staff refine the broader engagement approach.

### Clear information and multiple ways to participate

Participants noted that language translation was important for the communities in the Joyce-Collingwood neighbourhood and requested translators for the most commonly spoken languages in the area (Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese). Translators were present throughout the in-person session on October 23, 2025. Weir Elementary was chosen for the in-person session as a central location for families of surrounding school communities. Additionally, a virtual evening session was held on October 28, 2025. These opportunities were widely promoted.

All engagement opportunities were also shared with all VSB families via email, promoted on VSB's social media channels and publicly posted on the [engagement web page](#).

### Community outreach

During early engagement, participants noted the importance of sharing the information about the potential closure with as wide of an audience as possible.

One stakeholder representative suggested utilizing social media, especially Instagram to reach out to students and families. As a result of this feedback, we issued four social media reminders on four channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X) about engagement opportunities between October 22 - November 25, 2025.

Based on the suggestion of one stakeholder representative, we reached out to Collingwood Neighbourhood House and Collingwood Community Policing Centre to provide background about the Carleton closure consideration and shared opportunities for them to engage.

### More information about enrolment and projections

Several participants in early engagement activities also requested more information about VSB's enrolment projections and the methodology used to generate projections. One stakeholder representative requested utilization and capacity data for the schools surrounding Carleton.

As a result, enrolment projections and methodology were explained in greater detail in the materials and presentations that followed early engagement. Regarding capacity and utilization, current capacity utilization rates were provided along with projected operating capacity and nominal capacity for 2039 and 2053. Operating capacity refers to the number of students the school can support considering how spaces are used and the required staffing levels. Nominal capacity refers to the number of students a school was originally built to accommodate.

### Common questions and answers

Questions raised in all early engagement sessions provided a helpful starting point for [common questions and answers](#) that were compiled and answered on the engagement web page.

## Broader engagement

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### Community information sessions

Two community information sessions were held for families of VSB students and the broader public to share information, answer questions and collect participants' questions regarding the proposed closure of Carleton.

#### *In-person session*

The in-person session was held in the community on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Weir Elementary. Participants were invited to drop in during the 3-6 p.m. window. Information [boards](#) were set up for participants to review. These provided background and rationale for the proposed closure. Staff were present to answer questions. As suggested by participants during early engagement activities, light refreshments, child minding and activities were also provided. Additionally, translation support – in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese – was available during the in-person session.

#### *Online session*

The online session via Microsoft Teams was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, from 6-7 p.m. Staff shared the same information that was presented at the in-person session. Following the presentation, staff answered participants' questions.

While staff were available during both sessions to address questions, participants were strongly encouraged to submit their feedback via the online survey.

Date/Time	Event	Participants registered	Participants in attendance
October 23, 2025 3:00-6:00 p.m.	In-person drop-in session at Weir Elementary	9	22
October 28, 2025 6:00-7:00 p.m.	Online session on Microsoft Teams	40	14

### Facilities planning committee (stakeholder feedback)

A **facilities planning committee meeting** was held on November 5, 2025. Prior to the meeting, inherent rights holders and stakeholder group representatives were invited to share written submissions to be included in the **agenda package**. Three written submissions were received from VSB formal stakeholder groups: DPAC, PASA and a joint submission from VEPVA/VASSA. VSTA did not submit a statement for inclusion in the agenda package prior to the meeting, however, they provided a statement during the meeting.

#### Summary of feedback from stakeholder representatives shared at committee meeting:

Stakeholder	Position/Quote
DPAC	<p>Opposed to closure <i>(Quote pulled from letter)</i></p> <p>“The land at Carleton Elementary (“Carleton”) holds deep historical and cultural significance for many, including Indigenous and other minority families who call this area home. This is the 4th attempt in 15 years to close Carleton. The school’s survival reflects the community’s commitment to fight for greater equity in an area where families have lived, learned and raised children for over 125 years.”</p>
PASA	<p>Supportive of closure <i>(Quote pulled from letter)</i></p> <p>“Maintaining a mothballed facility for such an extended period places unnecessary strain on already limited resources and funding. These funds could be better allocated to support active school sites and enhance educational outcomes.”</p>
VEPVA and VASSA	<p>Neutral about closure, supportive of process <i>(Quote pulled from letter)</i></p> <p>“We appreciate the processes under way for all inherent rights holders to engage in this conversation. VEPVA and VASSA support the decision the board makes that meets the goals of the Long-Range Facilities Plan and demonstrates responsible and efficient management of the operations budget and sees resources being aligned with the Ed Plan to meet the needs of students in the district.”</p>
VSTA	<p>Opposed to closure <i>(Quote from facilities planning meeting)</i></p> <p>“On April 4, 2019, the VSTA executive committee passed a motion. The motion states that, ‘the VSTA oppose the selling of any VSB land or property.’ For the many reasons that were offered tonight, trying to get land back in this city in the future is going to be next to impossible for a school, so we felt that in 2019 and even more so today.”</p>

During the facilities planning committee meeting, each group was allotted five minutes to present. Trustees heard from three stakeholder representatives: DPAC, PASA and VSTA during the meeting. The meeting was live-streamed and recorded (see [Appendix F](#) for link to recording).

## Public delegation summary

A public delegation Board meeting was held on November 24, 2025. Fifteen delegations were pre-registered to present about the proposed closure of Carleton and 13 presented at the meeting. One written submission was received prior to the meeting and was included in the agenda package. Following each delegation presentation, trustees had the opportunity to ask delegates clarifying questions. Twelve delegations opposed the proposed closure and one delegation supported the proposed closure. The meeting was live-streamed and recorded (see [Appendix F](#) for link to recording).

## Survey

An online survey was made available from October 21 to November 26, 2025. The purpose of the survey was to collect feedback about the proposed closure of Carleton from a wide range of perspectives in a format that could be completed at the participants' convenience. The survey yielded 1,478 submissions, reflecting responses that may include partial entries and multiple submissions by some respondents.

The survey was comprised of 13 questions with a mix of multiple choice and open-ended questions. No character limits were imposed on the open text questions. The first set of questions collected demographic information. The next set of questions asked respondents about their support or opposition to the proposed closure as well as the reasons for their stance. The last set of questions asked about the clarity and accessibility of the engagement process and contact details if participants wished to receive regular updates.

The survey was promoted publicly on four social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X), shared on the engagement web page and distributed via email to all families of VSB students (~90,000 email addresses). Social media and email reminders were also sent.

*Please note: in the results that follow, not all percentages add up to 100 as respondents were asked to select multiple options for some questions. All survey results including redacted open-ended responses can be viewed [here](#) (and in [Appendix D](#)).*

## Who participated

The majority, 88 per cent (1,296 respondents), identified as being a parent/guardian of a VSB student. Most respondents indicated they had children attending VSB elementary schools/programs. Seven per cent (103 respondents) identified as VSB staff, six per cent (96 respondents) identified as parents/guardian of a future VSB student and another six per cent (94 respondents) identified as Vancouver residents with no children in VSB. A smaller percentage of respondents identified as being a parent/guardian of a student not enrolled in a VSB school, VSB students, local business/organization or other. Furthermore, eight per cent of respondents indicated that they resided in the Renfrew-Collingwood community. Two per cent (30 respondents) indicated they were students.

## Carleton closure consideration

Most respondents to this question (90 per cent or 1,202) reported some level of familiarity with the reasons for the proposed closure of Carleton: 26 per cent were very familiar, 32 per cent familiar and 32 per cent somewhat familiar. Ten per cent (137 respondents) indicated they were not familiar with the reasons for the proposed closure.

Eighty-nine per cent (1,194 respondents) indicated they were aware that the buildings were unusable and have not been used by students since 2016.

Forty-three per cent (578 respondents) indicated they did not support the closure of Carleton while 41 per cent (556 respondents) did support its closure. Sixteen per cent (212 respondents) indicated they were unsure about whether they supported the closure of Carleton.

Respondents indicated that the reason for the proposed closure that most resonated with them was 'the building is unsafe and costly to maintain,' selected by 86 per cent (428 respondents). Other reasons included:

- 'The school buildings have not accommodated students since 2016': 78 per cent (472 respondents)
- 'There are seismic safety concerns with the building': 50 per cent (274 respondents)
- 'The building is expensive to maintain': 47 per cent (258 respondents)
- 'Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) would like to use the site to build a secondary school': 33 per cent (179 respondents)
- 'Other': 8 per cent (46 respondents)

## Open-ended questions

A total of 505 comments were submitted in response to the open text question: "Please share with us your reasons for not supporting the proposed closure of Carleton Elementary." Respondents' comments indicated they are concerned about the impact of ongoing neighbourhood growth and densification on future school capacity, emphasizing the need for accessible, walkable school communities that support families and community well-being. Many respondents described Carleton as an integral part of community history and culture, advocating for its preservation and continued use as a vital community hub. Submissions also noted concerns about the potential loss of public school land.

A total of 642 comments were submitted in response to the open text question inviting participants to share any additional information with trustees before the Board's decision about the proposed closure of Carleton. Most comments emphasized the importance of long-term planning in light of neighbourhood growth, the need to retain public school land and the value of Carleton as a historic and community asset. Respondents urged trustees to prioritize educational capacity, equity and responsible stewardship. To a lesser degree, some comments called for leasing rather than selling the site (about 15 per cent), support for a CSF francophone school on the property (about eight per cent) and smaller clusters advocated for the outright sale (about seven per cent) or permanent closure on financial or capacity grounds (about six per cent). Less common suggestions also included converting the site to community facilities (about three per cent), demolishing and building a new school (about two per cent) and suggestions for staff housing or transfer to city or parks (less than one per cent).

All [open-ended responses](#), redacted to protect the privacy of respondents, can be found on the engagement web page (also in [Appendix D](#)).

## Communications and engagement

Survey results indicated overall satisfaction with the engagement process.

- Sixty-seven per cent (824 respondents) strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that the information received was clear.
- Sixty-two per cent (763 respondents) strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that they understood the decision-making process.
- Eighty-one per cent (986 respondents) strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that it was easy for them to participate.
- Ninety-one per cent (1,112 respondents) strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that they appreciated being able to provide input into this decision.

## Email submissions and public correspondence

Between October 2 and December 2, 2025, 65 emails and letters regarding the Carleton closure consideration were received. All correspondence submitted through our established engagement channel ([engage@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:engage@vsb.bc.ca)) has been shared with trustees, consolidated and posted publicly with personal details redacted. In addition, correspondence sent to trustees and shared with staff for the record has been included in the publicly disclosed materials. These submissions were [published online](#) (also in [Appendix E](#)).

Written submissions conveyed concerns about a lack of updated planning data, especially regarding the impacts that recent and anticipated population growth in the Joyce-Collingwood neighbourhood will have on schools. Parents/guardians, stakeholders and community members who provided submissions also expressed a wish to preserve public school land for future educational use and requested other consultation formats and longer timelines.

## Next steps

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This report provides an overview of the communication efforts as well as findings gathered through the planned engagement activities related to the proposed closure of Carleton in accordance with Board [Policy 14 – School Closure](#).

Engagement findings about the potential closure of Carleton and any input regarding the engagement feedback provided at the special public delegation meeting on December 15, 2025, will help inform the Board's decision at the special public Board meeting on December 17, 2025.

Following the decision, notice will be posted on the VSB website and made available to inherent rights holders, VSB's formal stakeholder groups, staff, students' families and the broader public.

We sincerely thank all participants for their time and thoughtful contributions to this engagement process.

# Appendices

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## Appendix A: Email notifications and letters

The following emails were issued to families of VSB students informing them about engagement activities and ways to submit their feedback.

- [Email 1](#)
- [Email 2](#)
- [Email 3](#)
- [Email 4](#)
- [Email 5](#)

The following letters were sent to public officials.

- [Letter](#) to Vancouver-Kingsway MLA, Adrian Dix
- [Letter](#) to Vancouver Mayor and Council

## Appendix B: Early engagement presentation

- PowerPoint [slides](#)

## Appendix C: Information session display boards

The following display boards were used during the in-person and online public engagement sessions.

- Display [boards](#)

## Appendix D: Survey results

- Survey [results](#)

## Appendix E: Email feedback and public correspondence

- Email [feedback and public correspondence](#)

## Appendix F: Recordings of live-streamed meetings

- [Online information session](#) (October 28, 2025)
- [Facilities planning committee](#) (November 5, 2025)
- [Public delegation Board meeting](#) (November 24, 2025)

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 39 (VANCOUVER)**

**SIR GUY CARLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURE BYLAW 2025**

WHEREAS a board of education may close a school permanently or for a specified period of time under the authority of Section 73(1) of the *School Act*, subject to the Orders of the Minister of Education (the “**Minister**”);

AND WHEREAS the Minister issued Order M194/08 effective September 3, 2008 (the “**Closure Order**”) which requires a school board to develop and implement a policy (a “**School Closure Policy**”) that includes a public consultation process with respect to permanent school closures, and the public consultation process must include:

- (a) a fair consideration of the community’s input and adequate opportunity for the community to respond to a board’s proposal to close the school permanently;
- (b) consideration of future enrolment growth in the district of persons of school age, persons of less than school age and adults; and
- (c) consideration of possible alternative community use for all or part of the school;

AND WHEREAS the Closure Order requires a board of education to exercise a power with respect to the permanent closure of a school only by bylaw;

AND WHEREAS:

- (i) The Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) (the “**Board**”) has followed its School Closure Policy in respect of the proposed permanent closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary (the “**School**”) and has duly considered all of the community’s input and responses, future enrolment growth in the district and possible alternative community uses for all or part of the School;
- (ii) the School is facility number 3939030;
- (iii) the address of the School is 3250 Kingsway Vancouver, British Columbia, V5R-5K5 and the legal description of the Property is:  
  
Parcel Identifier: 008-988-625 Legal Description: BLOCK A, EXCEPT PART IN PLAN LMP23466, DISTRICT LOTS 37 AND 50 PLAN 11925; and
- (iv) the Board proposes to close the School permanently on December 19, 2025 the (“**Closure Date**”).

NOW THEREFORE be it enacted as a Bylaw of the Board that the School be permanently closed as of the Closure Date.

This Bylaw may be cited as “School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School Closure Bylaw 2025”.

November 14 2025

**To:** Chair and Members of the Vancouver School Board

**Subject:** Reiteration of CSF Interest in the Guy Carleton Site

**Dear Chair and Members of the Board,**

The *Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique* (CSF) wishes to formally reiterate its interest in the Guy Carleton site for the establishment of a secondary school serving students in the Vancouver East-of-Main catchment area.

We appreciate the Board's ongoing planning efforts and offer the following information for consideration in the context of the current school-closure review process. This data reflects the CSF's continuing analysis of francophone education needs in Vancouver and the surrounding area and underscores the long-term importance of the Guy Carleton site within a coordinated provincial approach to public-education infrastructure.

**1. Student Population in the Vancouver East-of-Main Area**

The CSF has a significant population of students residing in East Vancouver who would benefit from local access to a francophone secondary school. The absence of such a facility contributes to long daily commutes, limits enrolment growth, and affects equitable access to French-language education guaranteed under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

- **Current enrolment:** approximately **660 K–12 students**, including about **250 secondary students**.  
These figures represent students living in Vancouver East only and exclude those from nearby Burnaby and parts of New Westminster who currently attend *École Jules-Verne* at the secondary level.
- **Current situation:** Elementary students currently living on the southeast side of Vancouver attend **École Anne-Hébert** (7051 Killarney St., Vancouver). Students living on the northeast side of Vancouver currently attend **École Norval Morisseau** (2882 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver) for Kindergarten to Grade 3. Due to limited space at this facility, Grades 4 to 6 are required students to travel to **École Anne-Hébert**.  
Please note that *École Norval Morisseau* operates within the **Macquinna Annex** facility, which is owned by the Vancouver School Board (VSB).  
Finally, secondary students living east of Main Street in Vancouver currently attend **École Jules-Verne** (5445 Baillie Street, Vancouver), which is operating above its capacity with a total of 540 students.
- **Eligible students (Statistics Canada, 2021 Census):** approximately **2,500 K–12 students**, including roughly **1,200 secondary students** who are constitutionally entitled to education in French.

## 2. Long-Term Planning and Projected Demand

The CSF's planned and ongoing expansion of elementary programs in Vancouver West-of-Granville, Vancouver Centre, and Vancouver North-East will significantly increase enrolment pressure at the secondary level.

École Jules-Verne, the CSF's only secondary school currently serving all of Vancouver, is already operating above capacity.

Developing a secondary school on the Guy Carleton site is therefore an essential component of the CSF's long-term infrastructure strategy. Given that acquisition, funding approvals, and development can extend over a decade, and given the projected doubling of secondary-level enrolment east of Main Street, this reinforces the strategic value of securing a suitable site as early as possible.

A secondary school in East Vancouver would:

- Support anticipated growth and relieve pressure on École Jules-Verne;
- Provide appropriate access for students residing east of Main Street and reduce excessive travel times; and
- Temporarily accommodate secondary students from Burnaby and parts of New Westminster until additional CSF schools are established.

## 3. Strategic and Constitutional Considerations

The acquisition of the Guy Carleton site aligns with both the CSF's long-term educational planning and the constitutional obligations under Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees francophone families access to schooling in facilities comparable to those of the majority.

The CSF remains committed to working constructively with the Vancouver School Board, the Province of British Columbia, and other partners to ensure that public-education facilities across Vancouver are planned and utilized to best serve the needs of all students.

Sincerely,



Vincent Tourvieille  
Secretary Treasurer  
*Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF)*