

SPECIAL PUBLIC DELEGATION BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

Monday, December 15, 2025, 5:00 to 7:00 pm
In the Boardroom
VSB Education Centre

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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

1.2 OPENING REMARKS

2. DELEGATIONS

Delegations are estimated to begin at approximately 5:00 PM

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

- 2.1.1 James Schultz
- 2.1.2 David Finnis
- 2.1.3 Subrata Dasgupta
- 2.1.4 Devin Harlos
- 2.1.5 Marie-Eve Boudreau
- 2.1.6 Tiffany-Anne Timbers (online)
- 2.1.7 Kaori Lau (online)
- 2.1.8 Florence Li (online)
- 2.1.9 Indu Bhagat (online)
- 2.1.10 Trevor Falkenhagen (online)
- 2.1.11 Anjali Lacerte (online)
- 2.1.12 Jennifer Gray-Grant (online)
- 2.1.13 Vivek Khanna (online)
- 2.1.14 Vik Khanna (online)

3. ADJOURNMENT

Excerpt from Policy 7 – Board Operations

Public Delegation Board Meetings

Public Delegation Board meetings are intended to provide community members with the opportunity to share their thoughts about Board policies, Board decisions and the budget. Topics about specific employees or individual students cannot be discussed at these meetings. Also, presentations that are commercial in nature cannot be made at these meetings. No Board business, other than the receipt of public delegations, shall be conducted at this meeting and as such, no matter raised by a delegation shall be considered at this meeting.

Public Delegation Board meetings may be conducted in person or by electronic means, depending on the needs of the Board and the availability of appropriate technology. Delegations presenting in either format are subject to the same rules of conduct, time limits, and procedural expectations.

Procedures for Delegations:

- The time allotted for the delegation's presentation will be five minutes.
- Delegations are welcome to present information, perspectives, and opinions for the consideration of the Board.
- Any presentation slides or written comments that the delegation wants to have shared at the meeting must be submitted to the Secretary Treasurer's Office no later than noon the business day before the meeting.
- Delegates are expected to comply with Board norms of conduct and decorum at meetings. Personal, inflammatory, or accusatory language will not be tolerated.
- Board members may direct questions for clarification through the spokesperson for the delegation; however, the matter will not be debated.
- Board member questions for staff in relation to delegation presentation will be emailed to the Superintendent who shall determine how best to provide the information requested.
- Presentations may be delivered in person or online, depending on the delegation's preference and the Board's technical capacity.

Expected Behaviour of Audience and Presenters

All attendees, including the audience and presenters, are expected to behave respectfully and professionally. Audience members should listen attentively, avoid disruptions, and show respect to everyone present. They should follow the established procedures for commenting or asking questions and refrain from personal attacks or derogatory language. Presenters should deliver clear and concise presentations, treat all participants with respect, and support their arguments with relevant information. Following these expectations will create a productive and respectful environment for meaningful discussions and decision-making.

Recording the meeting in either video or audio format is not permitted.

Individuals who fail to comply with these guidelines, or who disrupt the proceedings, will be asked to leave the meeting by the Board Chairperson.

Use of Props in Board Meetings

To preserve public trust and to maintain a respectful, orderly, and professional environment during Board meetings, the use of props by trustees and delegations is not permitted. This includes any objects, signs, costumes, or visual aids that are not part of the official meeting materials or presentations approved in advance.

Exceptions may be made for approved presentation materials that support agenda items, provided they are submitted in advance to the Secretary Treasurer's Office, are not disruptive to the decorum of the meeting, and have been included in the meeting agenda materials.

This policy supports the Board's commitment to respectful dialogue, impartial governance, and the preservation of public trust in its proceedings.

[REDACTED] I am opposed to the closure of Guy Carleton Elementary for the following reasons:

1. It feels as though the School Board is forcing a decision for closure after neglecting the building and deferring upgrades for the past 9 years after the fire. This is a tactic sometimes undertaken by developers called demolition by neglect whereby the owner allows the building to deteriorate to such a degree that demolition becomes the only option. Your own rationale for closure states the buildings have not been occupied since 2016 and that the buildings cannot be used in their current state. But that's because the Board did not fix the building and moved students out. So to use these as arguments as if they're out of your control is dishonest.
2. A school in this location is good planning. The location is within the heart of Collingwood, within close proximity to transit, shops and services. It's also within one of the province's Transit Oriented Areas or TOAs specifically targeted for growth which we are already experiencing with the multiple new towers underway and even a new residential building just opening across the street from the school on the corner of Kingsway and Joyce. To close a school within a TOA is completely antithetical to good planning practice and building complete communities. The entire point of a TOA is to merge density with public amenities. We should be grateful we already have the public asset in our community, and we should be taking care of it, not letting it rot for 9 years and then saying "oh no, it's beyond repair well I guess we have to close it."
3. I want to go over the 5 points in your rationale for closure because I believe they are flawed.

The first is that the school buildings have not accommodated students since 2016. This is disingenuous reasoning as it is a result of the VSB's own inaction that the building has not accommodated students since 2016.

The second is that the school buildings are costly to maintain. Again, it has been VSB's decision to leave the building vacant and pay the monthly maintenance costs instead of repairing. This has nothing to do with the importance of the asset to the community so why is it being used as an argument to close the school.

The third reason is that the buildings have a high seismic risk rating. Again, we should not be closing school because of high seismic risk. We should be seismically upgrading them, as we have been doing throughout the province. This argument to close the school doesn't make sense.

Your forth fourth reason is that the Conseil Scolaire Francophone has requested to acquire the site. I would be supportive of a French school on this site, however a request is not a plan. There's no agreement in place, this is just words at this point. Something so loose should not be used as rationale to close a school.

The fifth reason is that the buildings cannot be used in their current state. Again, this is a very flawed rationale because the buildings cannot be used due to willful inaction, not because they are not needed.

Finally, I would like to say that good planning requires an honest evaluation of all aspects of a decision. So far the VSB's reports have been entirely skewed to closing the school and the negatives associated with the site. An honest evaluation would also consider the benefits of keeping the school open so that we can make an informed decision.

Thank you very much for your time.

Good evening Trustees,

I would just like to spend a couple of minutes this evening to strongly urge you to listen to the public voices that elected you to serve. I have attached below the minutes from a public forum last Wednesday at Collingwood Neighbourhood House. Please pay special attention to the audience comments and listen to the families who live in the neighbourhoods surrounding Carleton. I am amongst one of those families. Ours are the families that your decision will affect most.

Thank you,

Kaori Lau

Save Carleton Public Forum

Dec. 10, 6:30 – 8:30 at Collingwood Neighbourhood House

Key Info:

- Public Delegation is on Monday with the VSB, must register to speak by Thursday Dec. 11 by 4pm
- Decision will be made by VSB on December 17th
- All background information on slides can be found here at SaveCarleton.com
- To register to speak, sign up [here](#)
- Community members are meeting to knock on doors near Carleton School to put up lawn signs on Friday at 2pm and Saturday at 12pm

Introduction, Land Acknowledgement

Melanie:

- Begins the meeting by ringing the Carleton School Bell – with it comes the history and stories from Carleton school, her husband, mom and other family members went to Carleton
- During the (successful!) Save Bruce Field initiative, there was clear mandate from Collingwood community that they want to save the school; this is what is needed now
- Giving credit to Collingwood Recreation Society which started after Save Bruce Field and its many community building initiatives

Presentation on Carleton Elementary and background information:

- 2005, expected seismic upgrades

- 2010 and 2016 proposed closures (received thousands of signatures to avoid closures)
- 2016 Fire at Carleton
- 2019, Carleton was approved for funding by province but VSB didn't move forward, deferred upgrade because there was "no business case," no transparency as to how it was decided
- 2022, VSB files subdivision plan with CoV, there was no consultation
- 2023, proposed closure, deferred to update enrolment projections, change in catchment boundaries (now students in area are split between Weir, Mccorkindale and Cunningham, stories families with kids being split between 2 schools)
- 2025, updated projections and again up for closure (Decision will be made Dec. 17, 2025)

Further Context:

- Recent rezoning applications: 3000 new homes since 2016 in neighbourhood, upcoming proposed redevelopment of the 2400 Motel
- 2016, Joyce Collingwood Precinct Plan, exceeded projection in 9 years vs. 15 years with no new public amenities (promised more childcare spaces, after school care, a new library, a cultural space)
- In next 8 years, VSB projects 1000 more children in Joyce Collingwood
- VSB projects there will be a lower birth rate but other factors (such as immigration); families will move to areas where schools have space (For example, families leaving downtown due to shortage of school spaces)
- VSB uses "Bargar Data," for shorter term planning
- Trying to find childcare and school aged care will be even more challenging, families will need to travel outside catchment
- No space in new developments (towers) for community spaces or childcare
- City → made lots of promises to provide public amenities; VSB → downsizing, subdividing

Questions and Comments from Audience:

Q. Is Carleton open?

A. It's been completely closed and vacant for 9 years, only one building damaged but whole site was closed

Q. Where are the students going to school now?

A. Graham Bruce, Collingwood Annex, Grenfell (seismically upgraded but is already full), St. Mary's private school is also full.

Q. At the 2019 meeting, VSB argued that the buildings are not safe. Has the VSB explained that the plan is not viable for x, y, z reasons?

A. Melanie – VSB did not look for other options, e.g. alternative community use, didn't prioritize it for repairs from capital budget, now the school is beyond repair

Q. VSB is relying on faulty data even though it's projected that population of children will grow by 1000. It wasn't clear before who owned the land that Carleton is on. Who owns the land?

A. VSB owns the school + the land

Audience Comment: VSB seemed 'surprised' about the subdivision when he spoke at the previous public delegation

Adrian Dix: We need more public land for schooling because of density growth over time. The land must be for public use. The value of the site has increased without maintaining the site.

Audience Comment: As a former school board trustee, Carleton will be deemed 'excess space.' It should put forward that community members don't consider it excess space. It should've been used for the community, not sitting here empty. They might say, "Everything is fine," and "it's costing us this much money," but we need to say that it belongs to the community, families, residents.

Melanie: School are needed for student spaces and also alternative community use, and Section 23 minority rights. There needs to be a plan for the whole district, with public input.

Audience Speaker: I'm French Canadian, my kids to go school with CSF (Conseil Scolaire Francophone), I want good schools for all families.

- According to Section 23 of Canadian Charter Minority Rights: French parents have the right for the kids to be educated in French (to be able to communicate with their family)
- Imagine if Anglophone + Francophone parents collaborated to elevate both together
- VSB and CSF need to work together in creating a long term plan

Melanie: A long range facility plan is standard in VSB but it's not being done in Carleton closure. We need to stop the closure, create a long range facility plan and to incorporate Section 23 minority rights, and plan for growth across the City

Audience comment: VSB is not communicating with the City of Vancouver. There are proposed high rises all over Vancouver/Burnaby, there have been proposals to buy the Chilean co-op in the neighbourhood right near Carleton.

Melanie: People are concerned about redevelopment in our neighbourhood. There is a lot of uncertainty and neighbourhood planning isn't being followed.

Q. Is there funding from the province?

A. The approval was for the project definition report, a capital plan bylaw was passed at VSB, usually the last step before seismically upgrading the school; onus was on VSB to make it go ahead but they didn't do this step. There are 109 schools and they have to manage it but blaming the province isn't true. They had an option, could've made a business case for a swing space so kids could go to this school when it was being upgraded. There was never a formal business case at the provincial level.

Audience Comment: What we need is a planning process on what to do with the land

Melanie: First we need to stop the closure and then decide, what is the space going to look like.

Audience comment: "Public delegation" sounds intimidating. The most impactful thing is to speak from your heart, you don't need to speak professionally. You don't even need to speak for the full 5 minutes. Hearing personal connection is powerful.

Melanie: Speaking also means voices are on the public record.

Audience comment: My son was in the last graduating class before the fire. For the past 9 years, I've been paying taxes for something that hasn't been benefiting my community. We need to address what we've lacked in the past.

Melanie: Site acquisition and space is needed for future planning. When you dispose of land, you're saying this community isn't going to need that. A lot of their data hasn't been released to us.

Audience comment: I've lived here for 31 years and I've seen Carleton when it was thriving. It's not surplus land, the school has been there for more than 125 years. City of Vancouver planning is not up to par.

Melanie: The VSB's "Capture" rate doesn't apply to our community. They're counting on only 76% of youth to go to public school. Many families in area can't afford it and private schools are already full. Many students who go to St. Mary are Carleton students. A parent came to me and said she moved here from Surrey because she couldn't find a spot. She has 3 kids. Her oldest is at Windemere and her middle child couldn't get a spot at Bruce

and had a space at a school that was a 45-minute walk away while her youngest child got in to Bruce. She had to withdraw both kids and send them to St. Mary's so they could be together but she's struggling to pay tuition.

Adrian Dix: There are different ways to get involved like speaking next week but if not, show up to the meeting to observe and bear witness. We will be knocking on doors to ask people to put up a sign at 2pm on Friday and Saturday at noon to let your neighbours know what's going on in the immediate area around the school. Sign the petition and invite neighbours.

Finally, we can't give up. VSB might decide to close it but we won't quit. We need to fight for it and say what we think and need. It doesn't make sense for a city that's growing to give up public land. To fight for it now is very important. This land isn't surplus to us.

December 11, 2025

Dear Vancouver School Trustees,

I plan to speak to the Board next Monday regarding the potential closure of Carleton School but as you also require a written submission, here is a summary of what I'll be saying.

I've lived and worked in Renfrew-Collingwood for 32 years. My children attended the fine arts tracks at Nootka Elementary, Windermere and Magee Secondary: both now work in the arts. I remain deeply grateful for their public-school education.

I have always been engaged in my neighbourhood, as a volunteer and professionally. For 14 years I served as executive director of Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH).

One of the facts of life in this neighbourhood is its rapid densification. It always surprised me that when City Councillors and planners visited CNH, they were astonished at the neighbourhood's rapid densification; yet their decisions drove that change, which continues to happen far faster than they'd anticipated. Have you visited the neighbourhood or just looked at maps? Seeing the densification firsthand is far more illuminating.

Over the years, when Carleton has faced closure, school-district staff have referred to "excess space" locally, because Carleton has been closed for nine years. But in that time students who could have attended Carleton have travelled longer distances to other local schools, which have now reached beyond capacity. Further, CNH school care programs were under constant pressure as the school district pushed the organization's childcare into less suitable spaces, because of the pressing demand for classroom space.

The densification of our neighbourhood is severe, beyond anything outside of Oakridge or the downtown; developers are selling the air as they build ever higher towers and families squeeze into smaller apartments, raising children. The officially planned towers and those we know are coming (the closure of London Drugs opens space, Safeway plans to eventually build three towers on its site, for example), are attracting families and their children will need school spaces. We're also desperate for green spaces.

I am astonished that, considering those existing and near-future pressures, you are considering closing this desperately needed asset. With respect, closing Carleton simply kicks the issue down the road to a future school board, when it will be facing the challenge of buying land at a far higher price. It would be a loss for our neighbourhood and a terrible legacy for you to leave our neighbourhood and a future board. Please keep Carleton alive.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gray-Grant

Public Delegation Submission

Sir Guy Carleton Elementary – Engagement Feedback
December 15, 2025 Special Delegation Meeting

Submitted by: Vik Khanna

Email: vik@vikkhanna.com

Affiliation: Vancouver Resident, Former DPAC Chair (2020-2022), Carleton Elementary Alumnus (1976-1983)

Personal Connection

I attended Sir Guy Carleton Elementary from 1976-1983, where I received federal ESL and speech therapy services as a young immigrant. My father, Ravi Khanna—who fled the Partition of India at age six and later built educational infrastructure in Haryana—presented to this Board on November 24, 2025.

This is my fourth engagement with Carleton closure proposals over 15 years (2010, 2016, 2023, 2025). I have served as DPAC Chair and BCCPAC Director, and have followed VSB facilities planning for seven years.

Observations on Engagement Feedback

Survey Composition

The Engagement Summary Report shows 43% oppose, 41% support, 16% unsure. I note:

- 8% of respondents resided in Renfrew-Collingwood
- 1,478 responses from 90,000 emails (1.6% response rate)
- 12 of 13 public delegations opposed closure

Enrollment Projection Data

VSB's June 2025 projections state nearby schools can accommodate students. Other sources show different figures:

- VSB LRFP: 5,000 fewer students by 2031
- BC Ministry of Education: 10,000 student increase
- Census vs. VSB: 64,610 children (Census) vs. 57,940 (VSB)
- VSB LTIP (November 2021): "forecasts don't represent actual demand"

Applicable Legal Obligations

Canadian Charter Section 23 — Minority Language Education Rights

The May 2025 BC Supreme Court ruling in *CSF v. BC* (2025 BCSC 962) established the standard for school site decisions. The Court held that VSB must "*reasonably consider and proportionately balance*" minority language education rights when making disposition decisions.

Carleton-specific context:

- Conseil scolaire francophone formally requested this site (January 2024)
- CSF reiterated interest via formal letter (November 14, 2025)
- Site is within 800m of SkyTrain — provincially designated Transit-Oriented Area
- Section 23 establishes constitutional entitlement to equivalent facilities

The engagement materials do not reference how the Section 23 balancing obligation has been addressed in the staff recommendation.

Vancouver Charter Section 562.1 — School Site Coordination

Unlike other BC municipalities, Vancouver operates under the Vancouver Charter. Section 562.1 establishes a coordination obligation: *"The City shall provide school sites as required."*

This requires annual consultation between City Council and the School Board on school facility needs. The statutory framework assumes coordinated planning before permanent disposition.

Timing context:

- December 10-17: City Council considers TOA rezonings and development amendments
- December 17: VSB votes on Carleton closure
- I have not located public records documenting joint City-VSB coordination on this site

OIPC Order F25-85

On October 29, 2025, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner ordered VSB to release 217 pages of subdivision and disposal records. As of December 9, these records had not been released.

Federal Coordination Context

In January 2025, MP Taleeb Noormohamed's engagement with federal agencies contributed to the preservation of Sexsmith Elementary. Federal coordination pathways exist for school sites meeting certain criteria.

The Carleton site—founded 1896, 6 acres, four Category A heritage buildings, Transit-Oriented Area—has characteristics relevant to federal programs:

- CMHC and Housing Accelerator Fund address teacher housing near transit
- Infrastructure Canada supports seismic upgrades and community hubs
- Canadian Heritage has invested in this site (Green Thumb Theatre: \$450K grant, lease through 2031)
- The neighbourhood shows 80% unmet childcare demand per City data

Permanent closure would conclude the site's eligibility for federal school infrastructure programs.

I present this information for trustees' consideration. I am available to answer clarifying questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Vik Khanna

Appendix: Timeline of Engagement

VSB Facilities Planning (2018-2025)

2018-2019

- **June 2018:** Hamber Secondary replacement announced at 1,700 capacity
- **January 2019:** Hamber capacity concerns raised with MLA George Heyman
- **February 2019:** Carleton revenue potential discussed with VSB leadership

2020-2021

- **October 2021:** DPAC submitted 22-question LTIP document
- **November 2021:** Questions raised on Fleming 99-year lease proposal
- **November 2021:** VSB LTIP stated: "forecasts don't represent actual demand"

2022-2023

- **September 2022:** VSB filed Carleton subdivision application (SD-2022-00071)
- **January 2023:** Carleton catchment redrawn (41 survey responses)
- **June 2023:** Third Carleton closure proposal initiated

2024-2025

- **January 2024:** CSF formally requested Carleton site
- **January 2025:** Sexsmith Elementary preserved following federal engagement
- **May 2025:** BC Supreme Court CSF v. BC ruling (2025 BCSC 962) — Section 23 standard established
- **October 2025:** VSB restarted public engagement on Carleton
- **October 29, 2025:** OIPC issued Order F25-85 (217 pages)
- **November 14, 2025:** CSF reiterated interest in Carleton site
- **November 24, 2025:** Ravi Khanna and Vishal Khanna delegation (Delegation #15)
- **December 17, 2025:** Board decision scheduled

Sources: VSB meeting minutes, OIPC orders, BC Supreme Court rulings, Vancouver Charter, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, DPAC submissions, public records. Documentation available upon request.

Vancouver School District Special Public Delegation Board Meeting

Monday, December 15, 2025



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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(Musqueam)



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səlilwətaʔ
(Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Live-streamed

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.

Meeting Decorum

The Board has a strong commitment to ethical conduct. This includes the responsibility of all participants to conduct themselves with appropriate decorum and professionalism. As Chair of the Board, it is my responsibility to see that decorum is maintained.

Introductions

Introductions of Trustees and Staff

ITEM 2.1 DELEGATIONS

Public Feedback Received
Regarding the Proposed Closure of Sir Guy
Carleton Elementary

PROCEDURE FOR DELEGATIONS

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Delegation Regarding Public Feedback Received on the Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary

James Schultz

Delegation Regarding Public Feedback Received on the Proposed Closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary

David Finnis

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Vik Khanna

ADJOURNMENT

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME
