

December 5, 2017

Dear Vancouver Board of Education Trustees:

RE: Public Education Advocacy

On behalf of the City of Vancouver Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, congratulations on being elected to the Vancouver Board of Education. The Committee looks forward to working with all of you to ensure that Vancouver students get the most out of our public education system. The mandate of our advisory committee is to “advise City Council and staff on matters that relate to children, youth and families.” We are also able to consider matters proposed by the Vancouver Board of Education and have done so repeatedly over the past years. Seats on the Committee are divided into equal thirds by age: under 14 years old, 15-21, and 22 and over.

The Committee has worked extensively with local students on public education advocacy. In April 2016, students from Vancouver Technical, Killarney, Kitislano, Hamber, Churchill, and David Thompson joined us in our meetings with local MLAs. They spoke of the need to expedite seismic upgrade projects, restore fine arts programs, and the need for more teachers to access specific classes. More recently, Committee Members indicated that they want the Vancouver Board of Education to continue its longstanding advocacy practices and asked that our previous work be sent to Trustees. This PDF package includes all of our previous work and related City Council motions.

I look forward to presenting to Committee I on Wednesday. Should you have any questions before then, please feel free to get in touch.

Best regards,



Aaron Leung
Committee Chair
(604) 970-7818
aaronchrisleung@gmail.com

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Janice Douglas
SECONDED by Cheryl Andre

THAT Nico Cullen-McKnight, Mab Oloman, Anthony Santelices, Eric Wong and Joy Zhou, be granted Leaves of Absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Millennium Line Broadway Extension: City of Vancouver Principles

Ian MacPhee, Planner, Rapid Transit Office, provided an overview of the draft Millennium Line Broadway Extension principles and mitigation strategies, and responded to questions.

2. Arbutus Greenway Design Jam

Akber Pabani, Project Engineer, Arbutus Greenway Project, and Danielle Enright, Clerk III, Arbutus Greenway Project, provided a presentation on the vision, consultation and long term plans for the Arbutus Greenway Project, and responded to questions.

3. Accessible Washrooms in Millennium Line Extension Stations

MOVED by Janice Douglas
SECONDED by Anna Zhang

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee endorse the Seniors Advisory Committee's letter to Council dated July 17, 2017, regarding the installation of accessible washrooms in Millennium Line Broadway Extension stations.

FURTHER THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee request that accessible public washrooms be installed in safe, carefully monitored locations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Public Education Priorities

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Christy Lo

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee supports quality public education for all of Vancouver's children and youth.
2. The residents of Vancouver elected a new School Board on October 14, 2017.

3. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee wishes to continue its public education advocacy work with the newly elected School Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee send its congratulations to the newly elected School Board Trustees;

FURTHER THAT the Committee thank former School Board Trustees for their service to the community.
- B. THAT The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee call on the Vancouver Board of Education to appoint liaisons to all Civic Agencies and Advisory Committees, as soon as possible.
- C. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee reiterate its position on school closures, the disposal of public lands, government reports, the long-range facilities plan, capacity utilization, and public education funding;

FURTHER THAT the Committee send a letter to all Vancouver School Board Trustees and the Special Advisor outlining its position on these issues.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jane Childerhose absent for the vote)

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Christy Lo

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee believes that advocacy is critical to supporting local students.
2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee supported the advocacy efforts of the previous Vancouver Board of Education.
3. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee worked closely with Vancouver City Council to support access to public education for all of Vancouver's residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee call on the Vancouver School Board to continue its longstanding advocacy to support students.
- B. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee encourage Trustees to work on advocacy efforts in collaboration with relevant Civic Agencies and Advisory Committees.

- C. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee call on the Vancouver Board of Education to continue to advocate for more funding from the Provincial Government for Vancouver schools and expediting seismic upgrade projects for the safety of all students including improvements to accessibility for disabled students.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jane Childerhose absent for the vote)

5. Approval of 2018 Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Cheryl Andre
SECONDED by Christy Lo

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve the 2018 meeting dates, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jane Childerhose absent for the vote)

6. New Business

a) Housing

MOVED by Janice Douglas
SECONDED by Lena Hozaima

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee contend that vibrant communities must include livable spaces for children and families.
2. On March 24, 1992, in recognition of this, City Council adopted the document Guidelines for High Density Living for Families with Children which subsequently have been neither updated nor revised.
3. Council has increased the required percentage of 2 and 3 bedroom units, but has not provided policy guidelines to ensure these units have minimum standards for bedroom sizes, enough shared space for parents and children, and good access to air and sunlight.
4. The City is currently undergoing an overarching Housing Reset that will include families, in partnership with community members, local stakeholders, and Advisory Bodies .

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee ask Council to direct staff to work with relevant Advisory Committees and Civic Agencies on updating the High Density Guidelines for Families with Children as a part of the Housing Vancouver Strategy to include recommendations regarding: