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*Building Success Through Process Facilitation,
Community Engagement & Partnership Planning*

MEMORANDUM

To: SD 43 CE Steering Committee

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Re: School District 43 Moody Elementary Dialogue Summary of Discussions

Date: November 12, 2013

On Wednesday, November 6, 2013 SD 43 hosted a public dialogue to share information about what they had heard at the October 29, 2013 Open House and through on line emails and surveys in terms of ideas and opportunities and issues and concerns relating to Moody Elementary.

The dialogue began with a welcome from the chair, followed by a twenty-minute presentation from Melissa Hydes, Chair and Ivano Cecchini. Catherine Rockandel provided an overview of the facilitated dialogue process along with participation guidelines.

A total of fifty-two (52) people signed in, with some people not signing in for a total of sixty-three (63) attendees. In addition there were approximately fourteen (14) children that enjoyed activities. Twenty-seven (27) people submitted comment forms at the meeting. The following notes summarize questions and comments raised by the public attending the meeting.

Public Dialogue: Questions and Comments (Index: Q: Questions A: Answers C: Comment)

Q: This school daycare is in gym if you build another facility take into account other uses that might also be streams of incomes, after school care, daycare. Community groups use the school playground, for example: cadets. It is important that land is still used as public use. I know that it is between city and SD. Also I don't know if you consider public private ownership built or design built is much more efficient in terms of costs to operate.

Q: In the two scenarios you presented, is the cost of building middle school on same site or on new site where it is forest same cost? Has the ministry approved building moody middle? Is it completely funded? What is cost?

A: It is relatively the same cost around 12- 15 million. Yes, Moody Middle is funded by Ministry - it is complicated because if you are just talking about funding school. The 23 million covers offsite, equipment, bad soil (type f) makes seismic upgrading on these sites difficult.

C: I would like to express support for rebuilding Moody Elementary because of size of lot, safety issues, new density direction of OCP. I support move of school and relocation to Moody Middle. Emphasize shift in population and geographic which feeds Moody Elementary is on other side of Fort St. Johns and closer to Suter Brook. I think K-8 on one site is doable and think there is positive growth and partnerships that can come from this co-location.

Q: I live 2 blocks away and both my kids went to Moody Elementary. I am traffic engineer and do a lot of studies throughout Metro Vancouver, from my experience the one with operational problems (closer to 400 or so schools) are the ones with larger populations. You will be moving higher traffic volume to the new site with one access street. Current site plan shows one access at Moody Middle.

Moody Elementary has four access points. I encourage you to have a traffic plan in place that will work. In terms of OCP we are going through lot of change and this is scary for those that live in this area as there are more people going to live here. I encourage you to look at where population densities are going to be. I am happy to hear you are not talking about closing school for a change. There is also a move in the United States going back to smaller community schools.

C/Q: I have had kids at school for 14 years. The issue of parking around school has been an issue. Some kids in the area walk to school however lots drive, if you move the school people are still going to drive their kids to school and the issue will be amplified. The transportation issue is going to be huge. Was the forested land behind Moody Middle up for sale a while ago?

A: We are looking at the transportation issues for all options and agree that they are complex. No, the land has never been for sale

Q: I have two kids to young to attend school but as I have been looking at elementary and middle school it seems to me they are on a highway. I am encouraged to see the elementary school at the middle school site located to the back. Where exactly on the middle school site are you thinking of locating the elementary school?

A: We are not at a stage where we are planning exactly where building is to be located. We would have to do a detailed traffic study and agree traffic is a major concern. Ivano Cecchini is chairing a traffic safety committee that includes Port Moody, Coquitlam, PoCo, Translink, ICBC that is looking at traffic issues. We will have to do due diligence to figure out best location of elementary school if moving is the option that is selected as part of this process.

C: Offer a perspective of a parent that is about to have a child and a very young child coming here. I would like to support location of moody elementary over to middle site for the same reasons as other speaker, population densities, increases walkability, also safety is an issue. At the Open House last week a lot of people raised the possibility of a pedestrian bridge across St. John's to mitigate safety issues and the seismic upgrading. I also support the improvement access for outdoor space

Q: From my understanding everything is funded for the middle and elementary school is that correct? Okay so if the elementary school is not funded is the selling of the land the strategy to fund the rebuilding. So given what you are saying, if public pressure was to rebuild the school sooner and the board decided to sell the existing Moody Elementary School site could some of those funds be used to provide enhancements such as all weather fund, larger library. I would like to see the funds used here, is that a possibility.

A: We have funding for a middle school but do not have funding for an elementary school replacement. First and foremost in terms of the strategy, it would ultimately be the boards decision, from staff perspective you would want to get funds from Ministry for seismic first and try to do that, we have been diligent to try and get funds from the Ministry as quickly as we can. Once that is generated and if additional funds were required you would go from there. However, it would depend on how long community wanted to wait. If the public wants to move forward then selling the Moody Elementary site might be an option. The money derived from sale could only be used for capital projects not operational.

Q: I have three kids, two go to Moody Elementary, my kids love the school and we love the area. We have so many changes going on. I am wondering about timing two years, five years, ten years. It is nerve racking all these changes.

A: The intent is to open the new Eagle Mountain Middle School in September 2014. We are aiming to open Moody Middle in September 2015. This is extremely ambitious given the permits and other development processes that we have to work through and various obstacles that can be faced. It is difficult to say how long for the Elementary School because the Board has not made a decision around the Elementary School. If the board was to make a decision around replacement, then you have to go through a legislative process around disposition, then you have to go through another two year planning for elementary school. A process for seismic upgrading is about 2-5 years, replacement can take 2-10 years. It all depends on the decisions that are made.

Q: My house is very close to where you want to build. My backyard is the forest where you want to build. I have two children at this school. The administration of the existing school is lovely, my kids love it here, but everyday when I drop them off the seismic situation concerns me greatly. When you say 2-10 years that really concerns me. And while I don't want my backyard gone I am willing to give that up for the safety of my children. Is there anything that we can do to push this along?

A: We know from the Eagle Mountain School that parent lobbying makes a difference. Write letters to the Ministry, your MLA, your local government and the School District of support

C/Q: Excited to hear both schools are taking on more of arts focus. I am a dance artist. And in Port Moody the centre of the arts there is not one public dance space. I am hoping that with new arts initiative we will get a new dance space. Can we move some of the children from the Elementary School to the Middle School if it is not safe?

A: The concept of the NLC is that we can petition government for an extra 15% extra space if we (public, local government, and School District) come up with a plan. It would have its own process where depending on what the community wants the space is designed to meet those needs, then it is leased to users. It is incumbent on the community to come up with plan with partners.

Q: I live in neighbourhood and my two kids are alumni of elementary school. It looks like you are situating the elementary school on the current creek. I am concerned that given that you will have to locate the elementary school to the east – given that I am concerned that there won't be enough space on the site for a full size playing field.

A: We have done a full environmental assessment on Moody Middle and we are well within set backs and so we will not be encroaching on creek. We also believe green and play space is very important. One consideration for Moody is the site is roughly 23 acres about 14 are flat. The elementary school is 3.2 acres and the size of the elementary school that is required to accommodate growth is not possible on the current Moody Elementary site. There is enough space in 14 acres to accommodate two schools.

C: I am nostalgic and I would like to stay with the current school. Also with all the transit orientated development going on with towers if you close down the elementary school and sell the land somebody will develop towers on it which is not what a lot of people want. It is not what I want. I support this staying as a community facility.

Q: I think we are hearing from the community that they value community. I look forward to hearing from the board about their decision and then involving the community to lobby for an NLC. I am pleased that Moody Middle is going to have a French Immersion stream so does that mean Moody Elementary is going to have a stream as well?

A: The Board passed a motion to look at French immersion at the Middle School only. We have not started to look at Elementary school because there are size and capacity issues with the existing school

Q: What is NLC? I am excited about motion that Trustees passed last night. My understanding is that Moody Middle is well on the way to being fully designed. In what ways does the design of the school incorporate the notion of a fine arts program, what facilities in new middle school would enable fine arts program. How many seats in the theatre? This community has too many small theatres that serve school population but does not serve the community well. Is the decision to be a fine arts school for the whole SD43 or just for Moody Middle?

A: NLC is a Neighbourhood Learning Centre. We have designed instructional space to allow for fine arts, such as dedicated art room, within other NLC space 700 metres in Moody Middle that is a shell. It is flexible to work with community to design to what they want it to be. There is no provision for a theatre such as like we have in Heritage Woods school in the Moody middle school but there is a large multi-use space 200 metres which can be used for various uses. Ministry funding does not allow for that kind of facility to placed in middle school.

Q/C: I like the idea of a fine arts school at Moody Middle. However, in terms of selling off the land at Moody Elementary, I believe you are fully intending to sell the land, you are just using fancy language to hide the decision. Is it not the intent of this process to sell this land to gain funds for the capital budget? There have been two previous attempts to close this school. This is very valuable land that is why you want to sell it off, so you can put something else on here and gain some revenue. It is understandable. The little steps you take now are setting the stage to sell this property. The community needs to know your intent in the long term. Coronation Park was closed, it sits derelict it is now a non-usable facility because it was closed. The property is more valuable to sell it off rather than try and re-furbish it as a school. I am totally opposed to selling this site (moody) it has been a school site since 1908 originally. It was acquired by the school district in 1930. This school is a valuable part of this community. We have a unique situation here two schools along one street. My four kids, I and my father have all attended Moody Elementary and Middle and Port Moody Secondary. My understanding is that if the property was sold the money would stay in the community please define for me what is community? With the Moody Middle site if we put two schools on this site are we going to loose the sports field or any of those amenities that are currently on the site? Would the track that is surrounding the current field be lost? I find it difficult to find things on the District's website. I called the School District and told them so. You have got this news speak language that says land learning and something – but there is nothing about disposing of land, nothing that gets the public riled up, it is about using language that is toning down the situation. Given Moody Elementary, its current state, what was the Provincial Governments ranking? I am surprised that as administrators you don't know where you sit in terms of other schools replacement ranking. When I sat on board of Vancouver Community College we had that kind of information. It makes me question whether we are being given all the information we need. My understanding is that the provincial government will not build a school beyond the current capacity of the area? This school is rated at 250 with space for daycare.

A: No, the Board has not decided to sell off the land. Our intent is to understand what the community wants through this process, to understand the issues from their perspective. There is efficiency that can be achieved at Moody Middle to have a more compact school. The field would not be lost but the track very likely would be lost. This school has a low audit score of 42. The Ministry does not have a ranking of schools. We put the school in to ask for it to be replaced. The Ministry considers it within a capital plan but the Ministry does not provide the information about where you rank in terms of replacement for the capital plan. The Ministry looks at current enrolment and the number of students living in catchment area not attending school and future projections. There are 103 students that live in catchment area that do not attend school. Population of 170 plus 103 you would be at current capacity, then add projections based on OCP even with fluctuations there is a significant increase.

Q: I live in Klahanie, and support move to enable kids to be able to walk to school but I also appreciate that there is a community connection to Moody Elementary. I wonder could there be a community green space on the site if it was to be sold where the community could gather, walk their dogs, have a playground. I went to a school that was K-7 I don't think there is conflict with having younger and older kids together. This school has a daycare in it and it is wonderful. I think every school should have daycare and after school care space whether operated public or privately through licensing.

C: Thank you for putting this session together I have never heard such thing. I am concerned about having a school next to a sky train station as they attract riff raff. I support having French and Spanish program throughout the school district.

C: I have a comment about population density and one spot that is 8 acres. One option is to rebuild Moody Elementary on Coronation Park it is largest and closest to most densest part of Port Moody. It logically makes most sense to use that chunk of land for elementary school. This option is not in this consideration for Moody options – why? Here we are talking about an elementary school that needs a larger lot and next door is Coronation I want you to consider that lot for the relocation of Moody Elementary. You also mentioned seismic and that you require money but not sure how long that will take, but you also mention that you have been successful getting money for full rebuild. What was the timeline in those successful experiences? What do we know from the past? What can we expect? What are the facts? Also please answer the question more clearly about whether funds stay local – define local? Is there anything in your rules that prevent you from taking this money and spending it in say Coquitlam?

A: On November 27th there is a Coronation Park session to specifically talk about options for that site. However, if you look at Eagle Mountain the whole process including planning and rebuilding was about 9 years. Generally local means within School District 43 but we told Ministry that we would prefer to spend revenues within the municipality in which we develop a school. The Trustees have made the commitment to spend any funds from disposition in the city in which there was any disposition.

C: If Moody Elementary was to move would this playground move too. We have put a lot of heart into this playground and I am concerned it is going to magically disappear. What is the promise with that? How are we going to be sure you are going to do this? Is there room at Moody Middle. If a new school was to be build here on two levels what would the capacity be?

A: We have picked up and moved playgrounds on other schools. If the elementary school was to be relocated the playground could be moved. And, yes there is a room. We would need to research the capacity of a two level school on this site.

C: I am very pleased to hear about the fine art. I would caution that our schools should not be designed to meet a community need such as a theatre. I am concerned about the traffic issue. In terms of the rebuild my preference is to move to Moody Middle so we have a larger school. Play space and playground is important to me. I like that kids stay young and stay separated from older kids so I would prefer a separate elementary school.

C: I have a concern about the length of time for seismic upgrading. I don't think Moody Elementary is an option because the site is too small

C: Thank you for inviting us to come and share our feedback. I appreciate that. Tonight I learned that there was a final decision about Moody Middle in terms of French school and arts last night but it comes to me as a complete surprise. If you could communicate decisions more effectively going forward.

C: What is most important to our family is daycare. Is daycare part of the NLC structure? How do families support that option?

A: At Eagle Mountain in Anmore there is a dedicated NLC that includes daycare. The community designs the NLC, which would happen in this situation.

C: In regards to the nostalgia mentioned by others I would prefer to see this building being sold so my children are in a safe building rather than hold on to a building because some people are nostalgic.

C: I would like to express my concern for walkability. Look at draft of new OCP a lot of density in one to three blocks of this school. There is going to be a need for schools in this area.