

2.20 – Participation in Regional Growth and Planning

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Purpose

Schools are an integral part of the communities that we serve. While municipal, regional and First Nations governments (the “Local Governments”) oversee land use and development, there are various planning initiatives that may have an effect on or could benefit our students. The Board is committed to being an active participant in community planning and development initiatives including sharing District information and input with Local Governments.

Objectives

The objective of this policy is to set out the process by which the Board engages with Local Governments with respect to planning and development initiatives.

Definitions

Local Government – Municipalities, Regional Districts and First Nations governments.

Long Range Facilities Plan or “LRFP” – A Long Range Facilities Plan is a comprehensive planning tool normally covering a 10-year timeframe which outlines how a board of education intends to manage an inventory of existing facilities and planned new facilities to support a board’s strategies for the most effective delivery of education programs.

Official Community Plan or “OCP” – Official community plans describe the long-term vision of communities including objectives and policies that guide decisions on planning and land use management.

Official Community Plan Amendment or “OCP Amendment” – An amendment is the process of legally changing the land use designation on a property through an amending bylaw.

Referral – a request made to the Board by a Local Government for comment on an applicable land issue.

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Re-Zoning Application – A rezoning is the public process required to change land use or increase density on a property beyond what is permitted by the Zoning Bylaw.

Significant Development – Significant Development means any industrial, commercial and/or residential development that will have an impact on the ability of the Board to provide educational services. This may include impacts on capacity, safety, transportation and other relevant issues.

Process

Correspondence directed to the Board

1. Upon receipt from a Local Government for comment with respect to an OCP or a Significant Development the Chair shall add the correspondence to the Board agenda.
2. The Board shall determine the appropriate next steps which may include:
 - a. Directing the Chair to respond;
 - b. Directing the Chair to present directly to the Local Government;
 - c. Placing the matter before the Business Committee for discussion and response;
 - d. Delegating the response to the LRFP Committee; or
 - e. Referring the matter to staff for response.

Correspondence directed to Staff

3. For re-zoning and OCP Amendments that are not significant, the Board delegates responses to staff for comment based on the priorities of the LRFP and local school needs.
4. Where a school enrollment is projected to decline, staff is empowered to encourage growth to support the long-term viability of the school.
5. Where a school is projected to be above capacity, staff shall notify the Local Government of concerns that the District may not be able to serve students.
6. Where staff believe that an application may impact the safety of school including the type of business being contemplated (e.g. cannabis or alcohol) or the development will impact safe walk routes, the application shall be presented to the Board.

Information Sharing

7. Within the bounds of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the Board shall make available to our Local Governments, District information associated with planning including current and projected enrollment data, bussing information and other applicable information that may assist the Local Government in Planning.

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8. The Board invites comment from our Local Governments where its decision may have significant impacts including changing school boundaries, school configurations, the expansion or contraction of district programs such as French Immersion and Academies, and school openings and closures.

9. The Board encourages Staff to participate in planning initiatives with the Local Governments including allowing access to communication resources and facilitating student and school-based staff participation where applicable.

Legal References:

Monitoring Method: *Board of Education / Superintendent*

Monitoring Frequency: *Triennial*

Adopted: 2022.04.27