



REPORT

Report Date: June 4, 2021
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Meeting Date: June 23, 2021
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TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities

FROM: Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Report Back on Joint Vancouver City Council - Vancouver School Board Committee to Collaborate on Capital Projects

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT a sub-committee of Council be created, in partnership with the Vancouver School Board, pursuant to Section 159 of the *Vancouver Charter* and that it be called the "*Joint VSB-CoV Elected Officials Planning & Facilities Committee.*"
- B. THAT the draft Terms of Reference for the *Joint VSB-CoV Elected Officials Planning & Facilities Committee* be as follows, to be confirmed by the Committee at its first meeting, with any substantive changes to be returned to Council for approval:
 - i. To receive information and liaise on matters related to VSB's and the City of Vancouver's respective capital projects and long-range plans as well as other related strategies, plans, trends, and project challenges for the purpose of collaborating to serve communities in Vancouver and identifying opportunities for improvement and for joint advocacy to senior levels of government;
 - ii. To be comprised of three City Councillors, three Vancouver School Board Trustees, and one Vancouver Park Board Commissioner should they choose to appoint a representative;
 - iii. That the Committee meet on a semi-annual (twice annual) basis until November 2022, with the first meeting taking place Fall 2021;

- iv. That the *Joint VSB-CoV Elected Officials Planning & Facilities Committee* not be delegated any executive or administrative powers, without Council's prior approval and consent; and
 - v. Be facilitated with support from the office of the City Manager or designate and the Vancouver School Board;
- C. THAT, should Recommendation A be approved, the Mayor's Office initiate a communication to Council to self-nominate to participate in the proposed Committee, with a membership vote to be held at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities in September 2021.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report is provided to Council in response to Council direction to staff given in April 2021 to advise on the feasibility and advisability of a joint City of Vancouver/Vancouver School Board elected official committee intended to collaborate on capital projects of mutual interest, and provides a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Committee.

The City of Vancouver ("City") and the Vancouver School Board ("VSB") have enjoyed a long, collaborative relationship supported by a number of staff-to-staff committees and capital ventures. The following report highlights an opportunity for improved collaboration among Elected Officials at the City and VSB through a joint committee. The proposed Committee, to be established now until November 2022, would receive information on respective relevant long-range plans and strategies, challenges with planning and development, and opportunities for joint advocacy to senior government.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On April 14, 2021, at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities (RTS 014445), Council passed a motion to direct staff to:

- i. Consult with the Vancouver Board of Education and report back for Council's consideration:
 - Draft terms of reference for a joint Vancouver City Council-Vancouver School Board committee to collaborate on capital projects; and
 - An implementation plan to meet the VSB's timeline.
- ii. Report back to Council with a final report on the outcomes, pros and cons and overall utility of this pilot joint committee, with recommendations regarding follow-up, and forward this report to the Vancouver School Board; and
- iii. Consider the utility of including representatives from the Vancouver Parks Board in this joint committee either during the term of this committee (to the end of November, 2022) and/or in a possible future iteration of this committee.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

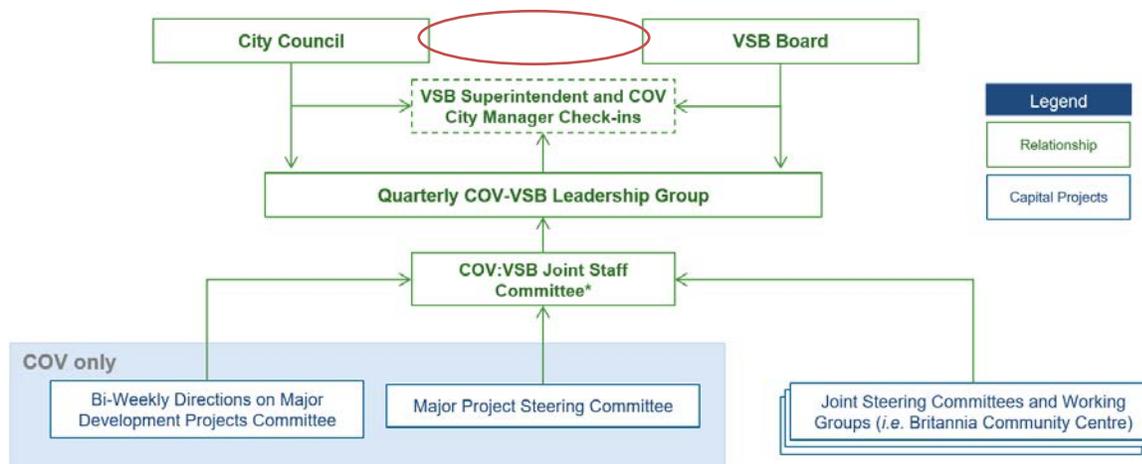
Background/Context

The City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board have enjoyed a long, collaborative relationship. The City and VSB are separate public sector bodies that share a collective responsibility to support community needs through effective provision of services, facilities and benefits.

The City has had many successful partnerships with VSB, including seven approved and constructed co-located childcare centres (for children aged 0-4 years old) in schools, a School-Age-Care expansion grant program that has helped create approximately 615 new childcare spaces in schools, and a number of large, mixed-use capital projects at sites such as Britannia Community Centre, Coal Harbour and the West End.

In August 2020, City staff provided a memo to Council (RTS# 13418 and 13459) outlining the City-VSB governance framework, illustrated in Figure 1 below, that enables staff to collaborate on plans and projects, support VSB permit submissions and effectively resolve issues as they arise.

Figure 1: City-VSB Governance Framework



Although there are numerous staff-to-staff channels for collaboration, there is not currently a formal channel (represented by the red circle above) for City Council and the VSB Board to collaborate on items of mutual interest such as capital projects, planning and strategies.

In January 2021, VSB approved its Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) which “provides a framework for facilities planning and investment decisions to support the District’s annual review of its Five-Year Capital Plan and proposed capital projects.” One of the action items identified is to foster a closer, collaborative relationship with City Council through the creation of a joint VSB-

City committee on capital projects. A letter inviting Council to jointly create this committee was sent from VSB Trustees to City Council March 2021 and is the subject of this report back.

Concurrently, City staff are developing The Vancouver Plan, a long-range city-wide plan that looks out to 2050 and involves significant community engagement. The Plan will include a vision for the future, a high-level land-use plan and supporting policies related to areas of housing, jobs, community amenities, parks, transportation systems, environment, climate change and infrastructure.

Throughout the planning process to-date, staff heard from parent advisory committee representatives, teachers, students and families within the Vancouver school district. City staff have been liaising with VSB staff to assess current trends, growth areas and community needs while exploring opportunities for collaboration in provision of community facilities. Staff will continue to consult with VSB staff and stakeholders as emerging directions, the draft plan and proposed plan are prepared in 2021-22 respectively.

Strategic Analysis

As discussed above, there are a number of existing staff-to-staff structures to support and advance VSB's projects as well as numerous formal agreements related to joint ventures and long-range planning.

However, no formal elected officials committee to facilitate information-sharing on respective capital plans and strategies and identify opportunities for strategic joint advocacy exists at this time. City advocacy and letters of support are currently requested by the VSB and sent on a case-by-case basis. The proposed Committee would enable the City's and VSB's elected officials to have greater visibility into the opportunities, trends and issues faced by each organization's capital planning and development.

A draft Terms of Reference for the Committee was jointly developed by City and VSB staff and is included in Appendix A. The Committee would be comprised of three VSB Trustees, three City Councillors and one Vancouver Park Board Commissioner. The City's appointments to this Committee would follow the standard Council Committee appointment process, with the Mayor's Office seeking self-nominations, and appointments brought to Council for approval in September 2021.

The City and VSB would jointly extend an invitation to the Vancouver Park Board ("VPB") for them to determine whether they wish to appoint a representative to the Committee to attend as agenda items warrant. Much of the Committee's focus would be on City and VSB capital projects and, at this time, there is not expected to be a large focus on VSB-VPB ventures.

The Committee would be established until the end of Council and VSB Board's current term in November 2022 with meetings scheduled semi-annually, approximately October 2021, Spring 2022 and Fall 2022. To support the implementation of the proposed Committee, one VSB and one City staff member would alternately support the meetings through agenda development, meeting minutes and document distribution.

Public/Civic Agency Input

City staff collaborated with staff at VSB and VPB to put forward this report.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

There are no financial implications.

Human Resources/Labour Relations

There are no additional human resources requirements. Existing resources will be used to support this committee.

Legal

Pursuant to Section 159 of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council has the authority to set up any committee it deems appropriate.

CONCLUSION

This report is provided to Council in response to Council direction to staff given in April 2021 to advise on the feasibility and advisability of a joint City of Vancouver/Vancouver School Board elected official committee intended to collaborate on capital projects of mutual interest, and provides a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Committee.

City and VSB staff are committed to collaborating at all levels of the organization to ensure complete communities and maximum benefits for the public. By establishing a *Joint VSB-CoV Elected Officials Planning & Facilities Committee*, City Council and VSB Trustees can further improve alignment among the organizations, for the benefit of the public, and strategically identify opportunities for advocacy to senior government.

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Draft Terms of Reference for Joint VSB-CoV Elected Officials Planning & Facilities Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to foster a closer, collaborative relationship among the entities for the benefit of the public. Members will engage in the following and report to the VSB Board and City Council as appropriate.

- Exchanging information and ideas concerning respective capital program planning, and identifying areas of mutual interest/benefit
- Receiving information on VSB capital projects from VSB's Long-Range Facilities Plan, VSB's Seismic Mitigation Program and City-VSB joint ventures
- Discussing VSB and City project-related issues and opportunities for improvement
- Discussing VSB engagement and integration into The Vancouver Plan, community plans and strategies such as childcare
- Identifying strategic opportunities to jointly advocate to senior levels of government for future joint endeavors
- Maintaining and enhancing a collaborative working relationship

In Scope

The scope of this committee is defined by:

- VSB's capital projects as laid out in its Long-Range Facilities Plan (approved January 2021) and through its Seismic Mitigation Program
- VSB's funding requests to the Ministry of Education
- City's relevant long-range planning and strategies such as the four-year Capital Plan, The Broadway Plan, Social Infrastructure Plan, Childcare Strategy, and the Broadway Plan
- Current and future City-VSB joint and co-located ventures

Out of Scope

Items that are out-of-scope include any issues or challenges requiring resolution as the Committee does not have decision-making authority. While the committee can receive information related to issues experienced by VSB's and the City's capital planning and development, it is not a forum for resolving those issues.

Membership

The Committee is comprised of three VSB Trustees, three members of City Council, and one Vancouver Park Board Commissioner, should they choose to appoint a representative.

Committee Chair

As the Committee is a joint initiative, it will be alternately co-chaired by one VSB-designated Trustee and one City-designated Councillor. VSB will host and chair the first meeting.

Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet semi-annually (twice per year) approx. Oct 2021, Spring 2022 and Fall 2022, either online or in-person depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Support

The Committee will be supported by one VSB and one City staff member. They will alternately lead, and support the other with, the development of agendas, advanced meeting materials, meeting minutes and document distribution.

Term

The Committee will be established for the remainder of Council's and VSB Board's current term, until November 2022.

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