



**New Westminster Secondary School Replacement Project  
Memorialization Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 3:30 PM  
Location: Via Zoom**

ATTENDING MEMBERS	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, New Westminster Schools Robyn Gibson, PFS Studio Rob J. McCullough, New Westminster City Nadine Nakagawa, New Westminster City Jaimie McEvoy, New Westminster City Brandon Gabriel, Kwantlen First Nation Jessica Schneider, Massey Theatre Society Nolan Charles, Musqueam Indian Band Maya Russell, Trustee, Board of Education NW Schools Murray McLeod, New Westminster Schools Erika Mashig, New Westminster City Kelty McKinnon, PFS Studio Shane Doddridge, Tsilhqot'in National Government
PROJECT TEAM	Dave Crowe, New Westminster Schools
CHAIR	Danielle Connelly, Board Chair, Board of Education, NW Schools
GUESTS	
MEETING RECORDER	Anne-Marie Martin, New Westminster Schools

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – DANIELLE CONNELLY & MAYA RUSSELL**

- **Co-Trustee Connelly** - greeted the attendees and acknowledged traditional territories.
- **Trustee Russell** - took an opportunity to introduce Danielle Connelly as Co-Trustee and will be stepping into the Chair role of this Committee. Trustee Russell is staying on the MAC committee and Chair Connelly is being welcomed as additional support.
- **Trustee Russell** - would like to discuss first initialize marker or memorial of some sort, and would like to combine this with introductions and thoughts
- **Karim** no comments at this time, but looking forward to hearing comments and suggestions and the ongoing dialog this afternoon
- **Dave** likewise gone through the material and there are some suggestions and great ideas, look forward to the dialog today and looking forward to moving ahead with the project.
- **Bill Chu** - apologized for missing last meeting, had the most to say after last meeting, and looking forward to finding the balance and look back at what we really are trying to achieve with this project, and a big part of remembering history, and creating memorialization park and looking forward to the discussion further
- **Rob** - Manager of Museum's and Heritage Services for the city, function is to bring back information to the city as it transpires. Discussing on whether to have the plaque inside or outside, he believes it would be better for community exposure to have it on the outside oppose to inside.
- **Jessica** – same two questions – clear this is a political voice speaking , now my question is who is the audience we want to reach? Students? Sculpting sentiments strengthened was that everybody or you Maya, nice work, that we redrafted the writing

- **Trustee Russell** – we recirculated it, but it has not been revised.
- **Jessica** - attempt to name everyone seems political, piece fact base, intangible nameless people, would be engaging for student bodies. Illustrations or art piece besides, could connect better with the audience, primary audience.
- **Trustee Russell** - we want to take the time to circle back and take the time, asking Kelty to take the pen so it is not a trustee, and she has experience and will elevate this to another level. Feedback has not been ignored we are just asking Kelty to take it.
- **Nadine** – feels out of the loop but this is important Jaime could not make it and just wanted to catch up on the work more hear to listen.
- **Richard** – Victor at Holy Trinity – representing the Anglican Bishop of New Westminster because part of the ground used by the Anglican's, apologized for not attending the last time. 1<sup>st</sup> comment agree with Rob, the necessity for this being public, intended to be a public statement inside the school, important it is outside 2<sup>nd</sup> comment – part of the purpose of the activity is to create and define public space, defined by colonialism, trying to reclaim a portion of this space to speak about the experience of the indigenous people and the Chinese community and other communities that came to New Westminster are we not valued by the dominate European settler community, means more than a plaque, they can be walked by, conceptionally needs to be so people stop when they walk by, art installation, reclaiming of some aspect of public space attempt to be more clear about the history, doing this at holy trinity – public art by indigenous artist, when people walk by they are aware this space commands there attention about this place and the story, hard to do financially, a plaque is not enough, 3<sup>rd</sup> for the school administrators further down, you need to do something in the public space everyone once and awhile to acknowledge why that space is there so the space gains additional meaning. Gathering place, space gains additional meaning, it is what we do with space that is more important than what we put there.
- **Erica M** – role is to do a lot of listening, to help with the park planning process, similar thoughts as Richard, minutes captured a lot of the discussion; most powerful comment that came for me is the idea of a plaque might be colony and we might want to stretch beyond the idea or in addition to text of something that happened in the past, PFS are excellent and have designed powerful landscapes recognize the power of the space itself., sounds

## 2. INSTALLATION OF AN INITIAL STORYTELLING MARKER – CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON CONTENT, VOICE, AND WORKING – KELTY MCKINNON

- **Kelty** - spoke about Jessica and Bill and talking to them, shared screen with PowerPoint showing examples, so many stories and perspectives on this land, specialize the experience, we have the longer term vision which we hope is a living landscape and over the time many of these stories will come out, and have opportunity for poetic expression within the landscape, but the first step is to capture a bit of the story that sets the first step to the longer term vision, Rob said the importance of the Map, incorporating those graphic elements into the signage might be a way to talk about this as an ongoing landscape that has a long term history has many different stories of injustices from many different communities, and rather than try and encapsulate all those stories within this sign which could be difficult and could be problematic in terms of what we're leaving out. Are there other opportunities to set the stage at this point. Kelty shared pictures of the Justice Institute in Alabama - it's a lynching memorial (really heavy) didn't start with names, dates, and stories, it's something that continues to change. The way that text was used, set the stage for something to happen in stages. First stage - entrance wall, as you move through you get the opportunity to see names, dates and other texts that starts to build the story as you walk through. (see PowerPoint) curious to hear how people feel about bringing in some of the language that Maya has brought together. Kelty shared another example of a memorial in Manhattan for African Americans and other groups, this one as well started with very little money, the text is very high level; Kamloops Residential School before they get into the names and specifics, they have this high-level statement that can be built on. (see PowerPoint) not just signage or perhaps the signage becomes spacialized so that there may be different components that start to build a story. We could have a numbering system (see

PowerPoint) This is such a powerful opportunity and one step towards the right direction.

- **Trustee Russell** – that's very encouraging that feels very helpful; is this sparking any thoughts from people?
- **Richard** - invoked a number of memories, grew up as a child through desegregation, during this time, what this suggests is if we would be helpful if we envisioned this as one hole project, the school is linked and continues the story whatever happens in the Memorial park, so people might move in this space in a different way, in some ways fewer words are better than a lot of words, key ideas that can be brought out, more poetic language or advocative language, there are three kinds of language opaque language no one knows what you mean when you say it, pedestrian language which tells you turn left turn right, evocative language makes you pause and try to enter in beyond the words say, we should be more evocative then simple narration, as important as narration is that might now be what we want in that kind of public installation.
- **Rob** - agrees with you on the remedy when it comes to the language, a lot of people that are close to the writing, we want people to read not be overwhelmed by it, a few more thoughts but needs some time to think about them.
- **Bill** – the city participating in the discussion is important, the history we are describing what happen to the city not just the school, and the country, the language and wording are important, as a reminder to the public and the world that we are going through a process whereby reconciliation is getting some traction with what the united nations are talking about, sees this a part of bigger process and hopefully we are not feel inadequate, because of that decolonization is a popular word and new to us and we should be brave to go forward, potentially wonderful in what we are engaging in;
- **Karim** - I wanted to put out to the group Kelty used the phase setting the stage, hit the mark for capturing the dialogue in the initial meeting, it is the beginning. longer term vision around the public space, the evolution of the space, if I am not on the MAC committee or within a particular group, and I walk by that space to see this external installation I may think that might be the only step and could there be an opportunity for some general language to note that were just setting the stage and this is going to be a much bigger project.
- **Jessica** - acknowledged Brandon joined so we have indigenous representative
- **Brandon** - thank you for the invite I am the proud member of nation, I have a number of roles, 1 the one visual artist sc, 2<sup>nd</sup> elective band council member, carry ancestry name from mothers side of the family, comes from ancient village in the Burnett area of New Westminster, has a link to the land, wish more members were here, watch the PowerPoint it was very emotionally advocative, thought it was very touching, proud to be here and thank you for inviting;
- **Trustee Russell** - thank you Brandon.
- **Kelty** - anything further you would like to add?
- **Brandon** - no but looking forward to the next steps, this is an interesting project, thank you.
- **Rob** quick questions – two times with text staying the same is there a value in a subcommittee, don't want to keep pushing it down the road,
- **Kelty** - taking it to the next level; we have time before May we can get feedback before, put together a package for Rob or someone who wanted to work with that; the image you showed us the numbered sites, thinking about what goes in front of NWSS something like that it suggests other places in the park, help shape/define what else goes into the park; Kelty agrees the overall plan for the park, looping walk that threads the spaces but not part of the short-term plan.
- **Jessica** – Question - processes the best. Have not seen a design in over a year? Not talking about the bigger piece.
- **Co-Trustee Connelly** – this leads to Dave's update

### 3. DECONSTRUCTION OF OLD NWSS (DAVE CROWE)

- **Dave** - where we are at with – going well, secured 3rd group of workers, but have more abatement, espositmt, vermiculate as we accelerate we find things that slow us down, exterior work now happening, 80 people inside the school working inside this is changing, excavator and decommissioning ramps, ops-council meeting 4 week look ahead for the public to see what activities going on around the site with be implanted, something new, stock piling of back file material sand from Fraser river, to build pads for excavator to ride up on so no further destruction taking that precautions quite a few trucks bringing in the sand, then will be used for backfield, that's what we have for now, timing looking at starting end of Feb and hopeful we can maintain the 3 crews, another 6 months after. Any questions?
- **Kelty** - voids are they in the basement?
- **Dave** - various things we will be working on with you and your team, what we are trying to do to coordinate – Kelty let's schedule a meeting.
- **Erica** – maybe for Kelty – with sand does this precure?
- **Kelty** - that is what we have to look at, we have turf, we have to look into this , Geotechnical? We have been working with. Not seen the plan for the future. Yes, and aware
- **Erica** - parks to be included in these meetings / discussions.
- **Jessica** - do we have a timeline?
- **Dave** -the plan is decommissioning then move to the park, but they are two separate projects, then move to work on landscape company.
- **Jessica** -life cycle of this group, do we dissolve the group (timing) are we involved in finalizing.
- **Trustee Russell** - on behalf of school board, we have a term of reference, we have relied on guidance, does not necessarily end; reference build high school, remove high school, build a memorial site, we still have story to tell, what is the role going forward.
- **Jessica** - feels optimistic, the long term can appear the ; we need to know timeline and to know when it feels it is right, enough to have your name attached to the MAC, would like

### 4. MASSEY THEATRE COMPLEX NON-INVASIVE SCANNING – JESSICA SCHNEIDER

- **Jessica** - the property that is owned leased to the city has not been scanned in front of the theatre, we have a permit to , goal landscape and art completely an alignment. Purpose to let you know ground penetrating will be happening on this land. PFS will work on the design for us, speaks to everything we have been working on together.
- **Rob** - is aware and supportive
- **Trustee Russell** - will the reports be made public.
- **Rob** yes, and we will share the processed and would be Maya could you clarify specifically what land parcel about which we are talking? Frontage? How does this fit into the work here? 8thave lawn, trees plaza entrance to the theatre, our goal is to install layers of the land-based story telling prior to colonization, are sit, experience the place, landscaping .
- **Bill** - will it extend to the sidewalk, Canada way scanning found under the sidewalk
- **Jessica** - Massey does not have access to any other part of the land (Covent) theatre not municipality, not plans for covenant land, the line (image) covenant, do not have it here.
- **Erica** - shared plan view of Massey theatre yellow areas open lawn is where installations; 8th Ave large lawn area , not going beyond.
- **Bill** -how far might not be the extent of the property line, redemptive actions
- **Rob** – developed into future galleries, will look into it further, part of the redemptive actions is recognizing what happened to the Chinese community and recognizing the presents of that community here in New Westminster and identify ways to relaying information around that community to the board city. Some of this can be applied to what we are doing on this site. Making sure people are aware there are people there. There are people who contributed to the community

there, there are people who were marginalized.

- **Trustee Russell** – with no other questions will end for the night. Thank you everybody.

#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

- None currently

#### CLOSING

- Meeting ended at 4:52 pm.
- Next meeting will take place on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 3:30pm via Zoom
- Questions or comments should be directed to Karim Hachlaf ([khachlaf@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:khachlaf@sd40.bc.ca)) and copied to Anne-Marie Martin ([ammartin@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:ammartin@sd40.bc.ca))