



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

**Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 3:30 PM  
Location: Via Zoom**

ATTENDING MEMBERS	<p>Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, New Westminister Schools          Robyn Gibson, PFS Studio          Rob J. McCullough, New Westminister City          Nadine Nakagawa, New Westminister City          Jaimie McEvoy, New Westminister City          Jessica Schneider, Massey Theatre Society          Maya Russell, Trustee, Board of Education NW Schools          Erika Mashig, New Westminister City          Kelty McKinnon, PFS Studio          Richard Leggett, Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral New Westminister          Rhonda Larrabee, Chief, Qayqayt First Nation          Daana Gilpin, Tsilhqot'in National Government          Cheryl Gabriel, Kwantlen First Nation          Karah Foster, Nikkei Place</p>
PROJECT TEAM	Dave Crowe, New Westminister Schools
CHAIR	Danielle Connelly, Memorialization Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee, New Westminister School District
GUESTS	
MEETING RECORDER	Anne-Marie Martin, New Westminister Schools

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

- Meeting called to order at 3:35 pm
- Chair Connelly welcomed all and gave a land acknowledgement.
- Chair Connelly began introductions, and all meeting participants introduced themselves

**1. NEW WESTMINSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL DECONSTRUCTION UPDATE – DAVE CROWE**

- Dave provided an update on the status of the site and commented things are going very well, abatement almost complete, a lot more hazardous materials within the structure, we found a lot more than anticipated, but it is full steam ahead now with the deconstruction of the exterior of the building.
- Dave mentioned a notice went out to the neighborhood today and the various stakeholders, regarding truck activity and take down of the structure.
- Weekly stakeholder meetings continue Thursday mornings, keeping everyone informed, with events, and schedule.
- The deconstruction is on schedule for completion in late December 2023.

No questions or comments

## 2. UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF A STORYTELLING MARKER – KELTY MCKINNON AND ROBYN GIBSON

- Kelty presented slides that listed the guiding principles for memorialization, and memorialization area aspirational statements.
- Kelty read the Site Memorialization Area Statement (820 word) that was put together with all the input and comments from the “very draft text”. A copy will be sent by email for everyone to review and provide further input. (first stage)
- Daana provided comments and suggestions on the wording and the order of some placed words. She also asked if she would be able to read the Tsilhqot’in National Government statement.
- Kelty proved examples of what the plaque could look like

### Comments:

- Richard - 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph 5 lines in between 1897 is the wrong preposition (between what and 1897?) Kelty to correct this corrected. Include a basic map so people can orient themselves. He likes the order but is open to changing it and likes the last part “we will remember.”
- Rob requested to take this information away to process it and asked if there potential for more than one panel? Kelty mentioned the decision to have more than one panel would be left up to the group.
- Chief Larrabee – with all the texts, there could be subtitles, more time is needed to digest all this. Perhaps break it down in different sections. Example highlight “Chief Ahan,” so people know that section is about him.
- Daana – add some pictures of the warriors, wording update from “their people” to “their people and their lands.”
- Erika – taking some paragraphs and recognizing the site will evolve, with the evolution of the final plan.
- Kelty confirmed the location will be close to the school not on the site itself.
- Danielle – second last paragraph – school district 40 – remove number add New Westminster instead of the number.
- Richard – use of headings and subtitles for appropriate parts of the story, lead people into the site, reading selections at various points.
- Kelty – no budget for the park yet, this is for a series of plaques at this time. This is the first of many elements that will be installed.
- Dave - commented this is the first step and there will be many more over the next number of years to come.

## 3. LONG TERM PLANNING – TRUSTEE RUSSELL AND CHAIR CONNELLY

- a. MAC terms of reference – looking to the future, bringing vision to reality, mandate of the group.
- b. Resources and budget planning - The budget included demolition, and \$1 million was put aside to replace the landscape, but no further funds are available. We are looking at talking to other levels of government for future funding. School districts are exempt for receiving funding.
  - Chief Larrabee asked if we investigated historical agencies.
  - Jessica asked if we have looked into non for profit, or indigenous to turn the land over to the memorialized; how long will this take place?
  - Dave provided information on timeline, and what would be placed on the site ex: rolling hills, benches, lighting, and a few areas will have fencing.
  - Robin shared phase 1 schematic diagram - design plan (all plans to be above ground)
  - Richard – the Anglican healing fund, administrators of the fund would be interested, Anglican Foundation of Canada, Trustee Connelly aware of the fund and will look

further into this.

- Kelty – working with Jessica on gardens with more detail news ensuing.

#### 4. ROUND TABLE - ALL

- Jaimie – the wording is beautiful and well done.
- Karah – when would you like to have feedback on the written portion?
- Karim (next steps) we will take in all this feedback, and will examine the scope, installation will be at the end of the year or new year. Receive initial feedback first, then we will be in position to provide another draft in the fall.
- Jessica commented that we are continuing in the right direction. The next meeting the committee should be re-engaged so they can understand how they will be involved for the longer term.
- Rob – Why are we not putting the plaque on the grounds instead of by the school?
- Trustee Russell – there was a concern to have something installed sooner than later, like an interim piece.
- Chair Connelly - Connection to the learning piece for students. And there will be a lot of eyes on it.
- Rob – seems to be a string of tree's that goes through the site, place that closer to the school, to bridge the space, recognizes the value with the students being exposed to it.
- Chief Larrabee putting the soil, grass, flowers, and trees...thought we were talking about a legacy park, so the plaque should be on the site.
- Kelty we are keeping the planters from the old school.
- Richard wanted to make it clear this space is holy space, if funding is limited and long term is a concern, the signage belongs in the area being memorialized. General public will not go see the plaque situated by the school. Encouraged trustees to place the sign on the site.
- Kelty perhaps its more appropriate on the site.

No further questions or comments

#### CLOSING

- Meeting ended at 4:52 pm.
- Next meeting TBA
- 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))