

**New Westminster Schools Project**  
**Guiding Principles**  
**September 22, 2008**

The City and Board have agreed to work together to establish suitable sites for the development of school facilities to meet the approved Ministry capital projects: replacement of NWSS, a new west side middle school and refurbishment of John Robson Elementary School. The following guiding principles will assist with the selection of the preferred options.

1. It is agreed that when the projects are completed the level and type of use of existing facilities by both parties on the sites will be equal or better.
  - a. There should be no net loss of parks facilities due to the implementation of the schools plan.
  - b. Consideration should be given to increasing the number of playfields within the community.
  - c. The optimum school capacities for improved educational programming and efficient operations are as follows: elementary 300 to 450 students, and middle 500 to 700 students.
  - d. The secondary school will ultimately need to accommodate 2600 students.
  - e. The secondary school accommodates students from the entire district and should be centrally located.
  - f. The middle school is required to meet the needs of the west side of the District.
  
2. Both parties recognize that the school and park sites and site improvements, both existing and future are publicly owned and exist for the benefit of all citizens. As such there will be no exchange of cash and no gain or loss by either party or their respective constituents, rather an overall gain for the citizens of New Westminster.
  - a. Land exchanges should be fair and equitable and in general be on an acre for acre basis.
  - b. There is interest in combining community services and parks, recreation and culture activities in schools.
  
3. There will be joint use of City and School District facilities for the benefit of the community.
  - a. The requirement for school district owned playfields may be reduced through joint use agreements in perpetuity, between the school district and the City.
  
4. The parties recognize there are regulatory requirements that must be met.
  - a. School buildings must be constructed on land owned by the school district.
  - b. The projects must be completed within the level of funding already established by the Ministry of Education.
  - c. The school cannot be operated on the cemetery.
  - d. The enrolment for the school district will continue to increase and the mandate for education will be expanded therefore there must be room to expand capacity in the future.
  - e. Time is of the essence due to seismic safety concerns, inadequate educational space and escalating costs with a fixed budget.