

SD38 Facilities Newsletter

Maintenance, Operations, Transportation, Planning & Development

An Update from the Planning Team

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Our Planning team, represented by Frank Geyer, Umur Olcay, and Joseph Balderston have been diligently preparing the 2021 Five-year Capital Plan, in collaboration with Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation Department managers. The Five-Year Capital Plan will be presented to the Board of Education for approval prior to submission to the Ministry of Education in June 2020. The Capital Plan includes Project Request Fact Sheets for 23 proposed Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP) projects, 6 proposed projects in the School Expansion Program (EXP) (including four proposed additions, 1 proposed new school and 1 future site acquisition) and 5 proposed projects in the Building Envelope Program (BEP). The Facilities Maintenance team is also reviewing project priorities for School Enhancement Program (SEP), Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP), Playground Equipment Program (PEP) and Bus Acquisition Program (BUS). Prioritization of capital project requests for investment decisions by the Ministry are informed by the District’s Long Range Facilities Plan, which places the need for capital projects in a district-wide context.

The Planning team has also been reviewing potential new child care locations on school sites and developing Provincial child care capital funding applications, beginning with an application for 42 child care spaces at F.A. Tomsett Elementary School submitted to the Ministry of Child and Family Development in April 2020.

Additionally, we have been taking steps to review the potential impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the District’s demographic projections and learning environments. Accordingly, we are undertaking a review of potential changes to the projected number of new students entering the School District, and are working with the City of Richmond to analyze the impacts of the pandemic on housing development trends in the City. The Planning and Development Department will also work closely with the Senior Staff to address decisions that may impact learning environments and planning strategies as we move forward to a new normal.

New Seismic Upgrade Project Approvals!

At a media event held March 12, 2020, Minister of Education, Rob Fleming officially announced the approval of Maple Lane Elementary and James McKinney Elementary seismic upgrade projects by the Province of British Columbia. Both projects are being managed by Project Manager, Steve Ahluwalia.

Target Completion Dates of recently announced projects:

Maple Lane Elementary: December 2021

James McKinney Elementary: April 2022



A Closer Look at our Two of Our Seismic Projects

F.A. Tomsett Elementary – Our Newest Project!

Tomsett Elementary, our fifth seismic upgrade project currently in the design stage, has been going exceptionally well. This project includes a seismic upgrade and a four room addition to the building. The funding for this project is \$11.4M and is slated for completion in August 2022. Schedule-wise, things are looking great with a major milestone met in April 2020 where the pre-load for the addition was installed. The team from Thinkspace Architecture, Heatherbrae Builders, Project Manager Steve Ahluwalia, Seismic Liaison Mike Charlton and Tomsett's Project Design Advisory Committee have been communicating together through meetings to share ideas, questions and concerns. We are looking forward to working with Tomsett staff and delivering an exceptional school for students, teachers and parents in January 2022!



Tomsett Elementary – Installation of Pre-Load

Tait Elementary – Close to the Finish Line!

Tait Elementary, one of our first seismic projects approved by the Ministry of Education in July 2018 is almost coming to completion in September 2020. Sam Yoo, Project Manager, along with the team from Unitech (Construction Manager), are finishing upgrade work in the fifth phase of the project. Some highlights of the project to date include:

- 3 classrooms in Phase 1 seismically upgraded and renovated in September 2019.
- 3 classrooms in Phase 2 completed in December 2019.
- New flooring provided to 3 classrooms in Phase 3 during Winter Break 2019.

We are currently working on installing new flooring in common areas and delivering concrete grade beam work in the crawl space. Stay tuned to see the reveal of this newly seismic upgrade to Tait Elementary in September 2020!



Tait Elementary – Front Entrance

Maintenance and AFG News

We are wrapping up work on the 2019/2020 Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) and School Enhancement Program projects and grinding away on through our backlog of work orders. It has been a full team effort at the School Board Office, with carpenters, electricians, HVAC technicians and painters completing renovations on the 3rd and 4th Floors and making good progress on the 1st Floor work. Our grounds crew recently completed a pressure washing of the building exterior, and to many people's surprise, the stucco colour is white and not grey! We have received many compliments and the place looks great!

We have completed planning for the 2020/2021 AFG and recently awarded contracts for re-roofing of five of our schools for this summer. We will be releasing information on the roster of AFG projects shortly, which also include electrical, lighting, mechanical, paving, grounds, building envelope and other critical system upgrades and renewals.

Energy & Sustainability Management

Jonathan Ho and Thi Nguyen, who represent the Energy & Sustainability Team, have been working to continue to keep Richmond Schools energy efficient and to implement energy conservation initiatives running throughout the District. A major step in this direction includes the District Sustainability Action Plan that is currently in progress. This plan covers 2020/2021 through 2024/2025; with the first 3 years to focus on Zero Waste Strategy.

Key Highlights:

- We are proud to share that the District has saved 390,000 kWh of electricity and 3,807 GJ of natural gas between April 1, 2019 and March 30, 2020!
- We continue to run the District Eco-Wise program with 25 schools and at least 12,000 students participating annually.
- Some key electrical projects include Burnett Secondary, Whiteside Elementary, and Kingswood Elementary with interior lighting upgrades. Cambie Secondary is currently in progress with lighting upgrades.
- Our key natural gas projects include McMath Solar Wall; SBO Carbon Capture; Richmond and Cambie Gas Heat Pumps.



McMath Solar Wall

Facilities and the COVID-19 Pandemic/A Message from the Executive Director

A coordinated effort by the Facilities Emergency Operations Centre (FEOC - consisting of the Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Department, Planning & Development Branch and Stores Operations) in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been in effect since mid-March 2020. During this time, a number of initiatives have been developed and implemented by the FEOC to ensure business continuity from a facilities and transportation perspective, including:

- Enhanced workplace environmental cleaning protocols to ensure schools and district sites are safe from the spread of virus on multiple-touch points;
- Adjusting custodial tasks and schedules to suit COVID-19 impacts to school operations;
- Inventory and maintenance of critical supplies (masks, gloves, cleaning products) at all sites, gathering of surplus critical supplies from sites to Stores for redeployment as necessary, and responding to Ministry requests;
- Closure of playgrounds and sports courts through erection of signage and installation of caution tape to discourage social gatherings, in conjunction with the City of Richmond;
- Workplace protocols and communications concerning physical distancing guidelines, hand hygiene, vehicles and tools disinfection, and other measures to ensure staff safety;
- Workforce planning including arrangements for staff to work from home or safely at sites to ensure continuity of facilities operations;
- Transportation staff, including bus drivers and bus attendants, being redeployed to support maintenance and operations, the District food delivery program and temporary mail handling program, pending further instruction as to the return of students to classrooms;
- Continuity of construction and maintenance projects at those schools where work has previously started or were approved to start, with all external contractors complying with strict social distancing and safety guidelines as set out by WorkSafeBC and the BC Construction Safety Alliance; and
- Participating in the District Emergency Operations Centre and responding to requests as needed.

A big thanks go out to all Facilities Management & Staff for keeping our sites going during these challenging times.

Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Planning & Development/EOC Facilities Lead

Highlights from Our Electrical/Security & Transportation Team

With the COVID-19 pandemic radically changing the way we usually do things, our team in the Transportation Department have adapted to support our District and our community. In addition to patrolling playgrounds to ensure yellow tapes are still up and playground equipment to not be used, our Transportation Department have also been supporting the District's Grocery Delivery Program for the community every Wednesday. Staff are pleased to be able to help the community during this time.

With regard to our Electrical Department, staff are happy they are finding the time to complete outstanding projects that cannot be done when schools are occupied. We're slowly catching up!

The silver lining during this very difficult time is that with the fresh air and physical distancing in place, staff are more healthy which means less sick calls. We are also happy to announce that Manager of Electrical, Security & Transportation, Joel Canlas, has officially gotten the opportunity to ride his bike to work this month after being down with back rehabilitation! This is great news!

A Big Thank You to our Custodians!

We want to express a big thank you to our custodians, forepersons, EAOSS and administrative staff from our Operations Department for continually keeping our schools clean during the Covid-19 pandemic. These are the employees who are sanitizing and disinfecting our sites each and every day to keep our schools clean. If you see a custodian in your building, we encourage you to safely let them know how thankful you are for them.

We see you, we appreciate you, and we thank you for your continued efforts.



Contact Us

The Facilities Team is located at the Maintenance, Operations and Transportation building at the Works Yard.

If you are interested in learning more about our seismic projects or Long Range Facilities Plan, visit the Planning & Development Branch website at <https://pd.sd38.bc.ca/>.

You can also contact us at (604) 668-7828 for Maintenance, Operations and Transportation and (604) 295-7000 for Planning & Development.

...your Facilities Team

Stay Safe
and
Healthy