

**MBSS Replacement - Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, April 20, 2011**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

**Chris Johns**, Chair, Mt. Baker Secondary School Building Replacement Committee

**Mike Stolte**, NLC Facilitator, CIEL

**Bill Bennett** - MLA

**Jennifer Osmar**, MLA Office

**Debbie Therrien**, DPAC

**Will Pearce**, City of Cranbrook

**Scott Manjak**, City of Cranbrook

**Wendy Turner**, CFTA

**Trina Ayling**, Trustee, SD5

**Jennie Barron**, Consultant, CIEL

**Wayne Stetski**, United Way

**Sandra Cave**, Key City Theatre Society

**Rob Norum**, Secretary-Treasurer, SD5

**Tom Walkley**, Manager of Facilities, SD5

**Emily Knudsgaard**, Student, MBSS

**John Miller**, Student, MBSS

**Melissa van Witgenstein**, Student, MBSS

**Debra Empson**, Principal, MBSS

**Gail Rousseau**, Executive Assistant, Recording Secretary

Mike Stolte, Neighbourhood Learning Center (NLC) Facilitator welcomed attendees to the first of a series of meetings to discuss what the new Mt. Baker Secondary School might look like. This committee has been put together to provide decision-making advice on the proposed NLC concept at Mt. Baker Secondary School.

The objectives of the Advisory Committee were outlined:

- to make sure all attendees are on the same page
- to come to a common understanding of the NLC process, challenges, and opportunities
- to determine ways to move process along (politically)
- to provide decision making advice and guidance
- to have the opportunity to look at needs that are not there, i.e., family, community
- to identify funding sources
- to expedite process through the Ministry of Education for approval and funding

The Advisory Committee will meet 2-4 times as needed to assist School District 5 in the development of the NLC.

A quick overview of the NLC project was given. Highlights included:

- history of project
- meetings held with over 50 community groups
- challenges of Key City Theatre
- instructional program in an NLC is core and all other programs are built around it
- programs to meet the non-academic needs of students
- to provide services that remove barriers to learning, i.e., ESL classes, computer literacy, screening for hearing or speech or dental and medical care
- to provide cultural and recreational enrichment
- key motivation – to make better use of schools with underutilized space
- needs assessments are done by schools to find out needs of community
- every NLC is unique because of needs in community
- should be open to the public on weekends, during the summer, late at night during the week
- options available for dual credit programs
- new schools being built that have NLC concept included get an additional 15% capital funding

Status of project:

- MBSS is 60 years old and has been seen to be deficient for a number of years
- There are other schools around the Province that are also in need of replacement; the Ministry of Education looks at other priorities i.e., expanding districts, seismic upgrades
- A Project Identification Report was submitted to the Ministry and we are waiting notification of initial project support and Ministry direction to proceed
- looking at replacement options i.e., stand alone, renovating or adding on
- MLA Bill Bennett outlined the Capital Project Process and his role when approval is obtained
- the Ministry builds 20 schools a year on average
- building costs have risen substantially
- as the government is in a deficit position right now it is not the best of time to be asking for money but that should change over the next couple of years and we need to be ready and make our project look attractive to the Ministry
- SD5 and the MLA's office will meet to come up with a strategy and need intelligence from staff to see what will give us the competitive advantage
- Need wide spread community support
- Plans should be firm when Ministry gives approval; a lot of the ground work has already been done

Review timelines going forward:

- Ministry of Education does not have a guide (draft only) for what an NLC should look like so it was suggested to put together list of other NLC projects currently in place around the province
- CIEL provided a matrix of best practises model for guidance
- Need to involve the community soon
- look at community partners in terms of revenue and space needed
- clarify and categorize what new partners would need
- need staff to move this project along

### **Information gathered – Identification of School/Community Needs**

Community/ Stakeholder engagement (2008-11)

Needs:

- Community info hub
- Comm. Meeting rooms
- Alternate education
- Day care
- Before and after school child care
- Key City Theatre
- Youth centre
- Community greenhouse/garden
- Art gallery/access to arts
- In house cafeteria
- Green house/green building

What we can offer:

- Dual credit programs

Value statements:

- Safety/well being
- Aboriginal presence
- Support diversity

Further discussion took place on:

- providing support to Key City Theatre
- getting the students' perspective on what should be in an NLC i.e., alcohol and drug counselling, RCMP being available in the school

## **Cranbrook Connected process**

NLC concept would include:

- Community Centre
- Youth Centre
- Better Coordination of things
- Multi-use community facility

In addition to the most common themes above, downtown revitalization, daycares, seniors' day care and community green spaces were also mentioned.

Next steps:

- Advisory Committee to identify some guiding principles to help determine what partner programs and services to include
- Should reflect the communities' unique needs and priorities
- Prioritize needs of community and school and then determine criteria; or determine partners and then come up with criteria
- Communicate decisions to public why one program over another was chosen
- Harder decisions can be determined via the decision making matrix provided
- need to make sure decisions are consistent with MOE and SD5 policies, vision, mission
- potential partners should be asked to submit an application
- decisions need to be made on partnering with revenue generated programs
- suggestion to use the guidelines in the 3 examples given (Revelstoke, Australia and Vancouver) and proceed from there
- focus should be on what programs will improve students' experience
- need to fine tune decision making process while incorporating School District values
- there will be competing needs in the community and only so much space and money
- suggestion to have a student employment agency on site
- formal contracts will be made with community partners and will require lots of ground work upfront; need commitment from community partners

Existing MBSS partnerships:

A handout was given listing over 30 current partnerships formed with Mt. Baker Secondary School.

## Key City Theatre

- A brief update was given on the meeting held between Key City Theatre, SD5 and the City of Cranbrook in fall of 2010 to discuss options for Key City Theatre when a new school is built
- MLA will meet with the KCT Society to determine long range plan and what is important to the community and the school; this could be a separate process unless NLC concept includes attaching the theatre and expanding theatre arts
- good case to be made in relating two projects (school and theatre) and not separating them i.e., heating and cooling systems; many grants are available to help with these types of projects i.e., Fortis, Solar BC, Fuels for Schools grants
- preference to keep school and theatre together
- cannot sacrifice educational programming or classrooms for a theatre project
- more discussion to continue at next meeting

Other key stakeholders to involve in process:

- Columbia Basin Trust
- Additional parent involvement
- Broader community partners

## Next meeting agenda

- Key City Theatre
- Develop criteria/guidelines
- Discuss other community needs

## Next meeting date

**May 6 at 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at MBSS staff room; bring your own lunch**

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.