

SD38 Facilities Services Newsletter

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An Update from the Executive Director

It has been a whirlwind of challenging and exciting times in the Facilities Services Centre (FSC). As we surpass the one year mark since the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic first began, Facilities Services continues to be busy today making sure all schools receive the proper supplies and disinfection required. In addition to the regular day-to-day tasks, our team has been able to take on new demands caused by the pandemic. I want to take this time to remind all that the staff at FSC are the heart of the machine that runs daily in order to keep all our District sites operating safely and smoothly during this pandemic.

I also want to take the time to share that the Planning team and I are currently taking mandatory workshops held by the Ministry of Education for the District’s Capital Plan submission. We have been working for quite some time on the upcoming school year’s Capital Plan (2022/2023) for submission to the Ministry. I am excited to share that new projects will be coming soon and I look forward to making our schools better in every way!

Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services

COVID-19 and Facilities Services

As we enter, what seems to be, the third wave of the pandemic, we have noticed a significant increase in COVID-19 related work orders and requests from schools. We have also noticed an increase in paper towel and soap usage across schools.

Although it has been a very busy past several months, our team has continued to work hard to provide and deliver the necessary materials and protective supplies for staff and students while also making sure to clean schools and continually find innovative ways to keep schools running safely and disinfected in accordance with BCCDC and Ministry guidelines.

Staff at stores were pleased to receive generous donations of disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizers from various organizations. Our Grounds Department and bus drivers were efficient at distributing the stock to all school sites. As always, we appreciate stores coordinating the deliveries.

The reasons that Facilities Services successfully surpassed these incredibly busy and demanding times are our dedicated staff and TEAMWORK.

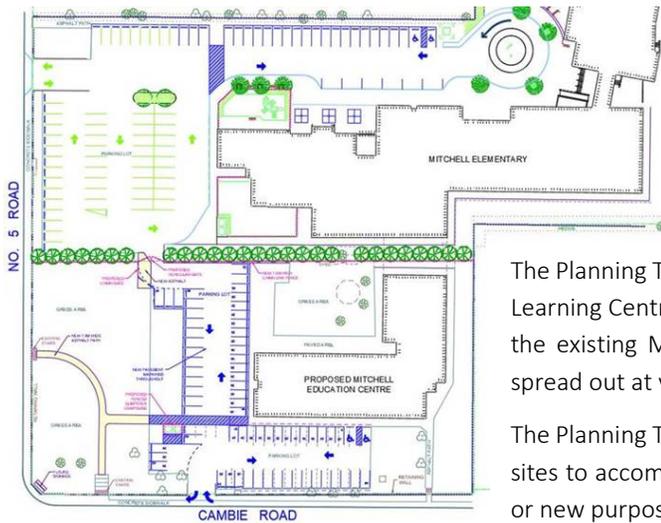
DID YOU KNOW?

Besides providing protective supplies and sanitizing schools, Facilities Services staff also spend time behind the scenes forecasting numbers for COVID-19 related operational and protective supplies for future months, oversee the repair of all portable handwashing stations in schools and electrostatic sprayers, provide staff training for proper use of sanitizing equipment, and balance budgets to help combat the costs associated with the rise of paper towel and soap usage.



An Update from our Planning Team

Our Planning Team, represented by Frank Geyer, Umur Olcay, and Joseph Balderston, have been diligently preparing the 2022/23 Five-Year Capital Plan, in collaboration with Maintenance, Operations, Energy, Projects 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 2021. The Capital Plan includes Project Request Fact Sheets for 20 proposed Seismic Mitigation Program projects and six proposed School Expansion Program projects (including four proposed additions, a proposed new school and a future site acquisition). A number of other projects are also being submitted for potential funding by the Building Envelope Program, School Enhancement Program, Carbon Neutral Capital Program, Playground Equipment Program and Bus Acquisition Program. 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.



District Accommodation

The District Long Range Facilities Plan discussed current issues with accommodation of District departments, including locations of Richmond Continuing Education (RCE) and lack of capacity and the condition and capacity at the Tech Services Centre accommodating Learning and Business Technologies (LBT).

The Planning Team has been looking into a scenario whereby the Rideau Park Adult Learning Centre could be repurposed into a true District Resource Centre, housing the existing Media Library, LBT and some Learning Services functions currently spread out at various schools.

The Planning Team has accordingly undertaken a comprehensive review of suitable sites to accommodate Continuing Education in an existing District-owned building or new purpose-built modular building. This review included 19 elementary school sites larger than 7 acres, 7 secondary school sites larger than 11 acres, and the Sea Island Annex.

Following our review, the Planning team developed a preferred scenario to relocate RCE from Rideau Park to the south wing of Mitchell Elementary, as shown above.

The Planning Team is currently sharing this plan with the Mitchell community and stakeholders for feedback alongside senior educators and the Communications and Marketing Team. Feedback is also being provided at Lets Talk SD38 - <https://www.letstalksd38.ca/mitchell-adult-learning-centre>.

The Planning Team will be bringing a report to the Board of Education at the end of May discussing next steps.

EXCITING NEWS

27 Child Care Spaces Approved for Rapid Renovation Funding at Tait Elementary!

In April 2021, the Ministry of Children and Family Development approved our Rapid Renovation funding application to accommodate 27 new child care spaces in a renovated classroom at R.J. Tait Elementary School, and design has started on the new outdoor play area. The Planning Team intends to build on this success as they continue reviewing potential new child care locations on school sites and developing Provincial child care capital funding applications.

Seismic Mitigation Projects

The Richmond Projects Team (RPT) has continued to strive towards making schools safer in the event of an earthquake. We have successfully completed four of our seismic projects: Tait, Cook, Boyd and Ferris. Although we completed several of our seismic projects, Project Managers are still in full swing managing the District's current schools undergoing seismic upgrades: Steves, Mitchell, Tomsett, Maple Lane and McKinney Elementary. It is a pleasure working alongside Administrators. Staff have been supportive and our contracting team have been great to work with as well!

We are excited to announce two new projects that are in the design stage: Bridge Elementary and Whiteside Elementary, which will both be undergoing seismic and other upgrades.



Drywall installation at Tomsett Elementary School.

Grounds, Carpentry & Finishes

Our Grounds Department has been working hard on spring cleanup at all sites and preparing for summer projects. They have also been working with several schools to create new outdoor learning spaces and garden areas that look fantastic!

Our Carpentry Department is working on reducing the backlog of work orders and building new garden sheds in support of the outdoor garden and learning spaces. They have also been working in support of the LES Grants to completely renovate several existing libraries to create new and more functional modular spaces. This is a great step in making schools become a more efficient and modern learning space for students.

Our Finishes Department is starting several big projects to renew and update the appearance of several buildings. Our painters have already begun going to different sites to paint and perform touch ups at various schools.

Plumbing, HVAC & Electrical

The District's Plumbing Department has been in full swing working on scheduled maintenance and completing work orders as they come. The team is also currently supporting other trades with various plumbing projects as needed.

Our HVAC Department continues to strive towards completing work orders that come in on a daily basis. Work orders are generally from classrooms being too hot or too cold.

Recently, our Electrical Department has installed strobe lights in all Elementary schools. Strobe light installation for Secondary schools will be done before the end of the school year. The Electrical Department is also working on security for the seismic upgrade work at Maple Lane, Tomsett and Mitchell Elementary.

Transportation

Transportation is anxiously waiting to hear from the Ministry of Education if our request to replace some of our older buses will materialize. It is sounding positive and this will be an opportunity to consider electric buses. Thank you to Jonathan Ho from our Energy and Sustainability Department for doing the ground work with the applications for various rebates to build the District's electric charging infrastructure.



With regards to our District vehicles, we are pleased to announce the renewal of our fleet service and maintenance agreement with Wallis Motors. Jeff Jang from SD38 Purchasing Department was instrumental at developing the tender documents and process. This provides comfort that the District is working with the best candidate and best value.

Congratulations to Darren Mann, our Transportation Coordinator, on successfully acquiring his Class 2 Driver's License! As he builds his experience, we look forward to Darren assisting the Department when we are short on drivers.

Health and Safety

Scissor lift training and re-certification is scheduled for mid-May. With the help from our safety trainer, Aries Argao, all Facilities Services and Tech Services staff, that require training, will be certified by the end of May.

Energy & Sustainability Management

The District's Energy & Sustainability Team at the FSC have been implementing energy conservation initiatives to keep Richmond Schools environmentally friendly. Here are some key highlights our team has been working on:

- We have launched a waste diversion pilot project at Diefenbaker Elementary. The goal is to increase waste diversion to reach our 70% overall target by 2024.
- LED lighting upgrades have been completed at Richmond Secondary, Hamilton Elementary and Westwind Elementary.
- There is an upcoming LED lighting upgrade project at Steveston-London Secondary.
- Eco-Wise grants have been awarded and are awaiting each school's projects to be completed.
- Natural gas projects will focus on converting our HVAC pneumatic control systems at eight schools with more modern distributed digital controls.
- The District Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (DSCAP) is in progress and is planned to be presented to the Board at the June 2021 Board Meeting. We've consulted with the Richmond Sustainability Action Team (operations and curriculum managers and leaders), as well as the Richmond Sustainability Advisory Committee comprised of invited representatives from CUPE, school green teams, RTA, RASA, RDPA and RMAPS. We are incorporating the received feedback into the DSCAP.
- Lastly, don't forget to look for a natural gas-focused Energy Wise campaign for the upcoming school year!



Waste diversion pilot at Diefenbaker Elementary.



Lighting upgrade in the gymnasium at Hamilton Elementary.

Operations, Rentals & Pest Control

Since Spring Break, it has been quite busy for Bob Stewart and his team in the Operations and Rentals Department. Last month, in addition to his current responsibilities, Bob gladly accepted taking over managing all District owned rental properties to unify the rentals portfolio saying *"It has been a learning curve, but I am up to the challenge!"* Key highlights from the department include:

- This summer, all City rentals and daycare rentals are confirmed and operating.
- Staff are now working on and processing daycare contracts for the next school year.
- Operations is working on the summer schedule for cleaning of all sites.
- Our in-house Pest Control Technician, Danny Chen, has been very busy dealing with a variety of pests throughout the District. He is doing very well and it is great to have him here.

"On another note, I want to thank Emily, Call Board Operator, Wendy, who takes over when Emily is away, Joyce, Rentals Clerk, and Melissa who takes over when Joyce is away. Plus, all the Operations Forepersons for their hard work and dedication to their jobs. They all help run our departments smoothly and efficiently. Thanks TEAM!" – Bob Stewart, Manager, Operations & Rentals

Appreciation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been difficult to get together as a group at the FSC. In order to bring some light and appreciation to our team, we had an ugly holiday sweater day back in December. It was pleasant to see participation from staff of different departments rock their ugly sweaters!



Left to right: Joel Canlas, Meghan Henniger, Joe Balderston, Isela Chavez, Frank Geyer, Trish Kennedy, and Randy Clark

Contact Us

The Facilities Services Branch is located in the Facilities Services Centre, 5200 River Road.

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

You can also contact us at (604) 668-7828.

