



## 6.4 EDUCATION

*Richmond has a well-educated population and a well-established range of education facilities.*



*School-aged children will increase*

### ISSUE:

#### Public School Facilities

In 2021 Richmond will continue to be a family-oriented community, and the number of school-aged children will increase (although forming a smaller share of the total population). The provision of school facilities to meet the demand is an important issue for the community.

The Richmond School Board has the mandate for the planning and development of public school facilities based on provincial Ministry of Education policies and funding. Richmond has a public school system which includes elementary and secondary school facilities serving distinct geographic areas, along with a diversity of district programs to meet the needs of the students across all of Richmond.

Community demographics change over time, as do the number of school-age children. Facility needs will also change. As new housing is added in neighbourhoods, new school facilities and/or additions to existing facilities may be required. While portable units provide temporary accommodation, the goal of the School Board is to house students in permanent facilities. In some neighbourhoods which have older school facilities, replacement of these facilities may eventually be needed.

The School Board prepares a capital plan for the planning of required facilities for submission to the Ministry of Education. Through ongoing consultation with the School Board, mandated through the Municipal Act, the City can work towards ensuring that school requirements are addressed as development occurs. Municipal Act legislation enables the City and the School Board to enter into an agreement to obtain land or funds for school sites when land is subdivided for housing.

Schools are often the focal point for the neighbourhood. The City and the School Board have worked cooperatively on initiatives which benefit students and local residents. Under the joint school/park site policy the City may purchase additional land adjacent to a new school site, or contribute to park development( play equipment and landscaping) to create larger, multi-use, and more attractive open spaces. Under the Community Use of Schools policy, community groups can use the schools to offer a variety of programs, including before- and after-school care close to homes.



Joint planning for new schools and community centres offers additional opportunities for efficiencies in cost and space utilization. Given the likelihood of constraints on public funding, continued joint planning and innovative solutions to the provision of school facilities will be helpful in addressing future needs.

### **Independent Schools**

Independent schools and private institutions, including elementary and secondary schools as well as international schools and private specialty education facilities, have located in the community, thereby increasing the range of available educational opportunities. These schools are geographically dispersed throughout the community, including the Number Five Road corridor. Private school enrolment, although a small percentage overall of school children, has been increasing faster than in the public school system. While the future demand for independent schools is difficult to predict, the number of sites will likely be limited. No formal location or site planning criteria for independent schools exists at present, although access to bus routes and open space for outdoor activities are considered important for facilities serving school-aged children.



*Kwantlen College is centrally located*

### **Business and Education**

As Richmond becomes a major business centre, with a growing base in the advanced technology industries, it will be important to have a range of educational opportunities close to home to meet the future demands of the workforce. Kwantlen College is centrally located in the City Centre. Satellite facilities offering specialized programs may wish to locate outside the City Centre close to business centres, as may other specialty educational institutions.

**Looking to the future**, Richmond has the potential to support facilities that will continue to offer residents a choice of educational opportunities in their own community. Although not a funder, nor with the mandate for education, the City can still play an effective role in continuing to support and facilitate educational opportunities which are accessible, offer a range of choice, and maximize potential for partnerships. The City can utilize tools such as the Official Community Plan policies; ongoing consultation with the School Board, colleges and private institutions; and land use controls.



## **OBJECTIVE 1:**

**Continue to encourage a variety of educational opportunities in Richmond.**

### **POLICIES:**

#### **General**

- a) Support the provision of both public and private education facilities to serve a broad range of interests and age groups;
- b) Ensure safe, direct access to school sites;

#### **Public Schools**

- c) Continue to work cooperatively with the Richmond School Board in the planning and development of permanent public school facilities to meet projected future demand, in accordance with the Municipal Act;
- d) Explore jointly with the School Board potential efficiencies in site development, and innovative solutions to the provision of school facilities;
- e) Assist the School Board to obtain land or funds for school sites;
- f) Continue to support the concept of neighbourhood schools;
- g) Continue to plan and develop joint school/park sites and joint-use facilities, where appropriate, when new sites are required;
- h) Continue to support the community use of schools;
- i) Continue to undertake joint maintenance agreements for school/park sites as appropriate;
- j) Continue to liaise with the School Board on matters of mutual interest;

#### **Independent Schools**

- k) Continue to support independent schools in the community;
- l) Establish criteria for the location and site development of independent schools;

#### **Post Secondary Facilities**

- m) Locate major post-secondary facilities in the City Centre;



*General Currie Elementary School*



*Charles London High School*



- n) Support the location of satellite campuses and specialty educational facilities within and outside the City Centre;

**Business and Education**

- o) Recognize the link between business and education in the training and development requirements of the labour force;
- p) Support the location of education facilities in conjunction with business centres;
- q) Develop design guidelines for such facilities when located in mixed-use settings.