

Joint Meeting of Valleyview Library Board and Northern Gateway Public Schools  
Re: K-12 Replacement School, Valleyview  
Tuesday, April 20, 2022

### Meeting Notes

In attendance: Adam Norris, Chair, VML Board of Trustees  
Debbie Stewart, Vice Chair, VMLB  
Kelli Reimer, Secretary, VMLB  
Debbie Wedel, Treasurer, VMLB  
Scott Biggin, Trustee, VMLB  
Tanya Boman, Town of Valleyview Representative  
Judy Smith, MD of Greenview Representative  
Kerri Danner, Library Manager  
Christin Trofimenkoff, **Community Adult Learning Program Manager**  
Gerry Steinke, Trustee, Northern Gateway Public Schools  
Regrets: Sally Petrychen, Trustee

Chair Norris indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to allow NG to present concepts to the Library Board.

NG acknowledged the importance of the Library Board as a distinct entity created by provincial legislation. NG has already communicated with its municipal partners: the MD of Greenview and the Town of Valleyview, with the commitment to them that similar discussions would be held with the Library Board.

NG indicated the following:

1. NG has received funding for the design phase of a K-12 replacement school to be located next to the Multiplex. The school will be state-of-the-art in design for learning with a capacity of 700-800 students.
2. The project is the largest capital expenditure for tax-payer funded institutions in the geographic area, costing well over \$40,000,000.
3. The location of the school is purposeful, being ideally located next to the Multiplex. Though the Multiplex was not designed specifically for being connected to a school, NG would like to explore ways and means to create a physical connection between the two buildings.
4. Even without a physical connection to the Multiplex, opportunities exist to enhance the design and size of the new school through partnerships.
5. When the concept of a Multiplex was first proposed, some discussion had occurred about including the municipal library in the facility.
6. The new school design will include an impressive space for a school learning commons. NG believes that the school learning commons could be combined with the municipal library for several advantages:
  - a. To create a library/learning commons arrangement that would be a model of community cooperation in the province.
  - b. To build a structure of significant importance for both the community and the school, using combined space to maximize usage of the facility.
  - c. To merge resource collections, increasing the attractiveness for greater overall usage.
  - d. To explore ways for optimum and efficient staffing.

- e. To increase opportunities, through increased traffic as a result of Multiplex and school use, for longer hours of operation.
7. NG is also exploring other opportunities to enhance the overall structure. Some of those opportunities that could increase usage, programming, and interest in a combined municipal library/learning commons facility are:
- a. After school care/Day care Child care space for the residents of the Valleyview area is necessary. NG sees the opportunity to use the new school design to accommodate this program along with access to the Multiplex, a library, and children's play areas. Specific programming would allow supervised use of these facilities.
  - b. Children's play/recreation area. The new school will have a gymnasium, but lower grades do not always need that kind of space for physical education. NG sees an opportunity for community partnerships to create a significant children's space designed for younger children – accessible for school use and for general community use.
  - c. Historical theme. NG recognizes the important work of the historical/museum society in the area. NG will be entering into discussion with that organization about creative ways to integrate the history of the area into the building(s). NG recognizes the significant historical collection in the Library gallery. NG is considering an historical look to the school building, displays throughout and outside the building, and finding a name to reflect the history of the area. Modern technology provides opportunity for display of history on screens and interactive devices.
  - d. Community Use. NG desires to build a school where it is possible for school space to be accessed for after school and weekend use through joint use agreements. NG sees the opportunity for library programs (Learning Council, etc) to use educational space for these services.

The Library Board entered into a discussion about the vision for a combined facility. Certainly, because of its responsibility for the effective and efficient use of the municipal library, the Library Board was able to provide a number of specific comments and concerns:

- A. Research on effectiveness of combined facilities. Though combined municipal/school libraries exist, research indicates that such an arrangement is not entirely compatible. Such an arrangement requires significant and complicated agreement between the parties.
- B. Architectural design:
  - Reasonable control of access to various parts of the structure, including fire exits
  - A design that can create separate space (even entryways?) for public and school access
  - Designated parking for public access
  - The current library does not have enough auxiliary/office space for specialized programming and staff use. (some discussion about use of Multiplex and school auxiliary space as a possible solution)
  - Places where public use is respected and maintained, offering quiet places
  - Place for student gathering
- C. Operational Issues
  - Clear understanding of liability and insurance
  - Staff job descriptions and expectations
  - No significant rental cost for the municipal library if the facility is owned by another entity.

D. Needs of the Community Valleyview Community Learning Council

- The current library cooperate with the Valleyview Community Learning Council for programming

E. Full cooperation between parties regarding design

- Use of specialized library consultants to guide architectural design
- Continual input from staff and board

F. Capital Cost

- Who is going to pay for the share of the facility attributed to municipal library identity? The Library Board relies on the funding for facilities provided by municipalities. What is the construction cost of the learning commons (considering that mechanical systems are provided as part of the entire building)? How much extra is required to build a combined facility?

Other matters:

- General concern that engagement with the community is important, allowing enough time for consultation.
- It is difficult to envision what a combined facility would look like. Isn't it easier for people to react to a design concept on paper? Can a simple drawing be created?
- What is the best location for a municipal library? Does it have advantages to remain on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave? Does it have advantages for increased usage by connecting to the Multiplex and close to Red Willow Lodge?
- Some school classes already visit the Municipal Library, demonstrating how student use during public access hours is accommodated.

Next steps:

1. Tour of the Grimshaw complex. May 16. Organized by NG. Details to follow.
2. Joint meeting of representatives from the MD, Town, Library Board, and other relevant groups.
3. Community engagement
4. Agreements, if negotiated, to be in place early fall.

Submitted by

Gerry Steinke  
NGPS Trustee