

From: "Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

To: "[Direct to Mayor and Council](#)"

Date: 11/17/2025 10:46:54 AM

Subject: Memo: Update on School Food Grant Funding to Vancouver School Board - RTS 18009

Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - VSB School Food Funding Update - RT S 18009 (2025-11-17).pdf

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Attached please find a memo from Margaret Wittgens, GM, Arts Culture and Community Services regarding an update on Council's direction for Sustainable School Food Funding (RTS 018009). Of note:

- This memo provides an update on Council's direction to reinstate grant funding to the Vancouver School Board (VSB) for the 2025-2026 school year, further to a May 7, 2025 Council [motion](#).
- The grant of \$325,000 will be recommended in the November 2025 Community and Social Service Grants; and, per Council direction, is to be funded from contingency.
- City are engaged with VSB staff to offer support for VSB-led advocacy efforts to senior government for increased funding allocations for the VSB's school food programs going forward.

Should Council have any further questions please contact Margaret directly at margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and she will ensure questions are addressed through the weekly Q&A.

Thank you,
Sandra

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxlu817 _wú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

November 17, 2025

TO: Mayor & Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy & Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Margaret Wittgens, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Update on School Food Grant Funding to Vancouver School Board

RTS #: 18009

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide updates on the "Sustainable School Food Funding" motion (May 7, 2025).

BACKGROUND

On May 7, 2025, Council approved a [motion](#) for *Sustainable School Food Funding*, reaffirming support for a Universal Healthy School Food Program. The motion contained several directions, including that Council reaffirm its support for a Universal Healthy School Food Program and that the mayor advocate to Senior Government for equitable, sustainable funding to support VSB students facing food insecurity. It also directed staff

to allocate resources from contingency to restore City funding to the VSB school food programs at a level consistent with prior support (\$325,000 annually) for the 2025/26 school year; and, to work with VSB staff to clarify how school food program funding is being allocated and spent, given that funding is now being received from all three levels of government.

Between the 2015/16 and 2024/25 school years, the City of Vancouver allocated funds to the VSB's "Food4Schools" meal program totalling \$2.8M in response to a gap in funding for school food programs. The funding situation has recently changed, with the BC Government's *Feeding Futures* Fund providing BC schools \$214M over three years (2024-2026), from which the VSB has received approximately \$5.6M annually. Additionally, the National School Food Program (NSFP) provides BC schools \$39.4M over three years (2025-2027), of which \$125,725 was allocated to the VSB for the 2024/2025 school year.

DISCUSSION

Restore City Funding: Funds from the City's operating budget have been identified to extend the VSB funding for one additional school year (September 2025 – June 2026). City staff will bring an allocation recommendation in the next Community and Social Service Grants report to Council, expected November 2025. Subject to Council's approval, shortly thereafter, the VSB will be provided a new grant agreement to be signed that will enable the payment to proceed.

Secure Alternative Funding: On June 23, 2025, the VSB passed a motion directing their staff to report back on barriers and fundraising efforts to achieve a Universal School Food Program.¹ In July 2025, City staff met with VSB staff to offer support for VSB-led advocacy efforts to senior government for increased funding allocations for the VSB's school food programs. City staff provided the VSB with information or analysis to contribute to developing the case for greater funding to Vancouver schools.

Clarify School Food Funding Utilisation: The VSB's 2025-2026 Financial Plan includes a summary of spending from the Provincial *Feeding Futures* and the.² As part of the previous grant agreement, the VSB is required to provide a financial statement at the end of each school year, detailing how City funds were spent and summarising the program's annual outcomes which the VSB has completed (e.g., in 2024-2025 the program served 424 meals

¹ Vancouver School Board. [Board Highlights – June 23, 2025](#).

² Vancouver School Board. [2025–2026 Financial Planning Process](#). Vancouver, BC: Vancouver Board of Education, July 3, 2025.

per school day across 17 schools at a cost of \$8.58/meal).³ The 2025-2026 grant agreement will include this requirement, with additional provisions to confirm spending of the Provincial and Federal funding allocations.

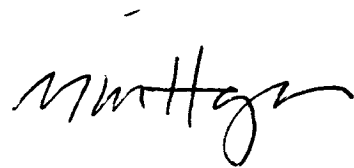
NEXT STEPS

The Community and Social Service Grants report to Council, expected November 2025, will include a recommendation for Council to approve a grant to the VSB of \$325,000 to fund the “Food4Schools” Program for the 2025-2026 school year. If approved by Council the payment to the VSB will be provided shortly thereafter.

Beyond the 2025-26 school year, future year grant recommendations related to the School Food Program will depend on outcomes of VSB efforts to secure alternative funding.

FINAL REMARKS

If Council requires further information, please feel free to contact me directly at margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and I will provide response through the weekly Council Q&A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'margaret wittgens', with a small horizontal line above the first few letters.

Margaret Wittgens, General Manager
Arts, Culture, and Community Services

margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca

³ City funding covered 50% of these program costs, with *Feeding Futures* funding the other half.