

From: Frank Goodman

Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 3:18 PM

To: Official Trustee; Superintendent

Cc: Promita Abraham; Victoria Stephens

Subject: Please consult with Gordon PAC on proposed usage of Yellow School House

Dear Trustee Turner and Superintendent Lewis

We are writing again on behalf of the General Gordon PAC about the Gordon outbuilding, otherwise known as the Yellow School House.

We believe VSB is assessing one proposal resulting from the stay of demolition that was granted to allow consideration of alternative uses for the outbuilding.

We have heard unofficially that the proposed usage for the Gordon outbuilding is a private school for grades K-2 or K-3. The undersigned PAC executives and many other parents believe that is not a use consistent with the interests of our children on such a small site.

The parents of Gordon discussed the matter at our PAC meeting on Monday 28th November, and it was agreed that the PAC executive would write again to VSB to explain our concerns. Dianne, you may recall we discussed this with you briefly at the official opening of the new Gordon on Friday 2nd December.

The fundamental problem with a private school for grades K-2 or K-3 is that the yellow school house would continue to occupy a sizeable area of the Gordon playground and traffic problems on West 7th Avenue would become worse, without providing any benefit at all to the Gordon community. There is already a wonderful public K-3 program inside the main school building, and the site is too small for Gordon's enrolment, let alone more students.

To be clear, we are not arguing specifically for the yellow school house to be demolished. We understand the need to preserve heritage buildings where possible. Our belief is simply that the space should be used to benefit the Gordon community. In our view, VSB should either demolish the outbuilding and build more playground, which PAC will help with, or find a use for the outbuilding which is of some benefit to the community, such as a daycare, a pre-school, or an after-school community space, to offset the loss of playground space.

We believe VSB has a duty to inform and consult with the Gordon community before committing to any particular usage of the outbuilding, so that parents can

express their views. We will oppose any use that does not benefit the Gordon community.

Yours sincerely

Promita Abraham, PAC co-chair
Victoria Stephens, PAC co-chair
Frank Goodman, PAC secretary