

**From:** Frank Goodman

**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2017 11:18 PM

**To:** Official Trustee

**Cc:** Promita Abraham; Victoria Stephens

**Subject:** Please demolish the Gordon Yellow School House and convert the space to playground

Dear Trustee Turner

We are writing on behalf of the General Gordon PAC in support of the VSB staff recommendation to demolish the Gordon outbuilding, otherwise known as the Yellow School House, and convert the space to playground.

As you know, our belief has been that the outbuilding or the space it occupies should be used to benefit the Gordon community. More than three and a half years have passed since the seismic update plan was changed to include demolition of the outbuilding, in the summer of 2013, but no acceptable proposal to use the building has been received by VSB. We feel it is now time to let go of the unusable building and get on with creating an exciting addition to the play space that will directly benefit the students of Gordon, as well as the wider community.

The PAC vision for the space includes recreating a much-loved butterfly garden that was lost during the seismic upgrade of the school. Other possibilities for the space include:

- outdoor sitting area/classroom
- raised vegetable beds
- meditation garden
- playground space

It is a sunny spacious corner suitable to the needs of plants. A simple native plant zone like we had before to model/teach pollination and the multiple connections to science will be easy to create and maintain, affordable, and incredibly therapeutic in our urban environment. It will not only be a wonderful energizing place for our children but also serve the community well.

The Gordon community has a long history of working with VSB to improve and maintain our playground, including the creation of the large grassy area and the butterfly garden, and planting many trees, and that will continue, thanks to the efforts of many parents and teachers. Some features were lost during the seismic upgrade, but the PAC has already raised and spent more than \$80,000 on new playground equipment and trees, and is excited at the prospect of contributing to

the creation of more wonderful play space for our children and many future generations of children at Gordon.

Yours sincerely

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

Further information at:

[http://www.gordonelementary.ca/yellow\\_school\\_house](http://www.gordonelementary.ca/yellow_school_house)

