



General Gordon Elementary School



PAC meeting minutes, June 20th 2014

1. Welcome to David Eby – MLA for Point Grey

What kind of issues do I work on generally and how can I help?

Health, education, transit, environment, social services.

Unusual time (legislature closed for the last 6 months) – have been meeting about local issues. Working with ministries on personal issues. In terms of education, the main issue is on seismic including schools that are not as far along as us, class size and composition issues, funding for special education.

Opportunities for teachers: if the legislature is in session, can get passes and arrange tours and see behind the scenes. Summer jobs for late high onwards – tour guides. Legislative library for history pieces around provincial laws (recently completed one on racist issues). Guest speakers for events. Office has space for 50 seats, where non-partisan clubs/ community groups can meet. A PAC could meet there. Promotion of events on an emailed newsletter. Core message to deliver is that I am around.

2. VSB Seismic Project Team Update – Chris Atkinson & Jay Hiscox and landscape architect

Architecture:

New building is located more or less where the existing building is, a little nearer to Bayswater. It is a tight site. 3 storey school to keep as much of the site open as possible. Main entrance off Bayswater. Ground floor is admin, library, multipurpose first, then gym and kindergarten programs. Preschool in the east end of the building. School will be used off hours for school and community activities: the design allows for certain spaces to be used in off hours: library, multipurpose, gym, washrooms, kitchen. classrooms not accessible.

Second and third floors are clusters of 4 classrooms around commons area. students and staff can circulate without crossing commons areas.

Multipurpose room is 40% larger than current gym and stage. New gym is 60% larger than existing gym.

Moveable partition in multipurpose room, along with a portable stage, so creating a performance space, that can be stowed. That same space would be used as a music room most of the time. Multipurpose would also be lunchroom and afterschool care.

Outside of building has substantial use of brick, also glass (lots for multipurpose room and corner of library) with some coloured glazing. gym has mostly brick on the lower level with glass above. several entrances to building on south side.

Landscape design:

Driven by need for fluid site circulation. pedestrians can flow through site from 7th easily now. can get into the site from many of the same entrances. will maintain a lot of the



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existing green space – will retain all existing trees on green space as well as the 4 large conifers on site. playground equipment has moved – mostly on west side of building, also south west corner. running track so can stay on site for Terry Fox runs. loading on west side of school. community garden plots will use grass area. parking on west side, chained off after hours.

Baywater and 6th – small plaza for heritage interpretation.

planning for future – can add additional playground equipment, reintroduce butterfly garden, garden plots in fenced off area to be maintained by community.

transplant wild plums and birches to other site.

scheme going forward: building has as long a life span as it can.

Project Build Timeline:

Will be available on the website.

We are at design implementation. Will be all completed by the summer of 2016 – We are still on schedule as we are now building it all in one phase. Will apply for development permit this month – takes 8 or 9 months. Working drawings will start soon after. Start hazardous material abatement this summer. Demolition in the fall. Start construction of new building in December. Finish building in May or June 2016. Clean up on site during summer.

For 2014, steps we are about to take: full public open house for school and community to see project. As soon as the school is vacated, will mobilize right away. School has already started preparing for move. Will move early July.

During demolition, will consider materials for reuse (granite steps?) or bricks for fundraisers. Need to make plans for this this spring. Need to be set up at QE in August so staff have time to prep for fall. School in June of 2016 has a building ready to move back into.

Student temporary relocation information:

Can see QE site now. Acadia school project is on time, so they will be out in time.

Framework for transportation via a shuttle. In Feb, will survey parents to secure ridership demand for the shuttle, then can sort out routing and timing to deliver to the bus companies in March. Any transportation will be safe, will support the educational use of the schools.

Q and A:

1. Does transportation include after school care?

No additional bussing for JKC. Will have an early bus and late bus for the school, and it may be useful for JKC parents. Survey will ask for usual pattern of drop off and pick up.

2. No JKC bussing pushes expense onto parents. Budget should take this into consideration.

We are balancing our budgets and funding bussing out of a budget that never considered bussing. We may find that some parents find services at Bayview instead. We have limitations but we have to make it work.



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3. Space at QE for JKC?

Yes there is some space. JKC proposed to be at both sites.

4. Does new gym accommodate all students?

Yes. And portable stage can go in there for visiting performances.

5. Is portable stage part of budget?

Yes.

6. What about changing rooms for gym?

There are none. Washrooms can be used instead. There is a washroom on every floor, so students may change on their own floor.

7. Where will busses pick up?

Not set yet, but part of survey would be about this. Likely along Bayswater, next to gravel field – it would be a sequestered area, and may move as construction progresses.

8. Temporary curtains that get moved a lot would wear faster. Is there budget allocated to fund renewal of these? and is there funding for setting up temporary stage?

Would only be money for first pair of curtains – we got to those details with music teacher. Panels are 100lb. Crew from VSB would be called out to set up the stage. The school would need to book that crew each year. Music room may have the stage/mini stage set up for much of the time.

9. Second and third floor common spaces – how are they used?

Two stairs that lead up to these floors, so students only need to pass through their own commons area.

10. What's the vision for the use of the commons areas?

Can fit up to 90 students there, so a visitor can talk to three classes at once in the common areas. Same as the hallways are used now: small group area for math groups, LAC, resource etc.

11. Are there still student lockers?

Lockers are gone. Students locker space has been moved into the classrooms.

12. Resources for science: sinks and storage?

Sinks in every room for primary. Intermediate classrooms have sinks in common areas. Storage for science materials part of the storage on each floor (larger on one main floor and smaller ones on 2nd and 3rd floors).

13. When will we know about JKC transportation? It makes a difference to whether we attend Gordon or not.

Students leave at different times during the day. Christine from JKC is looking at having one time for pick up. There is no money in budget to bus JKC students down the hill. What if they caught the early bus back to Bayview and attended JKC there? Enrollment will determine demand, which will help determine JKC attendance and needs.



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3. Principal Update

New VP, Nancy. Has been at Kerrisdale, Secord, Trafalgar. She will be doing resource with FI, english with late immersion classes.

Body science happened. Several teachers went to body science ProD day. Will have a 2 hour parent night on Tues Feb 4th from 7-9pm.

Saleema Noon will pilot the iBoy class on Friday Feb 7th.

Jesse Miller is doing a workshop with staff at Gordon and Bayview.

Performance – Gordon school anthem will be developed with the students. Students are nervous that “are we still going to be Gordon”. Will make Gordon flags to have at each school.

4. Other Business

- **Winter Fare:** Poinsettias raised \$106.83 & Bake Sale \$679.45, \$1000 cash cards sold. Special thanks to team leads; Tricia, Clarissa, Sheila & Carmen, plus all volunteers that helped set up, coordinate and clear up.
- **Class Rep:** Thank you for arranging xmas gifts for teachers & support workers
- **Hot lunch update.** Clarissa – it is running well. 50 orders a day. \$100 a week for the PAC.
- **Play ground committee update.** June 7th event has a fundraising focus for the new playground, as well as having the fun that we have at the spring fling. Invite attendees of the 100 year event. Appeal letter to parents outside of PAC. Also talking about next year, and concern over losing sense of community – this is not about just saying goodbye to Gordon, but about renewal and celebrating what is to come. Next year, maybe have an event in November or February outside of school community (auction and drinks for adults, to be held at Royal Van Yatch Club). Needs a name – pass ideas to Nicole MacRae.
- Beth thanks VSB for listening to every concern that PAC brought up, and for making it happen. Chris thanks parents for their input and a meaningful interaction that has produced a better playground than the VSB could have done on their own.

5. Motions & Votes this month

Teacher gift usually given each year. PAC would like to see what that money is spent on. Erin made motion to give 20 gifts of \$200 each for classrooms, music, resource.
