

Gordon PAC meeting minutes

Nov 26th 2012

1. Seismic update presentation

Design Team leader: **Mark Ehman** of DA Architects

History: NCLD pilot project 2010, project definition report 2011, project agreement 2012.

There will be a replacement school on the site, at the north end of the site, with a playfield at the south end. The city required 12 parking spaces, which they allowed to be angled to save space.

Notion of a public space at the corner of Bayswater and 6th.

Entrance to the school off Bayswater, instead of 6th Ave. Would have multipurpose, gym and music on north side, and teaching spaces on the south side of the school.

Phases of construction for continued teaching: tear down gym and build new classroom wing, then move into new space and demolish old wing, then construct gym and north side of the building.

Now into design and development. Timeline: school needs to be open by the summer of 2016. Need to start construction by Fall 2013. So basic design work has to be concluded by the end of Feb 2012.

Working with Vancouver School Project team (VSB staff and school advisory committee: admin, teachers, parents and JKC operator).

Significant amount of additional area from the NLC for school to be used in off hours – for Gordon is 18%. 4263m square total.

Clustering of classrooms in groups of 4 for each “learning community”, mandated by VSB. Three storey building so that there is as much outdoor playground as possible. Also more flexibility for manipulating three storey school behind the current building.

First floor details: gathering area on first floor. Kitchen next to multipurpose room. Stage is part of NLC allotment. Music room is an additional area too. Library, computer room, Da Vinci studio (art and science room).

Second and third floor details: classrooms around commons areas. Staff room on second floor. Outdoor balcony on second floor.

Next meeting of the committee on Dec 18th.

Public information meeting in January – session for PAC and public.

Then development permit in early March, to take 6 or 7 months.

Completion of new school summer 2016. Completion of school grounds spring 2017.

Chris (VSB) addressed the learning community concept. From innovative designs in Finland and elsewhere, the school board is building schools with common areas for group work and students from different classes interacting. Increased space from hallways gives a larger commons area. Our new classrooms have classrooms of the same size that they are now, whereas Kitchener has more varied class sizes; also sight lines are not good at Kitchener. For our school the commons area does not require movement of classes around classroom areas.

Ministry does not fund a covered area. PAC could fund a covered area, but this would be part of the outdoor plan, and needs to be built into the master plan.

Romy Cooper speaking for the teachers on the seismic upgrade:

The teachers' input was asked for, but then largely ignored. Teachers know what is needed for the students. There are changes that have been made, but not on fundamental ideas, such as the common areas, which have supervision and useability issues for the teachers. If there were hallways rather than common areas, the classrooms could be larger. Teachers are not adverse to smaller break out areas, but really believe in larger classrooms, whereas the Board believes that classes can spill out into common areas.

Currently the two classrooms that have to work together, as they are in the same room, do not provide a good learning environment. If the common area could be a hallway, it might be used as break out space, as hallways are used now, but larger classrooms are much preferred. The teachers would like to build a school that will benefit everyone.

PAC voted on their representatives bringing the following matter to the attention of the seismic committee on Dec 16th: the practicality of common areas, given the concerns of the parents raised during the architect's presentation, and the letter read by a teacher written by a teacher.

16 for, 2 against, 1 abstain.

2. Upcoming PAC Activities

- **Winter Concert Thursday, Dec. 13, 5 - 8 p.m**
 - **PAC coffee stand** – thank you to Tracy Fuller + volunteers
 - Parents asked to bring in baked goods to sell at the coffee stand
 - **Shopping Cards** – Sheila Kirkby will sell them during the concerts
- **Winter decorations sub-committee**—thank you to Tricia Wallace + volunteers
- **Winter Food baskets** – Thank you Erin

3. PAC Announcements

- Gift presented to departing Custodian Alberto Andaya, Nov 17th: \$100

4. Other Business

- PAC money for dance classes for all (similar to Gymnastics) (Margaret/ Natalie). No action.
- Proposal to come up with new school name. Margaret will research the process.

5. Motions

- PAC Direct Drive Disbursement

\$6K for smart boards

\$800 library books

\$1471 to classroom funds

\$135 to physical education equipment

\$2K to gymnastics (\$102 to be taken from direct account to make up this amount)

Motion made by Elke. To be voted on next month.

6. Meeting adjourned at about 9:15pm