

Gordon Elementary PAC meeting

October 25th 2011 7:30pm-9:00pm

Gordon Elementary Library

Agenda

7:30 – 8:15

Emergency preparedness

Jane Morris, works as Emergency Management officer Health & Safety department at the Vancouver School Board. Trains staff, oversees equipment of school. Starts by showing the damage caused in other places by earthquakes. A slide questions who's responsible? Everyone is. Referring to the fact that everything in an earthquake becomes a projectile.

Drills: Fall, "drop cover hold" drill, Great BC shake out, voluntary participation. In the Spring: Big one @ Two annual event, full school evacuation, emergency radio communications drill, drill scenarios, full student release.

There is a question about the comfort kits, and those are supposed to be kept at the school and not at the tarp. Fund raisings can be organized to improve on the items (qty.). Training: Incident Command is in line with Police, Fire dept., ambulances, etc. which aligns all responses accordingly. The school emergency response teams have annual trainings, light urban search and rescue, first aid certification. There is also emergency radio communications training. Volunteers are teachers, staff and/or parents.

Emergency Supplies: Fundamentals and standardization. They contain water, food, first aid, sanitation, emergency communications, SERT equipment, student release, tools, shelter. No chance that a tsunami or high water risk for General Gordon. Questions about what additional items PAC could purchase in addition to the ones already there. Jane suggests to wait for the final list to be revised by the school administration, and then decide if such items are needed.

Personal Preparedness: "Be prepared to... camp for 3 days". Home preparation is: have a Family Plan, out of town contact (computer savvy), have a family meeting place, deal with utilities, learn how to use a fire extinguisher, stock replenish and refresh emergency supplies (food, water medication clothing), don't forget your pets. Shelter, can opener, radio, light, tools, first aid kit, pet supplies. "Grab and go kit": small food items, water, medication, comfort items... Car Kit: water, foot, boots, jacket, light, blanket, medicine. Pet Kit and Work Kit are also similar. Community resources from many organizations web pages such as Government of Canada, City of Vancouver, VSB, etc...

8:15 - 8:45

Seismic upgrade of Gordon Elementary

Miriam presents the topic by explaining that the decision has been made to replace the school altogether, and that some people are not OK with such decision. She read 6 sentences asking people to reflect in silence for a minute. She then introduces Emily and Bill Co-chair of the General Gordon building committee. Bill recalls the first meeting back in 2007, remembering that the original proposition was completely off from what the community and the school needed. The committee studied and talked to the city, park board, VSB, PAC, etc. He described a presentation to then premier G. Campbell, explaining the role they thought the school should play in the community. The result was that 15% more space for all schools in the province, and schools that are not just schools, but also community hubs.

General Gordon seismic upgrade committee was created, staff, teachers, consultants and more were involved. The heritage issue has brought a negative feeling. He thinks that, as an architect, the mood set around a project at the beginning, stays with such a project for the duration. 18 or so different options were considered (in between full retention school, to hybrid option and replacement school).

The preferred option was the hybrid model. The concept was sustainability, melding old and new, a good balance between past and future. The "H" block was an icon to be kept, and essential part of the hybrid option. There was an open house 3 days later, which result (70% hybrid, and 80% saying that the facades should be kept). Bill thought that would be a clear mandate. Then the issue went to committee 2 (?),

Demographics 20-30 in Vancouver, bill says, are really interested in keeping the heritage there is in their city. VSB has the ball on their court. If the project they come back with is subject to an open house, and the numbers are similar to the past, he says that the City of Vancouver will have a very tough time supporting a project rejected by the community.

Q&A follows. Next step? The VSB will need to send the project to the Ministry, and maybe a year or a year and a half will pass, and the committee will go dormant for a long time, then. Several PAC members express appreciation for the work of the committee,

8:45 - 9:00

Voting

1. \$3,000 dollars for author visits. Favour: unanimous.
2. \$3,000 dollars for performances. Favour: unanimous.
3. Class reps, Karen presents the idea, the objective is to have class reps in order to reach out to parents that are interested in GG community, and requests \$75 dollars for 3 sessions of \$25. Favour: unanimous.
4. Letter in support of the job action by the Teachers, is presented, and read. All PAC members wishing to sign it, can.

A parent comments that the job action has affected the communication between administrators and teachers regarding the Halloween parade on Friday, that is possibly cancelled. We need one teacher to put the motion Notice of motion is made to borrow \$10,000 to purchase Safeway cards and y seconds it.

Meeting adjourn

