



# General Gordon Elementary School



PAC meeting Oct 28th. 7–8:30pm

## 1. Welcome to new faces

- Marc Cormack acting VP
- Chris Atkinson and Jay Hiscox from the school board
- Christine from JKC

## 2. Direct Drive update – Ends Oct 30th

- PayPal – [www.gordonelementary.ca/node/682](http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/682)
- Currently raised \$7765
- Voting on DD dollar allocation below

## 3. Seismic Update from VSB Project Team – Jay Hiscox & Chris Atkinson

- Jay project manager, and Chris district principal.
  - Montessori building was planned to be relocated, but now will be removed at the end of the construction period (no formal heritage status for the building) and the childcare will move inside the building. In the future it would be a future 3rd kindergarten room, or for other school use.
  - New building can now be built in one phase. Will be savings in electrical hookups etc with one phase.
  - Working group: Queen Elizabeth and Annex PAC members, and Gordon PAC chair, as well as administration.
  - Would like us to come to their Spring Fling in May.
  - Proposed placement of students: Annex is for younger kids, so Gordon K–3 will be at the Annex. Annex has a space with Chaldecott Park – the school board will help them get more playground equipment to support the increased student body. Gordon grades 4–7 will be at the Main school. We won't know our student numbers til March or April so exactly which of the grades 3 and 4 will be at which school will be finalized then. Ms Mac will do music at both schools.
  - Main site portables: 14 portables, 10 or 11 divisions, plus one space in the school. Admin, library and music will each have their own. 6 divisions at Annex.
  - JKC will be at both sites, so students are picked up from their own school. May have buses to move kids between schools.
  - Proposed Bell Schedule: at the Annex, the schedule is the same as the current Gordon schedule. Main school will be staggered from QE, because of the numbers of intermediate students. 8:25 morning supervision starts, 8:40 warning bell, 8:45 school begins, 10:15–10:35 recess, 11:35–12:20 lunch, 2:43 school ends. Our supervision aids will be split between the schools.
  - Determining transportation plan. Transportation being worked out. There will be a safe point for pick up and drop off near Gordon site (away from construction). Then a bus that goes to each school. Survey with parents in the spring to ask about what service would work best for families. May have an early bus and a late bus, spaced 5 minutes or so apart. Should have a Safe Arrival program. Scheduled time that buses will leave – if you miss the bus, you need to take your child to school. Parents concerned about younger students – may be an introductory bus ride in August to test out the system. May have space on the bus for parent volunteers to accompany a group of children for the first week or so. Parent drop off can be at one time (for siblings), and one child will be at school early. Coming back to Gordon, staff bring students to the bus. If there is no parent to meet the child, the bus company waits for a defined period, then calls emergency contact numbers (same as at a school site). If a child can walk themselves home, they will be on a list saying that they can be left unattended. Bus company will be decided in May and June. Procedures will be ongoing and continually worked out during the year. After school programs will also be meshed with. Special needs kids will have their own plans. Traffic planning at the drop off and pick up sites to ensure safe drop off and pick up locations. Parent community cohesion may be maintained by having a coffee morning once a month or so at the pick up point. Question about parent access to bus service, for those who volunteer at the school?
  - Don't know how many K students will come because of the move, but we have space for the same number of students that we have now (full).
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- Queen Elizabeth is getting some interior renovations, so that some Gordon students can be accommodated in the school. Also some IT updates at QE. Gravel field is done, so QE is getting some benefit. Annex site are excited to get more kids, so they have more resources and programs. Will share performances, which the Annex would not have otherwise. More administration, more supervision, more library.
- How to bring the staff together from both sites is being discussed.
- The staff felt better once they saw the site– should be the same for parents.
- Information board to be set up in GG Entrance Hall requested.
- Open House at QE/QEA (4275 Crown Street) for Gordon Parents K–3 Wed 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Open House at QE for Gordon Parents Intermediate Grade 3+ tbd
- What about the new school? Will have more information on what the new building looks like by the end of November. Maybe have a presentation for the lobby within a few weeks.

## 4. JKC seismic update

- JKC update – Christine Hibbert. “These are all first thoughts.” What JKC can/will/won’t do is based on what VSB does. Nothing is confirmed at this point. The location at QE – hopefully K–3/4–7 split will work, though I haven’t seen the spaces yet. K–3 is the largest group, so have to look at capacity for the two sites. current capacity of 65 – need space at Annex for about 40 kids, and about 25 at main school. Transportation: morning care – don’t have more than 20 at early morning period, and the same at Bayview. One possibility is for children to require early morning care to be at Bayview. The bus that leaves here could pick up at Bayview. For the afternoon, the school bus will not meet the needs of JKC families – will need to negotiate another bus to come at the end of the day, around 5:30pm (at JKC’s cost). Possibility that instead of coming back to Gordon, the end of the day bus could drop off at Bayview JKC.

## 5. Other Community Seismic information

- Heritage Vancouver – upcoming talk: The Future of Vancouver Heritage Schools. Heritage Vancouver has written to the school board requiring that there is a Statement of Significance on the yellow school house.
- Kitsilano Secondary seismic update – on Kits High website, the seismic upgrade at Kits will start in May and end by Fall 2017. Phased project. \$62 million. The final 18,000 sq m school will have a theatre, 3 gyms. New building on tennis courts. Community wing in current old building. Contract awarded August 19th. First two years will be uninterrupted, then will be moving classrooms.

## 6. Gordon teachers win Governor General’s Award in History

- Graeme Cotton and Romy Cooper (who was at Gordon last year) will be travelling to Ottawa to receive their awards.

## 7. PAC Activities

- **Winter Fair.** Thursday Dec 12th.
  - **Body Science/Sexual Health Educator** – Shani, one of the newest members of our staff is eager to teach Sex Education at Gordon. Accessible yet not a classroom teacher, so well suited. She can do it next year.
  - **Class Rep Social Gathering** – Nov 14, 8 pm, at our local Milestones. If not a class rep, welcome to come anyway.
  - **Playground committee update** – continuing to work on playground. Inclusive, green and all season for everything. Paula working on website. Beth working on teachers’ needs. Charting out grants for funding. Buy a brick campaign. Next playground committee meeting is in November.
  - **Safeway Cards** available at meeting
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## 8. Motions & Votes this month

- **Vote** – Motion raised in Sept to allocate DD as follows:
    - \$2000 to Spirit of Math. One opposed, one abstention. The rest in favour.
    - Up to \$3000 to Librarian & Author visits. Unanimous in favour.
    - Up to \$3000 to Music Dept for Performances. Unanimous in favour.
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