

Proposed QEA Closure: Email feedback

In response to the proposed closure of QEA, the Board approved the launch of a public consultation process in January 2022. There were three ways to provide feedback about the proposed closure of QEA: by completing an online survey, attending a public meeting (community dialogue session), and/or submitting written feedback via engage@vsb.bc.ca. Feedback from the survey and public meetings are summarized by Delaney and Associates in the *What We Heard* report.

This appendix includes a themed summary of emails received engage@vsb.bc.ca as well as the complete text of the emails themselves. Personal identifying information has been redacted from emails.

A total of 51 emails providing feedback on the proposed closure were received at engage@vsb.bc.ca between February 10 and May 26, 2022. Most emails received contained multiple themes related to the proposed closure of QEA. Longer emails tended to contain more themes and therefore have greater representation in the analysis below.

Theme	Frequency (% of total themes identified)
Don't Close QEA	14
Support for small school communities such as QEA	13
Population Growth in Vancouver-Planning Concerns	13
Process Transparency Concerns	12
Support for using limited resources effectively	11
Don't sell VSB property	9
Comments and questions about data	7
Support Closing QEA	5
Comments about CSF and MOE	4
Concerns about reduction in FI spaces	3
More and better schools are needed	3
Negative impact on JQ	3
Other	2

Dear Janet,

A happy childhood is a foundation for a joyous life. It is something worth investing in. You treasure education, but education does not happen in a vacuum. Learning occurs best in the context of relationships. And so, let us talk about the value of little schools.

Little local schools create community in their neighborhood and within the school itself. Children who live close enough can walk or ride a bicycle to school. As they—often accompanied by parent, nanny or granny-- make the journey by neighbor's homes, conversations arise over time, so that parents and children come to know their neighbors by name. No longer strangers, affection and concern generally build. At the school, families connect. While parents talk prior to accompanying their kids home, children play. Within the small school, it is possible for a child to really be known by the teachers, principal, supervision aides, and custodians. There is nothing like having someone call you by name to feel valued. Because schools in the child's neighborhood facilitate walking/biking as opposed to being dropped off by automobile, they promote physical activity and help protect our environment. It is known that time spent in the outdoors better primes young brains for learning. (Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv) Yes, rain-pants are mandatory in Vancouver, but what better way to teach children how to dress for the weather? In a small school, parents are more in touch with teachers and often willing to volunteer time in many helpful ways.

Why am I writing this letter? It is because twenty-some years after my two children have matriculated from Queen Elizabeth Annex, I feel indebted to school and its teachers for the education and the experience they received there. I think it would be a mistake to close this school or any neighborhood school for that matter. The PAC has reviewed sound economic and seismic reasons not to sell schools. I will highlight other important reasons. My son, in the English stream, had Ms. Merrilee Perret for a teacher for two years. She was a very energetic, hard-working and caring teacher who focused on getting her students reading or as she said "addicted to books". Every Friday, she invited parents in to the classroom to read with their kids. Modelling like this is so effective in raising a reader. To this day, my son credits her for his excellent reading and comprehension skills. Under Mrs. Joanne Lloyd, he was able to share all his passions of birding, Camosun Bog restoration, and cooking with the class. For my daughter who was in French immersion, she recounts how nice it was that all the staff in the school knew each and every student. It made her feel valued. Her very positive and affectionate teachers, Chantal Larrivee, Joelle Butler, and Yolande Levasseur ("Yoyo") inspired my daughter to do what she is doing now, pursuing education as a career. What greater honour can a teacher have? My daughter said she learned so much, all the while not realizing that she was learning because Yoyo told stories and made everything a game. All the QEA children loved "The forest" playing beneath the trees and watching eagles soar overhead. Yes, children do notice beauty in nature. The magical QEA mural was created in their time by the children with help from a local artist, Anne Thorenstein. A parent group built the "stream" and planted native species. Another parent volunteer, Mrs. Lana Penner-Tovey, conducted the otherwise non-existent music program. Parents ran the pizza days, supported sports day, and engaged the Maple Man for a yearly winter festival. My children enjoyed walking to school, which we did without exception. (In fact, they protested whenever they had to ride in a car.) Another opportunity for which my children are grateful were the leadership roles they had in this small K-3 school. These special opportunities naturally fell to the grade-three student. There, they were reading buddies and took turns at public speaking, delivering morning announcements. Queen Elizabeth Annex promotes community, literacy, wonder, exercise, and cooperation like none other.

If you are concerned about the school's low occupancy at present, it could easily be filled if more French teachers were employed or if changed back to a dual stream of English and French-immersion. Is closing schools the way to reward teachers who have worked so hard to adapt during this pandemic? In this time of loss, where even children have experienced cancelled family trips, reunions, birthday parties, sporting events, and faith gatherings and have lost years of relationships with grandparents... some permanently, must they loose more? A child will feel more secure in this uncertain world if we as adults can keep some things the same for them.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

Hi. My opinion is don't close it. I don't think it's sensible to close this public asset. More people are still coming. I don't think you should get rid of stuff because money was mismanaged elsewhere.
[name redacted]

Hi there,

I wanted to make some comments and as I am a Mom to 2 kids at Kerrisdale Elementary in the French Immersion Program and what I have seen is that most kids that came to our school (in each of the girls' grades) did not end up staying as they found it difficult to commute eventually. So by the time the kids are in grade 6/7 there are only split classes and many kids have left for several reasons. Unfortunately it is hard to know which kids will continue with French all the way through to grades 7 or 12. Thus I am supportive of having more kids and not getting rid of the spaces.

It is hard to understand from the communication whether you will close QA due to costs and safety, but transfer all the spaces to Jules Quesnel. Then I am in favor, if spaces are being lost, then I am not in favor as the numbers in French Immersion become much less in grades 5, 6 and 7.

Cheers,
[name redacted]

Close it

I live in the area where Queen Alexandra school is , I know the community and population, and Yes Families around this area are in decline for many factors , most housing are building where where are 2 bedrooms or one only , families are not able to live in this type of buildings, plus old renters or owners population are getting old , most families grew and left the area just parents and grandparents are living in this area . If they are families in the area maybe they prioritize other school instead of this one , sadly has bad reputation in the community as been too old , out graded , too many conflicts .

So in the end if families like me has the opportunity to pick a school in the area , of course they choose one with some factors to be considered.

Infrastructure,playground , population, programs , daycare before and after school program , extracurricular activities.

I hope my perspective is considered and the closed this old school and made better ones in a future.

[name redacted]

"SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK about the proposed closure to engage@vsb.bc.ca(External link). All emails received will be shared with the Board as part of the final report summarizing What We Heard."

We all know that this process is a sham. Despite neighborhood rejection or opposition, the board will do as it pleases despite the survey strongly showing AGAINST this motion just like how Fleming land will be sold despite the survey result. Elected officials and VSB Facilities Planning Committee should be ashamed of yourselves.

Fleming Parent.

Its emotionally sad to close that nice/special school. Seems to make sense to close it though. It makes sense to add French students to an updated building.

I do not care either way, BUT I don't believe in asking for input from parents, especially those with a personal interest in the school.

It is the VSB's job to know what should be done and do it. Not dilly dally and shilly shally for years. Your job is to make the hard decisions, not pass the back to people who know nothing.

Thank you,
[name redacted]

I just want to say that I oppose any closing of any Vancouver School without a thoughtfully already existing solution that does not sacrifice learning or facilities for these or other children. A solution should increase spaces and access to immersion and other programs, as well as restore funding taken away by VSB and the previous provincial governments for sports, arts, music, language programming and more.

There is a lack of public school spaces in East Vancouver in general, and french immersion spots are few and far between with ever growing waiting lists. As a parent who did not get their kid into immersion, I'm happy to attest to the growing frustration of parents, distracted this year only by the pandemic.

Newly built schools in Vancouver are ill-conceived, and built too small for the growing population of school-age children with kids being bussed or driven 40-50 blocks after failing to win the school lottery of a school in their neighbourhood. I think you understand how I feel.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]
Parent, Vancouver

Pls do not close the school as our population are increasing every year. Thank you!

I agree that it is more efficient to close this school and accommodate the children in the close by French immersion schools.

What are the reasons why close this school?

May there be wise decisions.
[name redacted]

We were very surprised to see that you are - again - proposing to close Queen Elizabeth Annex. Our children are no longer young enough to be personally affected by this decision, but a few years ago, finding French Immersion places for them took up a substantial proportion of our time because it was our top educational priority. Canada is a bilingual country, and people who cannot speak functional French are cut off from a large number of jobs and from much of the culture of our country. Parents go to great lengths to get their children into French Immersion programs, as you probably know.

Vancouver needs more French Immersion places, and it is extremely popular in the West Side of Vancouver. There are always waiting lists.

It is therefore very depressing that you should apparently be proposing to cut places from the French Immersion program when you close the school, although you never admit this explicitly in the “backgrounder” (https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Planning_and_Facilities/Engagement/Queen-Elizabeth-Annex/Rationale/Documents/sbfile/220404/20220330_Backgrounder.pdf). As you point out, “JQ and QEA are stable in their enrolment trend because these schools only offer French immersion, a District choice program, where the catchment area is all of Vancouver. Families from across the city choose to travel to attend the District choice program.” There is, of course, a reason for this: families want their children to have French Immersion. The VSB needs more French Immersion places, not fewer.

There is a statement on the first page that “It is important to note that if this closure proceeds and the QEA students join a new school, their access to French immersion programming is protected. The proposed closure guarantees QEA students continued placement in French immersion. If QEA is closed, staff will work closely with the QEA community to ensure a successful transition to the new site.” Policy 14, 7.1.7 in the document further states “Should the Board decide to close QEA and students are relocated to QE, Grade 3 students will continue to move to JQ in Grade 4, as per current practice. Should the Board decide to close QEA and students are relocated to JQ, the entire Early French immersion program will be consolidated at one school. “ The document states that the students from QEA could simply move to JQ (where there is no space) or QE (where there is no French Immersion). There are currently 71 students enrolled at QEA, while JQ is “stable” at 89% of its capacity of 398, with 356 students. No school can really run at 100% of capacity, but supposing JQ could do this, it could accommodate at most 42 additional students.

Presumably this means that if you decide to close QEA, there will be no kindergarten intake there in fall 2022, the quarter of the current QEA students who are now in Grade 3 will “graduate” normally to JQ in 2022, and the quarter now in Grade 2 in 2023, so only the 36 or so students currently in kindergarten and Grade 1 will need to be found “extra” places at JQ or at QE. This would just about be possible if JQ were temporarily filled to 100% of capacity, or if a couple of French Immersion teachers from QEA were temporarily moved to QE, and continued to teach the ex-QEA, future-JQ cohort in French at QE. You do not, however, say that you are proposing to add French Immersion permanently at QE. As soon as this cohort reaches Grade 4, those 71 places will disappear.

Nowhere in your backgrounder is it explicitly stated that if QEA is closed, all the French immersion places it currently provides will be lost; however, the only conclusion one can draw from this document is that you propose to cut around 70 French Immersion places from VSB West Side schools over the next three years.

None of the arguments about maintenance costs and spending per student and seismic upgrades explain why you are cutting places from a popular academic District Choice program without creating more elsewhere. The backgrounder simply does not address the main concern of the majority of parents who send their children to QEA.

Sincerely,

[name redacted]

Hello board members and trustees

I am writing to express my shock (kind of) and frustration with the proposed closure to QEA. My daughter was a student at QEA a few years ago the last time the school board attempted to close QEA. I went to all the public hearings and participated in the protests. We felt that the school was a great entry point for a lot of kids and offered a different type of learning environment than any of the other elementary schools in the city.

As parents, we have all invested a lot of time and consideration into choosing a school for our children. Being a member of QEA, we also invested a lot of time participating in the protests and attending the board meetings to discuss the proposed closure. I remember in the final meeting, when the board voted to keep QEA open, that Janet Fraser **PROMISED** that this would be the last time the school board would ever consider closing QEA and that the decision to remain open would remain in perpetuity.

So, does anyone else remember this promise? Why again? I remember at the time thinking to myself, yeah - I bet they renege on this in three years. Why are you wasting everyone's time going through this process again. It caused a ton of stress to all the families at the school and was so disruptive to everyone's year. Just respect the promise you made two years ago and leave QEA open. Stop wasting people's time and stop lying to people.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

First of all please let me state for the record that the VSB and Provincial Gov't have done a superior job in investing in public education with policies and decisions that I support for the most part.

Of course you should close this Annex -- Keep the land (Keep all the land for future schools but please start to make some tough calls on operating budgets. You have big projects coming up at Britannia and KG and lots of planning for future schools to plan along with the CoV for their 2050 plan.

The public expects and needs SOME budget cuts to allow future expenditures

Thank you for listening

Best
[name redacted]

To the Vancouver School Board,

The neighbourhood around Queen Elizabeth Annex School may change in the near future. As new zoning comes in the older houses may come down and apartments will be built. Please don't sell Queen Elizabeth Annex as it may be required for the future of the Dunbar community.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

Trustees,

Any notion of selling land is absolutely foolhardy. You need to be pushing back to the Province if this is the only way to get schools funded. I won't be supporting any of you in the fall election, if these are the type of decisions you are making.

 Thanks, [name redacted]

Dear Chair and Trustees,

As the City of Vancouver is projecting an unprecedented population growth and eyes densification in all neighbourhoods, is this the time to cut down on existing infrastructure and services?

Respectfully,

--

[name redacted]

Dear QEA Trustees,

I am writing to express my concern about the possible closure of QEA school. My wife and I have lived in Dunbar since 2000. Our son did not go to QEA but he had atypical educational requirements and QEA was one of the schools we considered. When we visited, it was immediately obvious that the school offered many things that other schools in the area could not and that these could be especially valuable to some children. I am concerned that this choice will now be withdrawn from parents in the name of something I do not fully understand, by a school board whose priorities appear not to be shared by much of the public.

I hope you will do everything possible to prevent the withdrawal of a valuable educational resource from Dunbar.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

My name is [name redacted], I am a parent of one student in Grade 1 at Jules Quesnel and of another soon to be in kindergarten next year. Although the reasons set out for the closure of the QEA make sense in terms of consolidating resources, being able to use funds for more programs for schools across the district and hopefully making Jules Quesnel an even stronger French Immersion program, I am concerned that the school closure of QEA would affect the chances of students getting into French Immersion in the future. We were first offered a spot at QEA and then were able to get into JQ. If they shut down QEA what will they do with the building and the land? Will it just be bought out by the highest bidder and end up yet another condo highrise with commercial listings at the bottom? There doesn't seem to be any clear indication on what the future of that proposed space would be if they shut down the school. If it is also a main focus of French Immersion, surely the resources that were going to that school should only be set aside for French Immersion programs?

I would hate to see the school closed only for funds to be misallocated, French Immersion be placed at a greater disadvantage, and the land eventually used by property developers where profit would drive a new highrise/condo complex that wouldn't serve education, community or child development.

Best,
[name redacted]

Your questionnaire should have been worded as a neutral party. Biased.

Don't sell out. Protect the future.

Hi there,

I am taking the time to write to you regarding the QEA closure because I feel very strongly about the effect of this proposal on students, families and communities.

We currently do not have any children attending QEA and potentially will have one attending this fall.

The QEA program is arguably one of VSB's best schools and tight-knit communities that bring kids from all over Vancouver, regardless of socioeconomic background, to thrive in what is already an oversubscribed french immersion program. Having reviewed the VSB's planning approach and the VSB's Long-Term Facilities Plan, it appears that the VSB is short sighted at the 7year mark without considering what the actual City of Vancouver plans are for the surrounding area, which I'm sure you are well aware of - the expansion of the Jericho lands, UBC development and other First Nations growth. It would be appear that in future years, there would be even more of a need for spaces at a school just like this. Closing this school for various reasons may offer a bandaid solution for the legal woes and financial deficits... however, this will become a long term problem that will need to be addressed again in the future. Small schools like this not only support the local community but offer the diversity and richness of students from all over Vancouver a unique setting to flourish academically, socially and responsibly in society at a very young age, which cannot be replicated at any of the other schools. Having an annex school allows a true focus on the unique developmental needs and social development in the primary years.

The constant revisiting of the closure of this school certainly generates the sense of lack of poor planning, lack of transparency and lack of listening to the public/community/student families that are affected. Time after time, it seems that the community rallies to keep this school open, and time after time, after promises to avoid bringing this school back to closure discussions, it happens. I can imagine this is frustrating for those who are enrolled, and those who are attempting to support the VSB in future endeavours.

Closing a diverse, truly cross-boundary french immersion annex school is nearsighted and doesn't align with the strategic plan of the VSB; inspiring student success by providing an innovative, caring and responsive learning environment is exactly what the QEA does.

We hope that the VSB can put aside financial/legal confounding factors and truly assess what closing this school means to each student, each family, potential student/families who value the unique community that is brought together from all parts of the city to thrive in an incredible FI annex school program. Closing this school eliminates a very unique, special and highly valued program that cannot be replicated as a true jewel in the VSB portfolio.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

I am writing to oppose any sale of VSB properties. I understand it may not be financially viable to keep running such a small school at this time but selling off property (for profit) would be a big mistake. If Vancouver is intent on the mammoth growth they keep touting, turning Vancouver into a 'world class' city full of towers of residents, more schools might be needed.

One Dunbar resident suggested it be developed -- build housing -- and yes, he is a developer. There is more than enough housing already approved to last decades but the city approves huge amounts of development with little thought as to schools -- and I believe many areas are over capacity and children cannot attend schools in their 'dense' neighbourhoods. Bad planning.

Don't sell of the land.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

I vote and live in area. Opposed.

Queen Elizabeth Annex located at 4275 Crown Street in the heart of Dunbar ask our next door neighbours West Point Grey for your support to stop the VSB recommended closure. Complete neighbourhoods include schools and are central to: VBE Trustees Vision ([link here](#)), UBC's land use plan ([link here](#)) and Metro Vancouver's plan ([link here](#)). West side schools are already full: 97% utilization. Where would 61,500+++ coming to the West side by 2050 go to school? QEA is a vibrant French immersion school with a combined waitlist to their sister school Jules Quesnel of 100+++ and succeeds as both a neighbourhood school and by attracting students from around the city. It is an important asset of the Vancouver School Board for current and future generations.

Dear Trustees,

I oppose closing QEA. Closing any school while at the same time vastly increasing population density makes no sense. We need to open more schools, not close the ones we have. Given the lack of any planning for future schools in the area, couple with the Jericho Land development in the works, it is important to keep QEA open.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

Dear Trustees, please do not close the Queen Elizabeth Annex School. It is an important asset of the Vancouver School Board for current and future generations. Thank you. [name redacted]

Janet Fraser and fellow School Board Trustees,

I am writing to express my no vote to closing of the Queen Elizabeth Annex. It is a much needed community based school to which children can easily walk or bicycle.

I am also strongly opposed to the sale of this property because once it is sold the School Board will never be able to buy a site big enough for a replacement school.

The City has zoned Dunbar for much higher density (many 2 or 3 bedroom units) which means that families will be residing here and their children will need a school west of Dunbar to attend.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

I attended the online meeting and would point out to you that the City expects a huge 200,000+ population increase and is encouraging developers to be building tons of housing and the children of those families will need educating. If you sell this school property now, in a few years you will have to purchase another one at a far higher land cost. This idea is foolish and must be abandoned. QEA is such a safe and unique property. Be smarter than the government fools who think that somehow new housing is more affordable than old. Let's see, a 1 bed on Cambie an investor I know paid over \$811,000 for 4 years ago. Gee what rent do they have to ask to cover the mortgage on it do you think? Less than \$2300? NOPE. So what will be the cost of buying a piece of land to build a new school to replace QEA in 5 or 10 years? Or to construct more space at existing schools even? A lot more than just keeping QEA open. Remember you're building highrises at 41st and Collingwood plus townhouses and condos on Dunbar and guess what, single family housing has FAMILIES with Children in them who pay a ton of property taxes by the way. I'm trying to save you from yourselves here. This is a do nothing for the win.

[name redacted]
Dunbar resident

Good morning Trustees,

Thank you again for engaging with [name redacted] and for listening to our delegations at the [VSB Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday evening](#). We hope this provides everyone with the opportunity to hear from the Dunbar community, the JQ and QEA communities, and from the legal, financial and community planning impacts. Please continue to reach out to the [name redacted] if you have any questions or comments that need any clarification.

Since this Committee of the Whole meeting, [name redacted] and [name redacted] have been involved in engagement sessions and this is **what we've heard from parents** and what changes we've asked of Delaney consulting (in green) for the upcoming public engagement sessions. We've since had a response this morning advising [name redacted] that *"The small group dialogue sessions will continue to utilize the established format in order to solicit individual perspectives from all participants"*. However, this format is having the opposite result as parents that have raised questions in the chat have not had their questions answered and are not able to engage in dialogue freely during these sessions (noting that only the private chat feature, not the group chat feature, with the Delaney facilitator is enabled during these meetings). Please refer to feedback comments below in more detail.

QEA feedback:

- the session introduction and information sharing were delivered entirely by VSB staff and that neither QEA or JQ parents, respectively, were provided an opportunity to speak; **please consider enabling the group chat function**
- the session was not recorded and so any [name redacted] that was unable to make the scheduled session also won't have an opportunity to listen to what was discussed; **please consider recording the sessions and making these recordings available to the community**
- the session was scheduled to overlap on the same day as the VSB Committee of the Whole delegation meeting earlier that evening and this prevented delegates from participating (depending on other family obligations that evening) or from joining the session on time; **please consider scheduling another session?**

- the session was not in person to allow for true dialogue; **please consider future in person sessions**
- the session mute function was controlled by the meeting facilitator and so parents were unable to engage as information was being presented; **please consider allowing parents to unmute themselves**
- the session group chat function was disabled, similarly preventing true dialogue; **please consider enabling the group chat function**
- the session breakout groups are being viewed as a way to "divide and conquer" and prevent information from being shared in a public forum for everyone in the session to hear; **please consider eliminating breakout sessions**
- on the slide titled "Future Enrolment Growth"..."The district is working with the City of Vancouver to ensure that there is sufficient local capacity to accommodate future enrollment growth from the Jericho lands. **The QEA site is not required to accommodate students from the Jericho lands.**" - has senior planning at the City of Vancouver confirmed this statement?

JQ feedback:

- direct chat messages allowed to the facilitator were not answered during the engagement session and no communication regarding opportunity for follow up dialogue was made; **please enable the group chat function**
- a registered parent tried to join the meeting on time and was unable to join; **please address and allow this parent to join another session**

[name redacted] members are not being provided the opportunity to engage fairly during these sessions and have urgent concern regarding how the public sessions will be facilitated.

- [name redacted] executives

Dear Jessica,

Hi again and thanks for your efforts; I have empathy for you as a professional navigating and operating this engagement. As the [name redacted] has stated, there are a few problems with the approach being used and I want to highlight two problems:

1. Learning is not taking place; And for an educational organization, that is just not right.
 - a. What we are getting is a one-sided view from the VSB overly generalizing the "overall decline across the district" and not honing into this specific area and illustrating its specificities. Ex: There is not a single map of the many current & planned developments nor any disclosure of any information that the VSB has received from the City of Vancouver, UBC and First Nations regarding growth in the area; An area identified as a Neighbourhood Centre in the Vancouver Plan vision.
 - b. In the sessions, by limiting the amount of people that can hear each other provide feedback, there is limited learning that takes place between participants.
 - c. By not recording/broadcasting the engagement sessions, the public is shut out of learning and understanding what is going on.
 - d. This email and correspondence to engage@vsb.bc.ca should be shared with the public periodically, so that the public can learn about the situation and the various different viewpoints.

2. The approach being used for these registration mandatory engagement sessions does not satisfy the obligation of “Public Meeting” as specified in VSB Policy 14 on School Closure. In short, today, the public would have to register in order to watch and learn and this is a huge barrier of access. There is time to fix this and this should be fixed immediately:
- a. Ideally, after the engagement report is published, provide 14 days notice for a public meeting that satisfies the [BC Ombudsperson’s Best Practices Guide](#) for a public meeting.
 - b. Or, right now, provide 14 days notice and hold a public meeting that satisfies the [BC Ombudsperson’s Best Practices Guide](#) for a public meeting.
 - c. Note: A standing VSB Committee of the Whole meeting as being proposed for June 2nd, where delegations can present on *any matter*, would, IMHO, not satisfy a public meeting on QEA School Closure. Perhaps turn that meeting time and date into the public meeting dedicated and headlined to reflect it being the “QEA School Closure Public Meeting.”

I do not know if you have had direct chats with the Trustees but you should and I will reference [VSB Policy #7](#) as to why:

“The Board’s fundamental obligation is to preserve and enhance, the public trust in public education, generally, and in the affairs of its operations in particular. Consistent with its objective to encourage the general public to contribute to the educational process, Board meetings will be open to the public. Towards this end, the Board believes its affairs must be conducted in public to the greatest extent possible.”

All the best!

Best Regards,

[name redacted]

Dear Janet,

Thanks for the reply and we should setup a time a to chat. I would try to make myself available to your schedule so let me know a time that works for you this week.

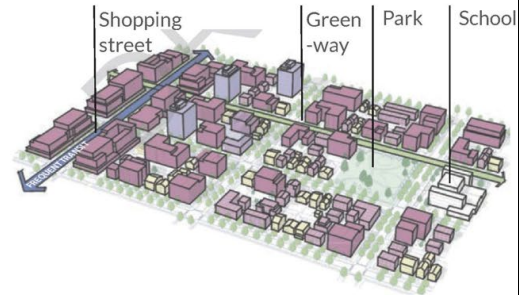
I just don’t see this is an operational issue, but an issue of Governance for the following two reasons:

1. **Trust involved.** It is the role of the Trustees to establish trust with the public; Policy #7.
2. **Trustee Vision of Neighbourhood School in LRFP.** The Trustees have Neighbourhood School central to their LRFP Vision. In the future, the case will be made that disposing of QEA land and removing public education land from the future of this neighbourhood will force the future acquisition of public education land (if even possible and for sure, at significantly greater cost than retaining the land) as there is currently a vision from the City of Vancouver for this area to be a Complete Neighbourhood including a Neighbourhood School as illustrated in the Neighbourhood Centre vision of the Dunbar area in the Vancouver Plan.

Reference screenshot from the QEA PAC April 19th delegation:

“Neighbourhood Centre”

Source: Page 51-52 in [Draft Vancouver Plan](#), annotated



Dunbar Neighbourhood

Source: Google Earth, annotated



Best Regards,

[name redacted]

Hello,

I am a **high school teacher** and parent of **two children in the Vancouver School District**. I have been teaching in this district for 16 years and I have been alarmed at the number of excellent programs I have seen close in my time here due to lack of funding. Please free up these funds for students in dire need of support by closing a school that is underattended and expensive to run. I am all for closing QEA as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[name redacted]

Hello,

I'm a parent at UHill Elementary who has lived in the UBC area since 2008. It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the closure of QEA. I understand the financial burden and strategic plan surrounding the proposal and can imagine the impact such closure could have on current and future students and families.

My concern relates to the numbers on which such proposal is grounded. Once again I see a disconnect between the reality in schools and the data de VSB uses to propose facility use changes. In our last PAC meeting our school principal mentioned UHill is working at capacity and as of that day (April 7th), coming September, there is only 1 spot available for Kindergarten. I understand the situation is similar in NRP. This isn't surprising given the fast development and growth of UBC

neighborhoods. In fact, last fall many newcoming students and families to UBC were sent to schools outside their catchment. So my question is, why is there a proposal to close a school in the vicinity when other schools are overflowing? Why are the numbers used so distant from the reality? If QEA were to close and those students moved to JQ, wouldn't it make sense to keep those grounds and building to accommodate students from UHE or NRP?

My children and family went through the transition K-7 to K-5 and back in the span of 5 years. This change brought a lot of stress to families and was based on the same numbers the decision to close QEA is being based on. I invite the board to reconsider the idea until more accurate/realistic data is used.

Thanks for your attention,
[name redacted]

Secondary schools - The FIT blocks are a horrible waste of time and should never be included as instruction time.

[name redacted]

Hello:

I attended the JQ session on this last week, and I was told that we would be getting information to respond to our questions that we raised at the session that weren't answered. This included specific school plans so I could understand the space inside JQ (because I have never been allowed in), a map of the outdoor areas (because the information at the session was that the parking lot was being included as available play space), and information on the enrollment plans for alternating years with 2 and 3 K intakes.

I have checked the website, and this information has not been made available to me. Can you please advise how we will receive this information?

Thanks,
[name redacted]

Dear VSB stuff & trustees

We are the parents of former students from Henry Hudson french immersion. Our kids were affected by VSB phasing out HH french immersion, the French immersion community fell apart at HH So we moved our kids to JQ on 2019.

The excitement of new school with computer room, music room and all the classrooms with big window, didn't last long. Soon after JQ was facing over capacity problem because VSB was planning to close another French Immersion school on 2019. The excitement of proposal dropped after didn't last long Now, VSB proposed again to close QEA. Our kids are facing to lose their music room, computer room and even my daughter's classroom , our kids are asking us why ?? ?

We'd like to bring your attention of our concerns.

1. Why VSB is keeping close french immersion schools as the huge demands are out there for french immersion education . Every french immersion school has long waiting list, what are VSB's intentions of keep closing french immersion schools?? Solving short term problem with creating long term problems. We'd like to see the long term plan VSB propose to ensure our French immersion program run stable and successfully, at least, without worrying any changes of losing space or even losing school

Other parents from JQ and QEA made their voice, I strongly agree with them so please address those concerns from us before you are making decisions

Attached the below email was sent to VSB on 2019, I believe all those questions and concerns are still apply

1. Why are the Heather Lands development, near Hamburg Secondary, being ignored as a potential Conseil Scolaire Francophone (CSF) westside school site? See page 39 of the policy approved by Vancouver City Council: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/heather-lands-policy-statement.pdf>
2. Does the CSF even want the QEA property? If QEA is closed, which is has to be prior to negotiations beginning, what if that falls through? Will it be open to long-term lease, or possibly sale, to private schools in the area that have wanted it in the past? On principal we do not support public schools being closed to be leased (or sold) to private schools.
3. How will Jules Quesnel accommodate all of Queen Elizabeth Annex's students? How would it do so and still adhere to the court ruling that reinstated the classroom size and composition language to the Teacher's Union contracts?
4. How will Jules Quesnel accommodate Queen Elizabeth Annex's students as well as Lord Byng's displaced students due to that school's seismic upgrades?
5. Will you be eliminating a French Immersion Kindergarten class going forward, cutting our combined cohort from 3 kindergarten classes to 2?
6. If a Kindergarten class is cut due to lack of space, that will leave JQ chronically under-enrolled for the intermediate grades. This will open JQ up to pressures to close, become dual stream, or other unknowns. Why is this being considered, when waitlists are strong for French Immersion programs?
7. It is the Provincial Ministry of Education's responsibility to find a location on the westside of Vancouver for the CSF to have a school. Why is this becoming a VSB's responsibility? Why would we close a school that teaches French, only to open it to teach French to different children? Our preferred solution would be to maintain, and support, the QEA elementary, and to open a separate CSF elementary school at a different location.
8. Have you looked to negotiate a site on the Jericho Lands as a location for a potential Francophone school, as was suggested as early as four years ago by MLA David Eby?
9. What will the Oct 29, 2019 to Jan 15, 2020 public consultation period look like? How will parents voice their concerns?
10. How can the Board move on with any recommendation without first having these questions answered?

Thank you

[name redacted]

The concern I have is all the new construction at ubc. I moved to staff housing last august. The catchment school was over loaded and there were 8 grade 5 students alone that had to be placed elsewhere. My daughter went to QE. Luckily I plead my case as a single working mum and she is now in the proper catchment as of this January.

What my true concern is, there are 16 new apartment buildings being proposed and built on the UBC grounds right now. When those buildings fill, where will all the children go? There is a beautiful lot adjacent to University Hill high school saved for a future elementary school. If I was the Vancouver school board I would get on that immediately! I see a crisis in the near future. Sure enrolment is down in the too expensive for families in kitsilano, but ubc is about to boom. Low income and staff housing is ideal for families to be raised in.

Thank you
[name redacted]

Hello,

I am [name redacted]'s mom. My daughter is a G12 student. My whole family would say "Yes" regarding the closure of Queen Elizabeth Annex.

Tax payer's money can be used in some more important places other than the Royal family.

Thanks
[name redacted]

I work in daycare and I know there are many children that can not go to their neighbourhood schools when they start kindergarten. QEA provides a solution to this issue. I am an alumni of QEA from the '70s and consider myself very lucky to have had such an intimate space to start my learning journey. This site is magical and unique and there are very few elementary schools in the city that provide such a natural, safe and engaging environment. One of the children in my care started kindergarten there last September and he loves his school. We all love QEA keep it open for the next generation of learners.

Thanks for listening,
[name redacted]

To whom it may concern:

29 April 2022

To give you a context of who I am: I have a son attending grade 3 at Queen Elizabeth Annex and he is leaving QEA in June 2022.

Regarding the VSB proposal to close down the QEA campus, I understand that VSB faces three challenges:

- (1) higher per student cost for QEA students (40% higher) than students in other VSB schools;
- (2) the facilities have not undergone Seismic upgrades; it is therefore a liability rather than an asset from the perspective of budget (if only VSB have the budget to do a proper seismic upgrade of QEA facilities);
- (3) VSB has an ongoing potentially costly legal proceeding and mediation with Francophone School Board which wants to lease or purchase the QEA campus for their school facilities.


All these issues are **budgetary** concerns; it is about the money. Closing down EQA solve these problems **immediately**.

Here is my question for you: What is the **time frame** for your **vision** and **planning**?

Is it 2 years, 5 years, 10 years, or 20 years into the future?

Closing down QEA is a **short-term solution** to address your budgetary concerns. If we take a **longer term perspective**, as education is by definition a long term investment, the future educational needs for our children must be taken into account.

VSB stated that the **enrollments** have been declining since late 1990s. The data taken directly from the BC government data base (table below) contradicts the VSB's statement about student enrollment:



39 Vancouver																					
Year	Kinder- garten	Grade							Elem. Ungr.	Elem. Subtotal	Grade					Sec. Ungr.	Sec. Subtotal	All Grades Subtotal	Home School	Grand Total	Yearly % Change
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8	9	10	11	12						
2014	3,746	3,801	3,740	3,572	3,587	3,445	3,506	3,559	0	28,956	3,660	4,092	4,097	4,198	4,512	165	20,724	49,680	27	49,707	
2015	3,572	3,717	3,736	3,711	3,526	3,608	3,457	3,517	1	28,845	3,723	3,694	4,194	4,240	4,252	180	20,283	49,128	28	49,156	-1.11%
2016	3,670	3,535	3,655	3,689	3,668	3,542	3,607	3,507	0	28,873	3,645	3,777	3,813	4,303	4,366	109	20,013	48,886	31	48,917	-0.49%
2017	3,630	3,628	3,463	3,649	3,664	3,674	3,515	3,576	0	28,799	3,693	3,790	3,944	3,928	4,453	0	19,808	48,607	45	48,652	-0.54%
2018	3,479	3,609	3,604	3,451	3,632	3,663	3,699	3,543	0	28,680	3,759	3,791	3,938	4,027	4,077	4	19,596	48,276	44	48,320	-0.68%
2019	3,518	3,524	3,614	3,614	3,463	3,656	3,670	3,716	0	28,775	3,718	3,839	3,917	3,990	4,135	0	19,599	48,374	51	48,425	0.22%
2020	3,630	3,572	3,583	3,661	3,502	3,591	3,785	3,869	0	29,193	3,726	3,943	4,106	4,158	4,304	0	20,237	49,430	52	49,482	2.18%
2021	3,654	3,679	3,602	3,646	3,541	3,627	3,728	3,993	0	29,470	3,863	3,917	4,148	4,278	4,394	0	20,600	50,070	52	50,122	1.29%
2022	3,716	3,698	3,690	3,653	3,531	3,661	3,765	3,944	0	29,658	3,986	4,059	4,133	4,334	4,526	0	21,038	50,696	53	50,749	1.25%
2023	3,865	3,775	3,709	3,737	3,542	3,652	3,795	3,979	0	30,054	3,942	4,195	4,294	4,348	4,600	0	21,379	51,433	54	51,487	1.45%
2024	4,185	3,922	3,781	3,745	3,617	3,665	3,784	4,008	0	30,707	3,980	4,157	4,434	4,512	4,627	0	21,710	52,417	54	52,471	1.91%
2025	4,449	4,249	3,933	3,813	3,620	3,741	3,800	3,998	0	31,603	4,008	4,193	4,396	4,650	4,779	0	22,026	53,629	56	53,685	2.31%
2026	4,558	4,514	4,260	3,963	3,680	3,743	3,877	4,014	0	32,609	3,996	4,220	4,432	4,614	4,911	0	22,173	54,782	57	54,839	2.15%
2027	4,719	4,622	4,524	4,293	3,823	3,801	3,878	4,093	0	33,753	4,012	4,210	4,459	4,647	4,887	0	22,215	55,968	58	56,026	2.16%
2028	4,885	4,787	4,632	4,560	4,135	3,944	3,936	4,095	0	34,974	4,091	4,226	4,448	4,672	4,914	0	22,351	57,325	60	57,385	2.43%
2029	5,005	4,957	4,793	4,663	4,388	4,256	4,076	4,153	0	36,291	4,093	4,303	4,465	4,663	4,940	0	22,464	58,755	62	58,817	2.50%

As shown in the table above, the number of students (headcounts) enrolled in VSB indeed **decreased** between 2014 and 2018 but then **increased** after 2018 and the predicted trend indicates a **continual increase** till 2029, the last available predicted date (data file downloaded on April 28, 2022).

According to the Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy, the sub-regions of Vancouver, **Burrard Peninsula**, where QEA campus is located, has a population of 1,649,000 in 2020 and is projected to increase to 1,387,800 by 2050, a 30% increase. If we look at a shorter time frame, between 2020 and 2030, there is a projected 13% increase in the population, and between 2020 and 2040, a 23% increase in population is projected in this sub-region.

Likewise, the unit of dwellings within Burrard Peninsula will increase by 26.3% between 2020 and 2040. It is hard to argue the student enrollment will continue to decline in the foreseeable future.

Mr. David Nelson indicated, during his presentation on April 28th, that QEA will not serve as a catchment (is not responsible) for students at Jericho Lands where a population increase is predicted.

Indeed, this statement was correct in the sense that students in VSB who wish to enter a French Immersion program can apply to any French Immersion program within VSB and are no longer restricted to applying to the French Immersion program of their previously assigned catchment. Mr. Nelson's statement should be modified as this: **No French Immersion program** in VSB is responsible for or needs to serve as a catchment for students **at Jericho Lands**. More accurately, it should be modified as this: **All French Immersion Programs** in VSB serve as the catchment (are responsible) for students in **Jericho Lands** as well as **all students within VSB**.

Mr. Nelson showed figures that the students on the QEA wait list had decreased over the years. The truth is that if parents realized that QEA may be closing down in the near future, they will surely not put their children on the wait list for QEA. This decreasing trend only reflects the fear of parents to the possible closure of QEA and does not reflect the true needs for French Immersion at QEA. Personally, I chose to put my son on the wait list for QEA only because its wonderfully spacious campus adjacent to Pacific Spirit Regional Park that allows children to roam and play safely and healthily.

Bottom Line:

The properties of Vancouver School Board will not increase. A piece of land, once sold, or, a school, once closed down, **it is lost forever and permanently**, just like a piece of forested land. When people cut down a piece of forested land, workers are employed to do the logging, the harvested timber, as well as the land, can be sold for immediate profits, at the expense of future and long term possibilities such as the forest providing ecosystem services, attracting tourism and serving as a refuges for wildlife.

Again, what is the time frame of your vision and planning? We have the responsibility to be good stewards for the properties that VSB owns.

Dare to dream

If we think about the long term demands and opportunities for QEA, given its spacious campus large enough to accommodate more students, we can turn QEA into a fully fledged K-7 French Immersion school.

I understand this is difficult to imagine, given the perpetual shortfall of educational budgets, the current civil mediation with the Francophone school Board. However, all these challenges are about money. If we can look beyond short term solutions and have a longer term vision, the potential and possibilities for QEA, as well as other VSB campuses, are as great as our responsibilities and opportunities. Let me remind you of a precedent in our Canadian history: Tommy Douglas, the father of our universal health care system in Canada.

Tommy Douglas became the 7th premiere of Saskatchewan in 1944, right before the end of WWII. His government had to deal with the deficits passed down from the previous government. Yet his government paid off all the debts, balanced the budgets, and created the universal health care system for Saskatchewan, which eventually expanded to our entire nation. What a legacy Mr. Douglas left for all Canadians. He had the wisdom and courage to do what he believed in.

Wisdom is nothing to do with intelligence; it is about being able to see things clearly and having the courage to make right decisions, especially when doing so is difficult and costly. I hope you have the wisdom and fortitude to do the right thing, for our children, and our future.

Education of children should never be left to the school and teachers alone. We as parents must be involved in the education of our children. I wish the time I had spent doing research and writing this letter could be spent reading with my child instead.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

[name redacted]

Dear Engage,

The website states "(\$11,288 per student in 2019) than the provincial enrollment allocation of \$7,885 per student."

The \$7885 is the most recent 2022 number, yet the \$11288 is the 2019 number:

Request A: please update the site to reflect numbers from the same year, with most recent data available.

Also, \$11,288 is a total EXPENSE while \$7,885 is a partial REVENUE, not the full enrollment allocation.

Request B: please update the website to add the word BASIC in front of allocation, because \$7885 is the basic allocation amount. It is incorrect as currently stated.

The provincial enrollment allocation is MORE, the basic is only one component of it.

Finally, for context, please add the RANGE of per student operation costs per school from across VSB (e.g. schools range from \$5000/student to \$15000/student). This gives stakeholders a context for the range of costs for schools across the district.

I know you are committed to a transparent and just process, so please make these accuracy corrections.

Thank you,
[name redacted]

Hi [name redacted],

I am a parent of three QEA students though not on the QEA PAC. I have been watching board meetings here and there through the last round and this round of potential closure.

First, I would like to say how amazed I am with your professionalism. You remain cool, calm, and collected at board meetings and public consultation meetings - delivering very measured responses. These are hard conversations to have and I admire your openness to answer questions in as helpful a way as possible.

Second, I want to point out my own perspective which is this is a file you are working on. It does not mean that you personally would like to see the closure of this school (or any school), but rather have a certain job to do which in this case involves building a rationale for the closure of the school.

Third, I just want to reflect on what an incredible district the VSB is. It operates on a shoestring budget and yet delivers incredible results and meets the needs of so many; a testament to the dedicated and skilled educators, administrators, and support personnel.

OK, now my question.

(\$11,288 per student in 2019) than the provincial enrollment allocation of \$7,885 per student.

[source](#)

It does not surprise me that schools would vary from the average. On a per student basis, larger schools should cost less than average and smaller schools more than average. In other words, I do not think QEA costing more per pupil is unusual or unique to QEA (and other schools likely cost even more). Knowing the **spread** of per pupil school costs would provide greater context than simply having the \$7885 average.

My question is clarifying if **\$7, 885** is the average operating cost per student across the VSB. Does "provincial enrollment allocation" equal the average operating cost per student [Does \$7,885 = (sum of operating budgets of all VSB schools) ÷ (total number of students in VSB)]

You must be extremely busy, so no rush to respond. And if there's a more appropriate person to direct this (basic) question to (budget office?), please feel free to forward it directly or let me know who to contact.

Many thanks for your time and professionalism through this challenging process.

[name redacted]

Dear Vancouver School Board:

I am writing to strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to close QEA and relocate the students to Jules Quesnel Elementary.

While I am not unsympathetic to the students who need to be relocated, I am afraid the decision disadvantages the students at Jules Quesnel, my child included, and deprives them from an optimal learning experience.

The closure of QEA will negatively affect the learning environment in our school and will put more strain on the resources of the school. The play area is barely enough for the currently enrolled students and having more students share the space comes with risks.

I hope that you will put the interest of the students at Jules Quesnel first and I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to close QEA.

Respectfully,

[name redacted]

Dear VSB:

In response to the impending decision on the fate of the Queen Elizabeth Annex, I am alarmed at the consequences of a vote to close QEA. I am also writing to express my deep concern about the possibility of placing the QEA students in Jules Quesnel. I think this will be at the expense of the quality of education and services at JQ, which will not be good for the students. JQ is simply not designed to absorb another school. I am sure you understand the

concerns of a parent who is concerned with the situation and surely hope that you will not support the idea of closing the Queen Elizabeth Annex.

Best regards,
[name redacted]

Dear Trustees and Engagement Team,

I worry about eroding public trust. I do not see why the VSB chooses to be secretive when it comes to QEA matters. Why is it so hard to get straight answers too rational questions.

For instance, the population projections contain no methodology, source, or explanation about why they predict decrease in student population while City of Vancouver, the Ministry of Education and Child Services, BC Stats, and StatCan all predict increases.

The rationale for closure has two primary reasons which everybody knows are not the TRUE primary reasons. QEA is not being considered for closure primarily because its operating cost is more than the provincial basic per student allotment : many many VSB schools are in this category. QEA is not being considered for closure primarily because the value of the education students receive there is subpar and thus the students deserve better "student learning".

And yet these are the two reasons presented on the website and in the presentation sessions.

It is a distortion of reality. The QEA closure is all about the CSF wanting the land, the Ministry of Education looking to make a deal in exchange of Olympic Village, etc. This should be stated plainly and transparently, instead of mounting a straw man argument about "student learning" and "resources".

Please commit to truth telling as I think it is critical to maintain public trust with such an important institution as public education.

Thank you,
[name redacted]

To Whom it May Concern,

Here we go again. Good Grief! Do you not read your history? Do you not already have to hand ample testimony from parents from 1995 onwards, ample arguments against, ample logical reasons that you know to be true yourself? Did you think that once one set of parents left they would also leave the neighbourhood and therefore not care about future generations of very young children who might benefit from attending a neighbourhood school within walking distance?

What is it you expect? That parents will put children in cars and drive them to schools at further distance from their homes? Why are you doing this? Have you no conscience? No recognition of the duty you owe children, parents, families, neighbourhoods in Vancouver?

So you are once again running short of cash? You are once again threatening to sell school land to pay a current debt at the expense of the cost to future generations?

I was a resident of Vancouver when Dawson School land was sold to developers to make way for the Wall Centre high rise development in our downtown. But with time, the population of school age children in the West End has increased to the extent that a new school is needed. VSB needs to find the money to purchase land at Olympic Village or other - across the water - areas away from the neighbourhood. Do you see how short sighted this earlier Board was? Will this be your legacy too? Selling to developers who in turn sell back to the electorate even more expensive real estate?

If you really are committed to the children, families and neighbourhoods of this city, as you promised when first elected, you will vote to preserve VSB land for future generations. This will be a laudable legacy. I certainly hope that you achieve it.

With respect,
[name redacted]

Hi. After reviewing the [FAQs](#) as well as the [Enrolment Around QEA](#), I find that:

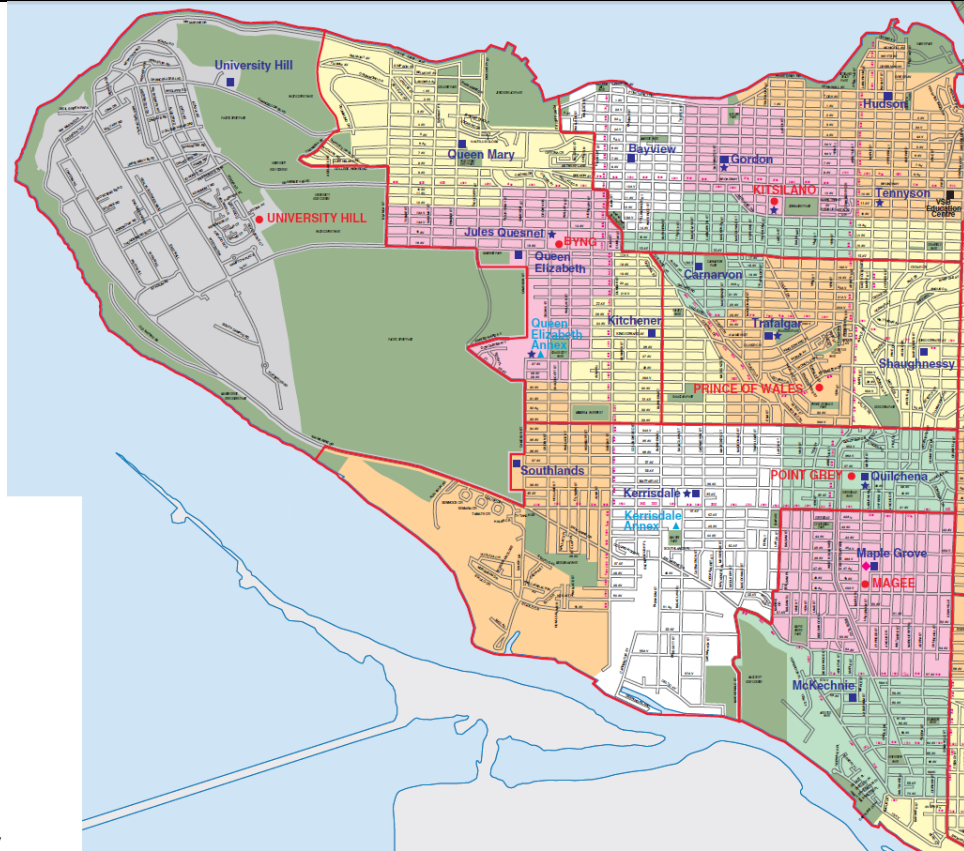
- Too much is focused on the overall decline across the entire city; two big issues with using this generalization are:
 - Included in that overall decline is Secondary students
 - Not included in that overall decline are the kids that left the VSB but still exist in Vancouver
- That the analysis for “enrolment around QEA” is not complete; examples:
 - University Hill is 5.8km away and is ***included*** in the analysis
 - Maple Grove is 5.2km away and is ***not included*** in the analysis

The Ask: Can you please share three sets of data for only elementary kids west of Granville St?

- 1) VSB Enrolment Projections for this area;***
- 2) The number of kids (ALL kids) that currently live in this area;***
- 3) The data that the City of Vancouver shared with the VSB regarding future demographic forecasts for this area?***

This information is required for the Trustees to make an informed decision. Thanks for your consideration.

Best Regards,
[name redacted]



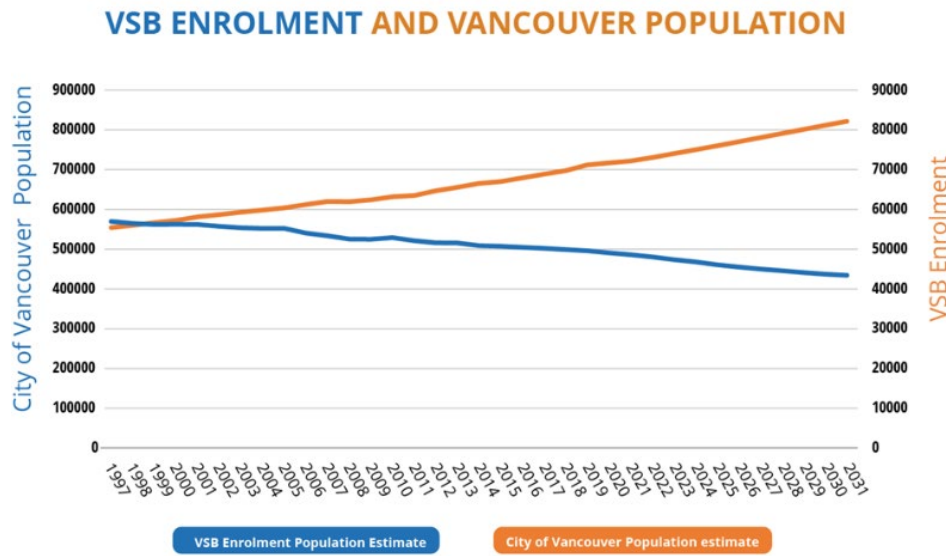
It's just dacency

Dear Trustees,

I know you are facing an important and challenging decision with regards to the closure of Queen Elizabeth Annex.

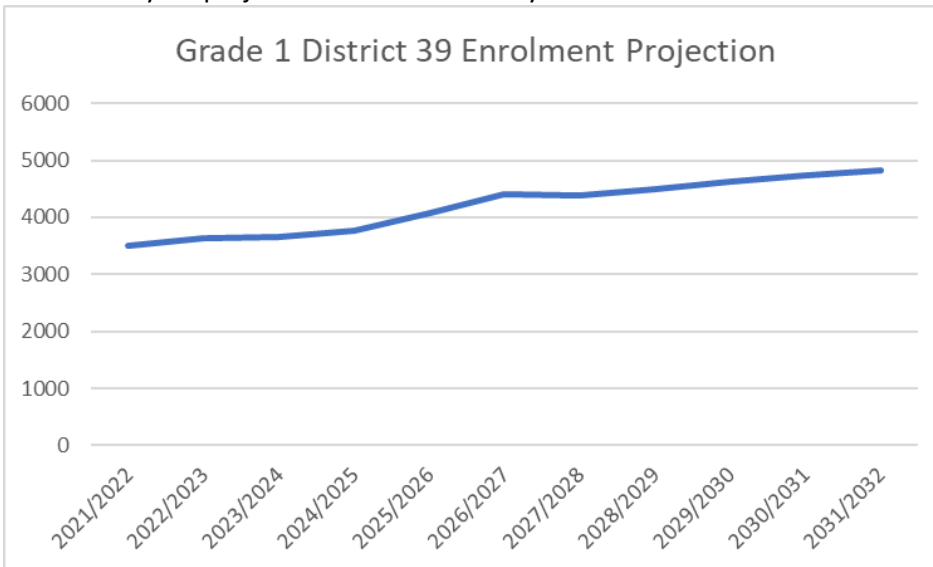
The public and you rely on the data provided by VSB to inform your decision.

Tonight I have stumbled upon what appears to call into question the Population Projection integrity, or at least the model & conclusion, of "[Vancouver Enrolment Trends](#)" which shows a clear projected **decline** in VSB Enrolment from 1997 through to 2031:



Here is another data source which paints a different picture:

(1) Projection of Public School Aged Headcount Enrolments, BC Schools Enrolment Projections 2022-2023 to 2031-2032 ([webpage](#)). The data is a spreadsheet that contains headcount for various districts including VSB by grade. I have created a chart from the spreadsheet as an illustration, from the current year projected over the next 10 years.



You can have a look at the numbers, they are clearly predicted to increase. I believe this matches commonsense...that the total population of school aged children will increase in the coming decades as higher paying jobs come to Vancouver and more family friendly housing options come online.

VSB staff do a tremendous job and it is possible that not all [population reports](#) have been made public. A key argument for the closure of QEA is with regards to under-utilization. Underlying the under-utilization, at the macro level, is population decline in the coming years. However, if population is set to increase, then I believe it is critical to examine this further prior to moving forward in the process.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

Dear VSB Board,

My son [name redacted], who is now 14 and thriving in Grade 9 at Kits High, was a shy boy when he started kindergarten at QEA. The wonderful atmosphere there — the forested play area, the small, intimate setting, the excellent teachers — did him a world of good and slowly brought him out of his shell. As a French Canadian myself, I was so happy he was doing French immersion in this paradise-like setting. He made friends he will have for life in four wonderful years here, and was ready for the big school (Jules Quesnel) for Grade 4. My wife and I will always be great for QEA. Please provide that opportunity for other little boys and girls.

Of course I understand the financial constraints etc etc. But if you can find a way, I would truly encourage yo to find a way to keep QEA open.

Yours sincerely,
[name redacted]

Dear Trustees,

Please do not close the Queen Elizabeth Annex. The community of Dunbar and the City of Vancouver need assets like this. Schools will become even more important as the population of the area grows.

Thank you for your consideration!
[name redacted]

May 20, 2022

Dear Vancouver Board of Education Trustees:

I experienced a serious injury in August 2021 that left me hospitalized for three weeks. My daughter [name redacted] was doing online school since COVID in 2020. I needed to send [name redacted] to a physical school because I had to attend a day program at GF Strong. [name redacted] started at QEA in grade 2. During this time, I was in a wheelchair and unable to send my daughter to school. The QEA PAC got involved and the school pulled together to help get [name redacted] to school every day.

The small school community has been a source of stability and comfort during these very turbulent times (post-injury and during COVID). [name redacted] could continue going to school after this traumatic event because of the help that I received. [name redacted] is born in Vancouver, and our families come from Taiwan and Singapore originally. I believe that if not for the small school community that was so welcoming and inclusive of diverse cultures, my daughter would not have settled in and made friends so quickly. [name redacted] also received individualized help with French because her French was not up to par with her peers.

As E.F. Schumacher once said, "Small is beautiful." The small school size matters and is a strength. There is a strong sense of community at the school. The school is also uniquely situated right next to the Pacific Spirit Park. The children go on a weekly "Mecredi en marche" and enjoy playing in the forest. Speaking from the position of an environmental educator, it is important for children to have these enriching nature experiences from a young age.

I don't agree with the proposed school closure because I think it'll be disruptive for the children to assimilate into either Queen Elizabeth or JQ. I also don't think it's a wise decision because it's not reflective of the projections of population growth and does not consider current development plans that will be realized in the City of Vancouver.

I would like to request for greater transparency on the statistics that the Vancouver School Board has cited on the Fact Sheet. The Fact Sheet states that there is an 8.4% decline in enrolment translating to 4,400 fewer students over the past 10 years. However, BC Stats shows an increase of 13% between the period of 2010 and 2020. I don't understand why there is a discrepancy in your numbers.

I would like to ask that you please reconsider your proposal for the QEA school closure for the sake of the children and the neighborhood communities that this school serves.

Sincerely,
[name redacted]

Good evening Jessica and trustees,

Thank you for giving [name redacted] this opportunity to include these below narrative and attachments as a separate [name redacted] report when submitting the VSB Delaney engagement report.

Please would you provide a **draft copy of your engagement report made available May 19th** as indicated in one of your earlier emails dated March 30th to the [name redacted] executives? Since we have not heard back on our request to VSB staff for a copy of the finalized copy by **May 24th** allowing [name redacted] at least 5 business days to review and submit/prepare our delegation request due June 1st for the June 2nd Committee of the Whole, a draft working copy would help us better understand the detailed direction of the engagement report.

Here are the considerations that [name redacted] would like to share with trustees (with 6 attachments, labelled in green):

1. QEA garden space

Growing for over a decade now on the south and west sides of the school building is the amazing garden that has blossomed from the love, care and attention of students and a very special teacher at QEA. The garden grows a large apple tree where students gather every fall to learn about tree pruning and harvesting these large delicious apples, green leafy vegetables from kale to bok choy and lettuce, to tomatoes both grape and large size, to peas and squash and pumpkins! Children gather every Friday to help toil the soil, weed the garden, plant and enjoy the fruits of their labour by eating raw (naturally organic!) vegetables. Over the summer months, neighbours and past QEA alumni living in the community take time out to plant and help maintain the garden when children are away from school during the summer. When taking a stance for climate action and support of green space, please consider the important contribution that QEA school brings to the community with their garden space. Relocating QEA children to Jules Quesnel would eliminate this community garden to a few raised garden boxes pushed against the fence of the busy Crown Street.

2. Relocation options should QEA be voted for closure

The strongest push to relocate students to JQ would displace a Kindergarten class and continue to exacerbate the capacity issue at JQ. Currently every Wednesday, the Vancouver police department is conducting a street safe program in response to a situation that occurred a few months ago where a child was pinned between two vehicles during school drop off. Traffic and overcrowding of parents and students at school dropoff and pickup is a known issue at Jules Quesnel and as explained in the Committee of the Whole Delegation by DPAC representative [name redacted]. Jules Quesnel is in the lowest 5% across the Vancouver district for square footage per student! Cramping students into one school to provide opportunities for other students across the District is not the solution. The other solution presented is for QEA students to relocate to QE, which is either equal to or worse in seismic condition, considering that QEA has exits from every classroom and is a one-storey building.

3. QEA student rally May 18, 2022

This past Wednesday students, parents, caregivers and members of the Dunbar community came together to protest the potential closure of QEA. What is too often overlooked amidst the rhetoric of enrollment numbers, population projections and dollar signs is that QEA is an incredible community of passionate children and parents that love their school and believe that it should be allowed to flourish without the constant threat of closure and be held in trust for future generations. Please remember when casting your vote next month that QEA is not a ghost town of a school and QEA is not under enrolled. It is a thriving school that is a vital part of the Dunbar community. Please see the [attached #1 video](#) (1 minute 18 seconds).

4. Funding public education instead of squeezing students out to independent schools

Less than 100 metres from the top of the QEA school site exists St. George's Independent school that is currently constructing a 3-storey extension at their Senior school. Within a 5 block radius also exists the St. Georges Junior School and the Immaculate Conception independent schools. Is enrolment really in decline in Vancouver West or are parents being pushed towards private education? VSB is creating unequal opportunities for public education across the District by playing favouritism to students in Vancouver East and ignoring that many families still prefer public education to independent schools due to the diverse exposure to social economic backgrounds. Parents want what is best for their children and if they can afford it or be accepted to the independent school program, may prefer the stability for their children as opposed to suffering from constant threat of closure.

5. An option for a CSF school that doesn't displace children

Please see the [attached #2 PDF](#).

6. Change.org petition with over 1500 signatures

<https://www.change.org/p/no-school-closures-transparent-planning-first>

This petition was created in February 2022 shortly after the VSB staff closure recommendation announcement.

7. VSB Committee of the Whole meeting April 19, 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySLeE41ceUg&t=330s>

Our delegations start at approximately 05:19 with Bruce Gilmour, President of the Dunbar Residents Association.

Please also take the opportunity to listen (again) to the following delegations:

Nina Monahann: Crown Preschool Head Teacher

Kevin Gourlay: legal aspect of the CSF litigation ([presentation notes attached #3](#))

Michael Hooper: IAP2 and engagement process ([presentation attached #4](#))

Kate Hood: capacity issues at proposed relocation site Jules Quesnel ([presentation attached #5](#))

Rob Ford and Emily Clarke: district parent representatives on the impact of French immersion school closure

Lia Gudaitis: senior urban planner on the impacts of Vancouver West population growth and need for a neighbourhood school to the ends of complete community planning with supporting data ([presentation attached #6](#))

Ken Su: [name redacted] parent representative on the concerns this closure recommendation brings to the community.

Cordially,
[name redacted]

Hi VSB engage,

For the final VSB engagement report, please include links to:

1. [Change.org online petition](#) (item#6)
2. [VSB April 19 committee of the whole](#) (item #7)
3. [QEA garden photos](#)

Please also include PDFs for the attachments:

4. [\[name redacted\] submission](#) (previous attachment #1)
5. VSB April 19 committee of the whole presentations [Kevin Gourlay](#), [Michael Hooper](#), [Lia Gudaitis](#) and [Kate Hood](#)
6. [An alternative CSF site](#)

All PDF MB size are all within email capacity and also compatible for print copy distribution.

[name redacted] simply do not have the resources to reconvert to a separate link.

[name redacted] executive