



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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2010 January 22

Honourable Premier Gordon Campbell
Province of British Columbia
P O Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Constituency Office: 3615 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6R 1P2

Dear Premier Campbell:

I am writing to you regarding the General Gordon Elementary seismic renewal/NCLD proposal.

Last night at the Vancouver School Board's Planning and Facilities Meeting, we received a report from our staff and a representative from Brook and Associates (the consultant who conducted the NCLD public consultation process). The report includes recommendations for a conceptual program and space program, and must be approved by our board in order for the project to proceed to the project definition phase.

The space program provides for an allocation of space for the renewed school of 4263 sq meters — 18 per cent more space than provided by existing Ministry of Education area standards, but 700 sq meters less than the present school space.

Representatives from the school community attended our meeting and presented briefs. They expressed concern that the proposed space plan was inadequate to provide an optimal school environment and said they had been advised by you personally to envision a school that would fully provide space for all school-related functions they felt was important and that your government would approve such a request. They also advised that Keith Miller, the Assistant Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Education, attended their spring 2009 Visioning Day at the VSB and told them to "Dream Big", which is what they proceeded to do.

Our shared concern in moving forward with the recommendation for the renewal with the 18 per cent top up, is that there is potential for approval of even more space, which could be used to provide space to fill demand for uses such as increased child care, for which there is a strong demand.

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Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson

Jane Bouey - Vice-Chairperson

Allan Blakey Ken Clement Ken Denike

Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi

Allan Wong

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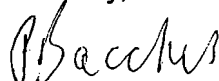
In order to move this important project forward and ensure the school is renewed to make it seismically safe as soon as possible but to also ensure the result is the best possible school facility for the Gordon community, I agreed to contact you on behalf of the trustees for clarification regarding your conversation with the parents and whether or not the additional 18 per cent space allocation is the maximum that will be approved by the province for funding, or whether a request for additional space would be considered.

In order to keep this project on track, I respectfully and urgently request a response to this question as soon as possible, as our board is scheduled to vote on this recommendation in February.

I know the General Gordon parents and community representatives would be interested in joining us in a meeting to discuss this further if your schedule allows for that in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support for this important seismic mitigation/NCLD project.

Sincerely,



Patti Bacchus
Chairperson

cc: Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education
Deputy Minister James Gorman, Ministry of Education
Assistant Deputy Minister Keith Miller, Ministry of Education
Trustees, Board of Education of SD #39 (Vancouver)
S. Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools (SD#39)
B. Ng, Secretary Treasurer (SD#39)
L. Green, Associate Superintendent-North Area (SD#39)
M. Dale, Assistant Secretary Treasurer-Facilities (SD#39)
M. Davidson, Principal, General Gordon Elementary School
General Gordon Elementary School Representative Team

/Enclosures