

To: Dianne Turner  
Official Trustee  
Vancouver School Board  
1580 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8

From: Robert Ford  
Interim PAC Chair, Henry Hudson Elementary  
1551 Cypress St.  
Vancouver, BC V6J 3L3

robert@quokkaystems.com / hudsonpac@gmail.com

Date: May 24, 2017

Re: Petition for Drainage Mitigation for the Henry Hudson Elementary Field

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Dear Ms Turner,

I am writing on behalf of the PAC Executive at Henry Hudson Elementary and the parents of and community around the school.

On May 7, we issued the following petition online.

<https://www.change.org/p/vancouver-school-board-fix-drainage-of-the-henry-hudson-elementary-playing-field>

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at Henry Hudson Elementary asks that the Vancouver School Board immediately take steps to mitigate the drainage issues of the Henry Hudson Elementary School playing field.

The children at Henry Hudson Elementary in Vancouver, BC are unable to use the playing field most of the year due to drainage issues and the conditions are not sanitary. Standing water is never good. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) recently learned more about the May 4, 2017 earthquake drill, and that it included a reunification drill in which parents and children are reunited. The PAC realized that in the event of an earthquake this muddy, bog of a field would be used as a first aid station, reunification point and **morgue**. The thought of our traumatized children (those that survive the collapse of the seismically unsafe structure) being tended to in the mud is horrifying.

At time of writing our petition had taken 192 signatures. There seems to be broad support in the community for doing something to make the field more useable. A selection of comments added by signers of the petition is below, but I want to stress that the parents at Hudson are **not** expecting, nor think reasonable, to have a full field replacement. Some intervention for drainage seems more logical. Even something that could help increase the time the field is useable would be adequate. We feel this imperative given the over capacity status at the school and the fact we have no dates for seismic upgrading.

Some of the reasons for signing that have been posted include:

- This is pretty brutal, not only for our kids, but for the entire community who use this park.
- All our grandchildren attend Henry Hudson and the field has been in poor shape for far too long, it needs to be fixed as soon as possible
- Kids need and want to play outside, but can't due to the state of their playing field. It's an absolute disgrace and I hope that during the summer break the field will be made 'playable' . Thanking you in advance VSB!
- My son went to Henry Hudson from K-7. He is now in High School. I do still have a daughter attending Henry Hudson. I am really hoping the VSB sends someone who knows what has to be done for good. I've seen in the past workers from VSB working on this issue without success. VSB really needs to start taking important and good actions thinking of the kids. They are our future!!!
- I am signing because obesity rates in North America are rising and children need a place to run. There are close to 400 students at Hudson and the existing playground without the field does not accommodate all students properly and safely at lunch and recess.
- My two boys go to Henry Hudson and can not use it for after school soccer, rugby or track and field. Basically it's used by the ducks as a wading pool. It needs to be fixed!
- My child comes home covered in mud most days as he can't resist these huge mud puddles. They are unsanitary and limit the use of the playing field.

At this point, the Hudson PAC requests a response from the Vancouver School Board outlining what options for draining mitigation are available. Of course if there's any way we can help, please advise.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Ford". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.