

October 25, 2017

To: Official Trustee and Elected Trustees of the Vancouver School Board

Cc: Ian Cannon, Principal Henry Hudson Elementary

From: Robert Ford  
Henry Hudson Elementary PAC Chair  
32-1480 Arbutus St  
Vancouver, BC V6J 3W8  
[robert@quokkasystems.com](mailto:robert@quokkasystems.com) / [HudsonPAC@gmail.com](mailto:HudsonPAC@gmail.com)

Re: Henry Hudson Elementary Playing Field Status

---

Congratulations to all the newly elected Trustees. It's good to have an elected Board providing stewardship during this unusual time in BC Education.

Attached you will find the documents pertaining to the Henry Hudson Elementary playing field, including Ms. Turner's response to our petition for drainage mitigation.

Now that the wet season has started we have had days where the playing field has been closed to students due to safety concerns.

The problem is worse this school year because, due to class size changes, **there is no indoor playing space for rainy days**. This is wrong from the point of view of keeping kids active and keeping kids safe. I.e. hygiene of the field is so bad that I'm investigating how to test soil and water samples. Daily, our Principal cleans up after neighbourhood dogs. *And* we have humans doing their business on the site. Standing water and children's wet footwear. Let *that* sink in for a moment.

The assertion from the VSB is that the cost is prohibitive. This is the case if the field is being replaced. However, it defies logic that there's no way to improve the existing drainage. I spoke with a friend who works in facilities in another school district and he has seen drainage mitigation applied. This led me to Google "draining a wet playing field methods." I found this web site <http://safesportsfields.cals.cornell.edu/drainage> that included 5 different methods for improving sub surface drainage.

I saw this article regarding playing equipment. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/schools-playground-fundraising-government-budget-1.4369556>

Our PAC already funded the replacement of the old wooden playground equipment. Is there any way we can have that money put into the field? (Of course that won't happen until the 2018 provincial budget.)

I must call upon you to find some way to meet the health and safety standards for the Henry Hudson Elementary children. Our parents at the school are willing and able to help. But cannot, obviously, act alone.

