

November 19, 2017

To: Janet Fraser
VSB Board Chairperson

Cc: Ian Cannon, Principal Henry Hudson Elementary
VBE Trustees
John Lewis (Interim) Superintendent of Schools
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer

From: Robert Ford
Henry Hudson Elementary PAC Chair
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Re: Henry Hudson Elementary Playing Field Status

Dear Ms. Fraser,

Thank you for your response and the fact that there is a mitigation possibility for drainage of the Henry Hudson Elementary field. I have asked Mr. Cannon to arrange the appointment with Mr. Meschino.

I write this on Universal Children's Day, which The United Nations established in 1954. The children at Henry Hudson Elementary are confined to almost no outdoor space today because, no doubt, after yesterday's rain the field is dangerous and off limits.

I need us all to imagine what it's like being elementary school age and being unable to run on a field and have no indoor rainy day play space. The indoor play space is gone due to every square inch of the school being turned into classroom space. This is wrong in so many ways. The press is filled with dire warnings about children's health due to inactivity. **We are failing the kids and are ethically obliged to take action.**

And, despite giving up on play space, our school is still not compliant with the teacher's contract.

From what I'm reading in your letter, I concluded that we need to find \$75,000 extra added to the budget in order to have the work done. Our PAC is fundraising right now for technology. I could put forward a motion to divert this to the playing field. We have emergency funds that we could tap into. I could put this proposal forward to the PAC as well. Can we use this funding as a down payment on the work?

Is it possible to have more background on how this \$75,000 figure is estimated? This still has the feeling of being plucked out of the air. That's about \$190 per student. The field is roughly 75 m by 100 m, which is 7500 sq. m, which is \$10 per sq. m. I have reached out to a drainage company to see if there are ideas we have not thought of. We can't spend the moon, but we can't do nothing.

Surely there are other ways for the VSB to entreat the Ministry of Education for funding?

We have to solve this and solve it right away. If money is the problem, let's find the money. Please let me know right away how the PAC can financially (or otherwise) support this effort.

Thanks,



Robert Ford