



# Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39 (Vancouver)

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Mr. Robert Ford – PAC Chair  
Hudson Elementary School  
1551 Cypress Street  
Vancouver, BC V6J 3L3

Dear Mr. Ford,

I would like to acknowledge your letter of June 27, 2018 from yourself, Laura McDougall and Kelly Han, the representatives of Hudson Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee, Seismic Committee and the Out of School Care Society. We appreciate your proactive approach and communication. The purpose of this letter is to identify the Project Definition Report (PDR) process, share information about other VBE district initiatives that may impact Hudson, address population growth trends, hot lunch fundraiser, Out of School Care Program, French Immersion, Space for Speciality programs and non-enrolling classroom space as indicated in your letter.

## **Process**

The Vancouver Project Office (VPO) in consultation with Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) Facilities and Planning are in the process of the feasibility studies for Hudson Elementary School before submitting the first draft of Project Definition Report (PDR) to the Ministry in Fall 2018. The final Project Definition Report (PDR) typically have least three options explored: Seismic upgrade, partial replacement and full replacement.

The final PDR is expected to be completed in Spring 2019 with a recommended preferred option from the Vancouver Project Office and then submitted to the Vancouver Project Office Steering Committee Meeting for approval shortly thereafter, which includes the Superintendent, Secretary Treasure and two members of the Ministry.

After the Steering Committee and the Ministry have given approval, then a signed Project Agreement is given to the school district and the VPO office. A budget is given by the Ministry with the expectation the project is completed on time and within the budget. The next step after the approval process is to organize an information session to share with the school and neighbourhood community and receive feedback.

When the Hudson project begins the design phase, a Hudson Seismic Project Charter is developed with the Project Manager and the Principal. The purpose of the Project Charter is to set out how the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE), represented by the Vancouver Project Office and the Hudson Seismic School Advisory Committee will work together on the Hudson Seismic Project. The Charter outlines the project objective, rationale, membership roles and responsibilities and communication procedures. The Project Team includes members from the VPO, District Principal of Field Services and Architectural Firm. The school membership usually includes: Principal, Vice Principal (Head Teacher), Teacher Representatives (number depends on school size), Non-Teaching Staff Representative (e.g. resource teacher, SSW), VBE Operations Representative, PAC

Representatives (2), Child Care Representative (1 per organization). This group informs the great school community and Parent Advisory Committee.

### **Population Growth Trends**

The Ministry requires the VBE and VPO to examine population growth and school enrolment growth for the next ten years per school as well as the family of schools. Changes in population are followed throughout Vancouver recognizing the influx of new building developments throughout the city. Statistics indicate continued growth for Hudson. Ongoing studies continue to be examined for the increases in some schools and decreases in others. It is also important to note that population growth does not always equal to the enrolment growth.

The VBE Facilities and Planning is in the process of a Boundary Review, Catchment Changes, Expansion Program (EXP) in schools, use of district portables and location of District Programs (e.g., reviews are in process for French Immersion and Special Education. The final results and recommendations for French Immersion and Special Education may not be available until December 2018 or early 2019). As these processes continue, eventually more information will be distributed by the VBE, VPO and Ministry throughout the district regarding the capacity for Hudson.

### **Hudson Out of School Care**

Child Care continues to be a high priority for the Ministry, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Education. Zero to 4 daycares have been approved for Nelson, Fleming and Tennyson Elementary and are being considered in other new replacement schools. Secondary schools are also being considered for 0 to 4 and before and after school care in the future. There will be a specific number of licensed seats for the Out of School daycare at Hudson for the approved option.

### **Speciality Space / Non-Enrolling Classroom Spaces**

Hudson currently has a Reading Recovery program, Learning Assistance Program and has integrated students who have learning differences into regular classrooms. These programs are included within the school facility and uses various spaces to support the students in these programs. These spaces are considered in the design aid sheets for each school as listed in the Ministry of Area Standards for elementary schools. All options in the PDR will include these spaces.

It has been evident that recent changes in class size and composition from the BC Supreme Court ruling, has added complexities in use of current room spaces at Hudson to facilitate enrolment. As you have mentioned, this has added increased pressure to staff when previous spaces were utilized for art, music, science, and computer and now are used as enrolling classroom space.

## **Programs and Space**

The BC Redesigned Curriculum as well as VBE Core Purpose is to ensure the highest quality of learning for all students with a focus on student engagement, learning and development in a safe, inclusive environment. Learners' needs are placed first and there are spaces for individualized support, collaborative groups, small learning communities, personal learning and reflection, and social learning. A variety of learning and teaching styles are supported in our VBE schools. Educational programming is implemented by the teaching staff under the guidance of the BC Redesigned Curriculum, support from current professional development and training, and supervised by the administration in schools. District programs (e.g., French Immersion, Mandarin Immersion, Special Education, Montessori, etc.) have been placed in schools where extra space maybe within the school. These programs are strong and viable and may be moved depending on the district needs. District program enrolment is included in the current enrolment of the school in a given school year.

## **Multipurpose Rooms**

Multipurpose rooms are spaces which are used as lunch rooms and for flexible large groupings. Kitchen facilities are part of the multipurpose rooms. Multipurpose rooms are also used by Before and After Schools Care Programs. This area may be used for Hudson's Hot Lunch Fundraiser in the future.

There is Neighbourhood of Learning (NLC) space that can be added to a replacement school to increase space. The Ministry has strict guidelines for this increase and the VPO is required to adhere to the criteria. This space needs to be used for the community (e.g., child care, pre-schools).

Your proactive approach with the Ministry amending Area Standards and in supporting safe environment for students at Hudson and other schools in the Vancouver School District is admirable. As we move forward, we will look forward to working with you, your team and the Hudson school community.

With kind regards,



Kathy O'Sullivan  
District Principal of Field Services

Cc:

Ian Cannon, Principal, Henry Hudson Elementary, VBE  
Laura MacDougall, Chair, Henry Hudson Seismic Committee  
Kelly Han, Executive Director, Hudson Out of School Care Society  
Magdalena Kassis, Director of Instruction, VBE  
Judy Zaichkowsky, Vancouver School Board Trustee  
Jim Meschino, Director of Facilities, VBE  
Janson Ho, Director of the Vancouver Project Office

