

Ms. Kathy O'Sullivan  
Vancouver Project Office

Re: Parent Input into Henry Hudson Seismic Project Definition Phase

June 27, 2018

Dear Ms. O'Sullivan,

As representatives of the Hudson PAC, Seismic Committee, and After-School Care Program, we would like to take the opportunity to comment – during this Project Definition Phase of seismic upgrading – on some considerations particular to Henry Hudson that we hope to see reflected in all options developed in the Project Definition Report:

**Population growth trends.** Henry Hudson's enrollment is currently over-capacity at 123%. This is the second most overcrowded of any elementary school in the District and population projections indicate continued growth. In recent years, all non-enrolling classrooms have been repurposed, putting important programs at risk. We do not want to repeat this experience in a few short years, by not accounting for this growth now.

**Hot lunch Fundraiser.** Kitchen facilities and dining space to operate this PAC-sponsored fundraiser bring about \$15,000 in funding each year that is spent on technology, field trips, and supplies that benefit all school families, and provide support for Hudson families unable to afford a hot lunch. This is the primary means by which PAC raises funds; without it, school events and extra-curricular activities would be at-risk.

**Hudson Out of School Care program.** Due to higher school enrollments, pressures on HOOSC have increased. Children are now forced to age-out of care at 8 years to make room for the youngest. A 2015 BC Supreme Court decision ruled 8 too young to be allowed home alone after school, leaving parents with few options. Just three months ago, the Ministry of Education directly intervened in the potential loss of on-site Hudson childcare spaces this September, demonstrating their strong childcare commitment and unwillingness to make life less affordable for British Columbians.

**French Immersion.** Recent Vancouver School Board consultations on its French Immersion program are surfacing the recommendation that all immersion schools offer two Kindergarten classes. Due to space constraints, Hudson current offers only one. Conforming to this recommendation will require additional divisions be accommodated in the planning, as the cohort ages into older grades.

**Space for specialty programs.** Henry Hudson's student population has a recognized need for the Reading Recovery program, and a significant number of special needs students. Both of these programs require spaces that can be used to support student learning outside of the primary classroom

environment. In addition, the new BC curriculum mandates more individualized learning, which comes with physical space requirements.

**Non-enrolling classroom space.** Finally, the school community would like to see *all* design options include non-enrolling classroom space that can be used for art, music, science and computers. Increasing enrollment in recent years has meant converting rooms formerly used for these pursuits into classrooms, as well as the spaces formerly used for our lunchroom and our staff lounge. Each of these changes has created stress within the community and the capacity for delivery of arts and STEM programming has been severely impacted.

Our parent community has watched other schools further along in the seismic mitigation process grapple with these issues at a point where basic design and budgeting decisions appear to have been already made, limiting the opportunities to resolve them. Our hope is that by raising our concerns directly to the Vancouver Project Office at this early stage, that the Project Definition Report will incorporate ways to address them in all options presented to the Province. In this way, we hope for more harmonious consultation later in the process, and a final outcome of a school facility in which children can experience high quality education for many years to come.

We understand that the current provincial Area Standards that set out the design parameters for new and rebuilt schools are inadequate to address these concerns. As many of these issues are relevant to any B.C. public school yet to complete the seismic upgrade process, the Hudson PAC brought forward a resolution which was passed at the recent BCCPAC AGM to engage the Ministry of Education on amending these standards. We look forward to hearing from you about these considerations and to engaging with your team in the months ahead.

Kind Regards,



Laura MacDougall  
Chair, Hudson Seismic  
Committee



Robert Ford  
President, Henry Hudson  
PAC



Kelly Han  
Executive Director, Hudson  
Out of School Care Society

Cc: Ian Cannon, Principal, Henry Hudson Elementary  
Cc: Judy Zaichkowsky, Vancouver School Board Trustee  
Cc: Jim Meschino, Director of Facilities, Vancouver School Board