

# PAC Meeting - Sept 19, 2024

## Attendance

- District Principal Doug Roch
- Hudson admin: Principal Sonja Rondesvedt, Vice Principal Christina Gill
- 26 parents and caregivers

## Update from PAC Chair (Ryan)

### Fundraising

- Our fundraising committee is ramping up and is targeting three audiences:
  - Community Campaign (local area businesses and individuals)
  - School Campaign (student families)
  - Publicly available grants
- Much work to do - we need a large team.

### PAC executive positions

- We are looking for parent volunteers to fill the following open exec positions:
  - Vice Chair
  - District PAC representative
  - Secretary
- We are also setting up a Traffic Safety Committee, to discuss issues related to traffic management, parking, active transportation etc.
- If you would like to get involved in any of the above roles, [let Ryan know](#).

### PAC events being organized

- Clothing/Costume swap - October
- Winter Fair - December

## Update from Doug Roch

### Construction plan update

- Doug presented the schematics for Phase 1 of the project, which is the new building.

- Phase 2 includes demolition of the old building and structures, and construction of new grounds.
- Phase 3 is the construction of the addition to the school. This includes additional classrooms and an outdoor classroom space.
- Phase 2 and 3 are happening simultaneously. Completion target is summer 2025.
- The additional classrooms mean that the plan for outdoor spaces had to be adjusted.
- The concept of the outdoor plan is to use the entire property to enhance the experience for children at the school, e.g. with an outdoor classroom, playing field, different natural play areas, grow boxes etc.
- We will start to see the demolition process soon. It is happening already but not visible yet: assessments, safe disposal etc. happen first.
- Hazmat removal was completed in the portable. This will be the first structure to come down.
- The old gym's floor will be repurposed for other gyms needing repair in VSB schools.
- Bike racks were delayed due to supply chain issues but should arrive soon.

#### Temporary arrangements

- Temporary fencing installed to increase height, keeping balls and kids off the road. Permanent fencing will be built later.
  - More balls hitting cars = helps the school advocate for proper fencing
- Orange fence bulges filled with water for weight, as a safety feature against stray vehicles. These will eventually be replaced by large boulders.

#### Traffic and Parking

- York Street side is needed for construction vehicles - no drop-off or parking.
- The permanent plan is for signage to indicate pick-up/drop-off only use between 08:00 and 20:00. Currently it's 08:00 to 17:00.
- Looking at another accessible zone (perhaps a no stopping zone).
- Cornwall: the school has asked for, and the city implemented, an extended crossing window, and quicker response when pressing the pedestrian crossing button. This is needed e.g. for taking entire classes to Vanier Park for sports. There are ongoing meetings between the city and the school admin, and admin are pushing to extend the crossing window again.
- There is a risk from cyclists failing to yield to pedestrians on York Ave.

#### Play structures

- Where the asphalt courtyard is now, there will be a large playground space. Asphalt can easily be removed for other surfaces. Asphalt is more accessible for people with mobility issues than gravel.
- The district carefully analyzed the state of the playground equipment. The large structure from the old playground cannot be moved and reinstalled. Some of the other smaller, newer ones can be moved.
- The district is looking at replacement options. PAC fundraising for playground upgrades needs to be concurrent with the district's process - VSB funds won't be taken away because we raised some money.
- Timeline on getting monkey bars: summer, hopefully sooner, for the structures that can be kept.
- Tree roots have been a big challenge in this project, and fall zones around playground structures (relative to height of structure, and changing safety standards).

## Childcare

- The multi-purpose space will continue to be used in tandem: by the school during the school day, by out of school care before and after. This is standard across VSB.
- Questions regarding the childcare facility on the 3rd floor, and before/after-school care on the main floor, should be directed to [Kits Neighbourhood House](#), as they are the operators of both of those services.

## Playing field surface

### Grass option

- VSB grounds department expect the grass will wash away due to high tides over time (Hudson is on a floodplain).
- advocacy for the grass and turf options, what are the logistical realities. (how could we prep for grass or turf).
- Need to approach other schools that had a grass field installed for lessons learned.

### Artificial turf option

- Up front cost for turf is \$1-1.5 million.
- \$200,000 per year will be required for the PAC to own and maintain the field.
- Some secondary schools share the cost with UBC (60%-40%).
- Specifics will need to be worked out with the district: ways to rent out the field etc, for rental income, which can flow through to the PAC.
- The City is not looking at putting turf in for us.

- Comment on micro plastics: dangers of breathing in particles, research pointing to health problems for kids.

#### Gravel option (the default)

- The district would be responsible for maintenance.
- Comment from a participant who works in water management: gravel is good for drainage in the absence of grass.
- We need pictures and experience of other schools with gravel (e.g. Simon Fraser, Flemming)
- After hours access belongs to the school.

#### Other

- Comment: make sure we communicate the notes from these meetings

#### Votes

- PAC Chair reconfirmed - Ryan Kalef
- PAC Treasurer Confirmed - Ron Maharik
- PAC activities execs Confirmed - Diana Macdonald, Emma LLoyd
- PAC Fundraising Chair Confirmed - Katelyn Zottenberg

#### Next Meeting

- Will take place on October 17.
- Childcare will be available from Petit Foret onsite.
- Operational Budget to be voted on.
- Other agenda items to come.