

## **Meeting Minutes: PAC Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Welcome:** Meet other parents, have a refreshment, review agenda and October meeting minutes.

**Acknowledgement:** Co-Chair: Julia: We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land in which we gather is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh First Nations.

Co-Chair: Jo-Anne: Thank you for coming tonight, mention of nametags, explanation about the draw for the front row concert seating and a pizza party.

**Approval of Agenda:** No new items added to the agenda  
Passed

**Approve Minutes from October**  
Passed

### **Guest Speakers:**

**Seismic Presentation:** Michael Rossi, District Principal- Educational Planning & Janson Ho (Director of the Vancouver School Board project office)

- Vancouver project office: overlooks the seismic projects –
- Vancouver has a very large seismic litigation project – 60 schools left
- Goal of seismic: students, staff and community are able to exit the building in the event of an earthquake without collapsing
- There is a misconception that the building should continue to stand and withstand an earthquake

Question: what seismic force are you considering?

Response: They don't use the Richter scale but make assessments based on multiple factors such as soil composition, proximity to water, construction materials, etc.; the plan is not to make buildings earthquake proof but safe enough to exit in the event of the earthquake

Question: How are previous earthquakes, and their impact on the building influence current day plans on seismic upgrades to DL?

Response (JH): There are a lot of factors we incorporate in our assessments such as proximity to the ocean, the platform of the building, when building was constructed

Parent Representative in Seismic Upgrade: We have a parent representative involved in the seismic stakeholder: Andrew Nolan (DL parent and past PAC co-Chair). MR: we have

one member from each of the stakeholder groups, and they met with Andrew Nolan on Friday.

Road to seismic mitigation: There is a diagram that details the process of seismic plans to be posted on the DL website by Principal Carrie Froese.

Process of Seismic Mitigation (JH): The province looks at where the schools are in relation to the others on the seismic rankings. Which schools are being considered is looked at on a yearly basis. In 2018, our school was submitted for the review process. We were approved, and the VSB seismic staff initiated a feasibility report (which includes information such as what materials the school building is made of, what is the soil composition underneath the building, when were parts of the building built (e.g. one part was built in 1913, another in 1926)). This information is included so the engineers can assess what they have to do to make the building safe enough for the seismic goal. They also included the cost to make it seismically safe which includes plans to upgrade the building and also an option to rebuild our school. We are currently in the feasibility part. Currently, the provincial government is reviewing the feasibility report. Once the provincial government decides how to proceed, money is allocated and the minister makes an announcement. This will be followed with some community engagement/outreach where logistical information will be discussed about the seismic decision. It is estimated that the seismic upgrade will be done by 2022, and possible move in would occur in 2023 (timelines may shift as there are usually more delays during these upgrades). A specific seismic plan will be added to our school website once a decision has been made with accurate information.

Question: Could you share lessons from other schools seismic experiences that may be relevant for parents and the school community to consider?

Response (JH): The seismic project office started at 2014 when 69 schools were designated high risk. The seismic plan and upgrade differs from one school to another. Many of the schools are a century old. For instance, when they upgraded Strathcona Elementary, they found the foundation was problematic and a new foundation had to be poured. During the seismic plan for Kitsilano Secondary, the engineers assumed the foundation would be in good shape; however, they found that the soil was contaminated and a couple of million dollars was spent removing/replacing the soil. Jamieson Elementary was completed and it was a far easier process. These examples illustrate that there are a great deal of variables that impact the project timeline.

Question: Are there plans to replace or repair our school?

Response (JH): This information is released at a later date as the province doesn't allow any information to go out prematurely. It is anticipated that in Spring of 2020, the provincial government will release information about our status (to replace or repair).

Response (MR): We are required to a cost analysis for the feasibility report which the ministry reviews. Typically, the ministry funds the lower cost option.

Question: Is the focus specifically on seismic upgrades or to included other things that will improve the school such as updating heating systems?

Response: The seismic upgrade is prioritized but other departments are involved and provide their input. For instance, if a roof needs replacing or the heating system needs to be upgraded, the hope is that these changes are made simultaneously. Other departments weigh in and also have to support the costs associated with those changes.

Question: During a previous presentation on the seismic process, presenters stated that seismic team doesn't talk with other departments?

Response (JH): Often times, it is connected to how much money we have to work with. If a department recognizes that the roof needs to be redone, they need to fund that roof repair. (MR): We don't always have the funds to support all of the changes that would be prudent. (JH): Sometimes, it looks like we have done nothing because the changes we make are often inside the walls but not the cosmetic changes so kids will return to a school that looks very similar to the school they had to leave.

Question: During this process, will the school become more accessible and include ramps and larger doors?

Response (JH): The facilities department would need to address this. We can ask for that but facilities will evaluate that request, and they will submit a funding request to the government. They may ask for a ramp, an elevator, widening doors, etc. We would work together with them to support their application for funding, but we don't fund it - the facilities department would seek the funding.

Question: How do you measure the safety factor, there are 3 proposals, are each of the proposals equally safe?

Response: The province looks at our feasibility study with the 3 options we outline. They will look to see what is the most cost effective. If it is more cost effective to rebuild, they will go with that. The safety component is the same in all 3 of the possible proposals.

Question: Can the timeline go quicker or longer than the 18 months from the city?

Response: When the design team is at 90% completion of the design, they submit plans to the city for preliminary reviews, and then they go back and forth. It is averaging 12 months for the city to provide permits.

Response (MR): The ministry approval will give us more information, as they will set up timelines. Also it is best for us to adhere to timelines as best as possible as the ministry doesn't allow for escalation costs. Every month is 1% so if a project gets delayed by 12 months, then it is 12% of an increase and there is no room in the budget to increase the costs by 12%.

Question: Are future building code changes incorporated into the timelines?

Response (JH): Yes, we have some funding to accommodate that

Question: if we do home or commercial renovations, we have to accommodate new building code changes, why isn't the city requiring schools to do the same?

Response (JH): The city understands that these seismic upgrades are a high priority to the city; therefore, we aren't required to adhere to some of the codes that homeowners or commercial building owners are required to follow.

Question: Do you know if we are staying at our school or moving schools?

Response (MR (notes taken from presentation slide)): We consider many factors including:

1. Quality of Education: safety, learning resources and play space
2. Allows for seismic mitigation program to advance quickly/according to timeline from (for example: we can't always delay projects to wait for the best swing site)
3. Location: consideration on how to get to and from (we do have transportation support like bussing students from this school to the swing school)
4. Use of existing facilities within the school district (government is not funding portables)
5. Avoid 2 way splits (we can't always avoid them, if DL is split into 2 different locations, your intermediate and primaries go into different locations – we avoid that as much as possible)

Question: Are the swing sites seismically upgraded?

Response: No, but the school that you are moving to is equally risky on seismic gradient

Question: Are we a high risk school, not a medium risk school? Our children are not safe today, what should we expect if an earthquake happens, are our children going to die?

Response (MR): There are 3 categories and there are differences in the different categories. Parts of the school may be high risk, while other parts are medium risk. (JH): A few years ago, we were assessed at medium risk but now we have strengthened our standards, and currently, DL is no longer a medium risk (3 years ago), but a high risk. Based on our standards being improved, we have had changes in our standing, and we do have collapsible areas.

Question: So our kids would be heavily injured here?

Response (JH): It is like your home, your home may be low risk, but if the standards change, your home maybe high risk, it is a change in the in the code, you are still in the same building ...

Another response: I don't think that question can be answered as it is hypothetical

Question: We need to clarify that we were never medium risk?

Response: Yes, some parts were medium risk and some were high risk

Discussion on location:

There is a swing site that will be available when we estimate our seismic upgrades will start. The team did look at Tupper as a possibility; however, they could only

accommodate 3 classes which would not be enough to accommodate our school community. Wolfe is a swing site but it can't be used because another school is scheduled to use it. Strathcona and Seymour were options but that would require the student community to be split to 2 sites. Their aim is to keep the school together and maintain the school spirit. Also, for families with multiple children at the school, splitting the student community may lead to having children at different sites. DLG (David Lloyd George Elementary at 8370 Cartier Street) may be the best option in keeping the school together.

Continuing the Conversation (Co-Chair Jo-Anne): Proposed to do some follow up work on this discussion whereby concerned parents/families can email the PAC and indicate their interest in continuing this conversation. Jo-Anne also suggested that Andrew Nolan could facilitate these sessions for the DL parent community as he is the parent representative for the seismic planning for DL.

### **Carmen Cho, VSB Trustee**

Introduction: Visited our school earlier this school year and met with Principal Froese, Co-Chair Jo-Anne, and 4 students for a tour of the school. Strongly encourages families to connect through their PACs or the DPAC, or directly contact her as it is important for students/families to have a voice. She has three children in the VSB system and has gone through some of the seismic processes.

Principal Froese's Update on SSA (Student Support Assistant (also known as Education Assistants)) Staffing: There has been a provincial shortage of SSAs, and there are 5 SSAs allocated to our school but we have 2 permanent SSA staff, and one posting has been moved to a priority pick up so we have a guest SSA filling in for one position. This is a priority as we have to meet the safety and medical needs of students so resource teachers, other SSAs, and classroom teachers have to support this until we have recruited for the 5 positions. There is one person who is completing the practicum at Langara who will hopefully join our school, and 40 newly trained SSAs completing their program at the end of November. We are hoping they apply for Vancouver positions.

Carmen Cho: There are 880 SSAs that are employed in the system and we have a major shortage, because not everyone works full time and SSAs can select which positions they would like to apply for.

Question: What is a SSA?

Response: Also known as educational assistants and they come and work with the students who have special needs.

Parent Response: My daughter works with a SSA who helps her with her physiotherapy exercises, helps her scribe her responses, and keeps her safe on the playground.

Question: So some of the children who need this support don't currently have it?

Response: That is correct.

Question: Is there not enough budget for SSAs?

Response (CH): It isn't a budgeting issue but a hiring issue. Some people don't want to work full time so that is tricky, and Vancouver is difficult to retain staff and recruit people due to the cost of living, and there aren't a lot of options for SSAs to be promoted. Some do go onto become teachers. There is also a burn out factor- hard to retain staff for these roles. It is a demanding position.

*Thank you to guest speakers (Michael Rossi, Janson Ho and Carmen Cho). All three guest speakers departed from the meeting.*

**Principal's Report:** Carrie Froese

Project Chef wrap up: Kids really appreciated Project Chef. Project Chef staff served stone soup for all of the children to enjoy together today. Thank you to the PAC for funding this experience.

Reporting Assessments: in Vancouver, there will be 2 standard assessments/reports. Teachers will have a range of reporting options with some using the online reporting (new tool). If they opt for the online reporting, teachers will report in January and June. Some teachers will use portfolios, and others are involved in a pilot: my blueprint. My blueprint is used in secondary schools and is not publicly accessible. Conversations around reporting methods have been rich, they have done lunch and learns. At the last meeting, they discussed: how do you build hope and efficacy – so children have a sense of where they are, and where they are going to go, There are a number of changes around reporting, and most of this has been done to ensure students have a bigger voice in their reporting, and be involved in their self regulation around their learning.

Library changes: Library is now open in the mornings and after school. A librarian/resource teacher has been hired but it is now in the hands of employee services. In the meantime, we have a Chelsea Makepeace who is lovely. The library is open 20 minutes before and after, and there is an open library time at the beginning and at the end of the day. The back section currently identified as mature readers, will be changed to the parent section so parents can take out books that may be of interest. Student's library cards are at the check out desk and parents can use their child's library card to take out books.

Upcoming December Events:

- Winter concert is on December 18 at Tupper (details coming soon).
- Cookie walk is on December 17 – DL families/students make cookies and take them over to Tupper
- Raising funds for the for holiday drive: Leadership team will be making up flyers with pictures so children can purchase a food item(s) for the drive (e.g. a turkey costs this much so students/families donate enough for a turkey or potatoes, etc). Tupper prefers this way so there is less waste and families in need get what they want.

- Outdoor Einstein program is coming soon (PAC paid for backpacks for the program with outdoor supplies (e.g. compass, binoculars). These will be used for an after school program and during school time by various divisions doing outdoor activities.

- Yoga Program (PAC paid for yoga mats) is coming soon too!

Question: Will the outdoor backpacks be for all of the kids?

Response: Yes, for outdoor experiences during the school day depending on the teachers, and there will be an after school program

**Chair Report:** November Update - Julia & Jo

- Post teacher Halloween fund: On November 1<sup>st</sup>, all staff (30 staff members) received a 5 dollar gift card for Café Artigiano.

- Fall fund drive: 12,000 dollars has been raised so far

- January PAC Update: In January, there will be an in-depth discussion on budget items that have passed and an assessment on fundraising goals.

- Budget note: one late teacher submission from the previous school year is on the current budget but it is a late entry.

- World Teacher Day: we spent 243 dollars (over by 43 dollars)

- Holiday concert teacher meals: last year, we approved having 500 dollars for a burger combo at Nomad. We have now added 150 dollars – we are still working out the details.

– Pancake breakfast: Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please see the PAC facebook page for volunteer opportunities and to attend

- Next month, we are doing a social meeting: December 11<sup>th</sup> – half an hour will be dedicated to the PAC meeting and then we will go to the Legion (The Legion donated a 1,000 dollars to DL)

- As discussed at the last meeting, we are trying to coordinate more educational opportunities (e.g. anti-bullying, supporting your children’s learning , Telus online safety presentation). These educational opportunities would include Brock and Wolfe.

- The teachers have not chosen which organization will present sex education this year but once they do, there will be a Q and A for parents

**Treasurer Report:** Krista & Vanessa

Question about the regional recycling? If the leadership group wants to adopt this? PAC chairs, and Principal Froese will continue this discussion.

- Teachers are receiving their allocated amounts and field trips are being supported with 400 dollars per division set aside.

- In January, allocation of funds will be presented more thoroughly

- Budget to be passed: Lisa first and seconded by Newell

- Passed

Results of the Draw:

Pizza party: Division 12

Four front row tickets for the holiday concert: Lilah Goodison Division 4

**New Business:** (5 minutes)

- Still looking for a DPAC Co-chair - if anyone is interested let us know or email [livingstonepac@gmail.com](mailto:livingstonepac@gmail.com). Thank you to Past Chair Judy McLaren who has stepped up as the other co-chair.

**Next Meeting:** \*DATE CHANGE\* Wednesday, December 11th, 7:00 p.m. in the library & Legion? (Holiday Social)

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:34 p.m.**