

## ITEM 1A

January 13, 2010

Attn: Committee II

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Strathcona Elementary PAC in conjunction with the report from Brooke and Associates. I, Angelia Ellis, the PAC Chair have been part of the process from the beginning and I am happy to see it moving forward. I have had a chance to read over the report from Brooke and Associates and discuss it with the PAC executive members. We are in agreement with the outcomes.

Although we are in full support we do have four points of concern. As parents our primary concern is for the safety of our children. We would therefore like to see that the recommendations put into place occur quickly to ensure that the seismic upgrading can begin in the very near future.

Secondly we are concerned that your proposed number of students for the completion of the upgrades is only 510. We feel that this number is low considering we have a growing French Immersion Program. We do understand that the numbers projected take into consideration a new school being built which would cut our catchment area in size. We do feel that this estimation of students is low and that in order to avoid overcrowding like Elsie Roy an additional 4 classrooms should be added to the school.

Thirdly we didn't see in the report information or a proposal regarding our school cafeteria. During meeting sessions it was raised strongly by parents, staff and the community that the cafeteria space remain and a larger industrial kitchen be added. The kitchen and cafeteria is to accommodate our children's snack program BC Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program, the lunch program (which we would like to make on the premises instead of shipping it in) as well as a wide range of cooking classes that we offer to the students, parents and the community. The cafeteria and industrial kitchen are essential components of the school. We would feel it would be very detrimental to eliminate this from the new school plan.

Lastly for Strathcona's Primary building, we would like all options to be given consideration before writing off its use for Strathcona children and its community. Having said that, we also don't want an abandoned building in the centre of our new updated school so we propose if an agency hasn't taken the building and its upgrades over by the end of construction on the other buildings that the Primary building be removed. The area would then be used for example a covered area for the kids to play under or even an outdoor classroom area.

Thank you for taking our thoughts into consideration in this process,  
Sincerely,

Angelia Ellis