



Memorandum

vancouver school board



Date: 2012 February 08

ITEM 5

To: Committee II - Planning and Facilities

From: Jim Meschino, Director of Facilities
Doug McClary, Manager of Maintenance & Construction

Re: **New/Replacement Playground Equipment Acquisition Procedures**

In 2011, a condition assessment was completed on all school playground equipment and staff have prioritized the replacement of equipment based on the outcomes of the condition assessment. In most instances, playground equipment to be removed is significantly beyond original life expectancy, is not CSA approved, and cannot be repaired. Our current practice is that schools are notified two years in advance of scheduled playground equipment removal. (See attachment A)

The entire list of playground equipment to be removed has been forwarded to the Ministry for potential future funding.

Facilities staff have been working with DPAC representatives to develop readily understandable and effective procedures for playground equipment replacement. The attached documents are a result of these consultations and provide concise directions to schools and parents who would like to fundraise or apply for grants to obtain new playground equipment.

This report is presented for information only.

Attachments

VBE Playground Removal Outline 2001-2020

| Year of Removal | School | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2011 | 1. Begbie | 1 wood structure |
| | 2. Champlian Hts (Kaboom) | 1 wood structure |
| | 3. Grandview (Bienenstock) | improvements |
| | 4. Jamieson | 2 wood structures |
| | 5. Jules Quesnel | seismic upgrade |
| | 6. MacKenzie | 1 wood 2 tire swings |
| | 7. Moberly | 1 wood structure |
| | 8. Norquay | 2 wood structures |
| | 9. Renfrew | 1 wood structure |
| | 10. Selkirk | 1 wood structure |
| | 11. Southlands | 1 wood structure |
| | 12. Tecumseh Annex (Let Them Be Kids) | 1 wood structure |
| | 13. Thunderbird | 1 wood structure |
| | 14. Tye | 2 wood structures |
| 2012 | 1. Bayview | 1 wood structure |
| | 2. Cunningham | 3 wood structure |
| | 3. Cook | 1 wood structure |
| | 4. Douglas | new school |
| | 5. Maquinna | 1 wood structure |
| | 6. Queen Elizabeth Annex | 11 wood structures |
| 2013 | 1. Franklin | 1 wood structure |
| | 2. Gordon | 1 wood structure |
| | 3. Grandview | 1 wood structure |
| | 4. Grenfell | 1 wood structure |
| | 5. Hastings | 5 wood structures |
| | 6. Hudson | 1 wood structure |
| | 7. Maquinna Annex | 1 wood structure |
| | 8. Nelson | 1 wood structure |
| | 9. Norquay | complete |
| | 10. Sexsmith | 2 wood structures |
| 2015 | 1. Carnarvon | 2 wood structures |
| | 2. Carr | 2 tire swings |
| | 3. Champlain Annex | 2 wood structures |
| | 4. Douglas Annex | 1 wood structure |
| | 5. Henderson | 2 metal structures |
| | 6. Henderson Annex | 2 metal structures |
| | 7. Hudson | 1 wood swing |
| | 8. Kerrisdale | 1 wood /1 swing |
| | 9. Laurier | 1 wood /1 swing |
| | 10. Laurier Annex | 1 wood /1 swing |
| | 11. McBride | 1 wood /1 swing |
| | 12. McBride Annex | 3 wood / 3 swings |
| | 13. MacDonald | 1 wood swing |
| | 14. McKechnie | 1 wood structure |

VBE Playground Removal Outline 2001-2020

| Year of Removal | School | | Description |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2015 (cont'd) | 15. | Moberly | 1 wood structure |
| | 16. | Mount Pleasant | 1 wood structure |
| | 17. | Nightingale | 1 wood structure |
| | 18. | Osler | 1 wood structure |
| | 19. | Queen Alexandra | 2 wood structures |
| | 20. | Queen Elizabeth | 1 wood spring toy |
| | 21. | Queen Mary | 1 wood structure |
| | 22. | Roberts | 1 wood /1 swing |
| | 23. | Roberts Annex | 1 wood structure |
| | 24. | Selkirk Annex | 2 wood /1 swing |
| | 25. | Southlands | 1 wood /1 swing |
| | 26. | Tecumseh | 2 wood structures |
| | 27. | Total Ed. | 1 wood /1 swing |
| | 28. | Trafalgar | 1 wood structure |
| 29. | Waverley | 1 wood /1 swing | |
| 30. | Weir | 3 wood / 1 metal | |
| 2016 | 1. | Bayview | wood str./mtl.dome |
| | 2. | Brock | 2 wood structures |
| | 3. | Bruce | 1 wood structure |
| | 4. | Carleton | metal Crofton |
| | 5. | Fleming | 1 wood structure |
| | 6. | Gordon | 1 wood structure |
| | 7. | Grenfell | 1 metal dome |
| | 8. | Henderson Annex | 1 wood swing/3 mtl. |
| | 9. | Henderson | metal boat |
| | 10. | Laurier | metal crofton |
| | 11. | L'école Bilingue | 2 wood structures |
| | 12. | Lloyd George | 1 wood structure |
| | 13. | McCorkindale | 1 metal dome |
| | 14. | Nootka | 1 wood structure |
| | 15. | Norquay | metal crofton |
| | 16. | Queen Victoria | 1 wood structure |
| | 17. | Quilchena | 1 wood structure |
| | 18. | Renfrew | 2 wood swings/1 mtl |
| | 19. | Secord | 1 wood structure |
| | 20. | Selkirk Annex | 1 metal dome |
| | 21. | Shannon Park | 5 wooden structures |
| | 22. | Tennyson | 1 wood structure |
| | 23. | Wolfe | 1 wood structure |
| 2020 | 1. | Henderson | 4 metal structures |
| | 2. | Hudson | 2 metal structures |
| | 3. | McBride Annex | 1 metal structure |
| | 4. | Queen Alex | 1 metal structure |
| | 5. | Selkirk | 3 metal structures |

NEW PLAYGROUND PROCEDURES OUTLINE AND CHECKLIST

This document is intended to be a helpful tool for schools that are interested in purchasing new playground equipment. It explains the process by which schools can have an old playground removed and a new one installed.

If your school has an old wooden structure on site and it is to be replaced with a new playground, the VSB Grounds Department will remove it at no cost to the school. All parts of the old structure, including the bordering material and resilient surface will be removed if they do not meet current CSA Standards for playgrounds. This removal service also applies to schools that have received letters stating their wooden playgrounds must be removed by a certain date for safety reasons, even if there are no plans to replace it.

When the time comes to look for new playground equipment, please contact the VSB Grounds Department at 604-713-5661. A representative from the VSB will meet with the school, PAC and designated contact person to review the steps and approvals required to initiate a playground equipment replacement project. The representative would be happy to supply the school with a list of approved Provincial playground suppliers whose equipment meets CSA Standards.

When the approval has been received, the Grounds Department will handle all the steps involved and see the project through to completion as per the attached flowchart.

VSB PLAYGROUND STANDARDS

The VSB has adopted the CSA “Children’s Playspaces and Equipment” Z614-07 guidelines as our standard for new playground installations and maintenance. The document covers all aspects of playground construction and safety standards. In addition to these standards, the VSB also requires that all new playground structures are “IPEMA” certified. This is to ensure that the structures are both strong and durable thereby reducing the risk of failure due to improper construction.

The VSB has three additional requirements for new playgrounds that are not mentioned in the CSA Standards:

1. No tube slides are to be included in the structure
2. No roofs are to be included in the structure
3. No wood (pressure treated or not) are to be included in the structure

Past experience has taught us to include these points for the following reasons:

1. Tube slides can conceal anyone in them and they are a popular item to be vandalized. Many fires have been lit inside tube slides and they become damaged beyond repair.
2. Roofs on new structures create two serious areas of concern.
 - In wet weather, vagrants will sleep under the roof because it offers protection from the rain
 - Although roofs are not considered a designated play surface and thus not part of the play structure, they are an enticement for children to climb onto which could lead to injury.
3. Due to growing public concern over the long term effects of pressure treated wood, it is no longer permitted on new playgrounds.

The Province, through their collective purchasing program, have identified the following vendors as acceptable and meeting all the above criteria:

1. Habitat Systems Inc.
2. Swing Time Distributors Ltd.
3. Belair Recreational Projects Inc.
4. RecTec Industries Ltd.

Thank you for complying with these requirements.

VSB Playground Equipment Request Process

For all Playground Equipment Requests:

- Replacement
- New
- Additions to existing

