

Planning Principles

The following Planning Principles were generated in consultation with GSAC and represent a summary and interpretation of thoughts presented during the brainstorming session to identify Issues, Opportunities and Aspirations for the renewal of General Gordon.

1. Meet Current and Future Educational Needs

Create an excellent teaching and learning environment. Initial examples: classroom sizes, display spaces, storage requirements, flexible spaces, staff spaces.

2. Maximize the Value of Outdoor Space

Provide functional space that brings the maximum value to the school and community for learning, physical education, play and connection to nature.

3. Ensure a Healthy Physical Environment

Ensure all building materials, mechanical systems and operations provide a healthy environment within the school and outside.

4. Ensure Accessibility and Community Connections

Ensure the school is physically accessible to all and provide for ease of access between indoors and outdoors. Establish a clear way-finding strategy and strong connections between the school building/ grounds and the neighbourhood. Accommodate community access to the school and recognize the continued importance of the child care program to the school and community.

5. Recognize Special Needs

Many students have special needs (physical and cognitive) that may require specific features and environments. Ensure that the building design will accommodate/respond to these needs.

6. Plan for Sociability within the Building and Grounds

Design to encourage and support social interaction for and between teachers, staff, students, parents and visitors to the school.

7. Maximize Environmental Sustainability in Construction and Operations

Maximize environmental sustainability through the design of the building and grounds, the use or reuse of building materials, and choice of operating systems.

8. Integrate Heritage and Renewal

Integrate heritage spaces and new spaces in a sensitive manner.

9. Maintain and Enhance School Identity and Prominence

Maintain and enhance the identity of the school in the community. Plan for a sense of place, permanence, and for the school to function as a neighbourhood centre.

10. Create a Safe and Secure School

Design a school that meets the prescribed seismic standards, and is safe and secure inside and out.

11. Implement School Renewal and Maintain Educational Operations

Plan for renewal that is timely and maintains school operations in a safe, functional, and convenient educational environment.

12. Ensure Viability for Provincial Funding

The renewal plan should be supportable by the provincial Ministry of Education to secure capital funding.



General Gordon Elementary RENEWAL PLAN

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