

## STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

A joint Open House was hosted by Vancouver School Board and City of Vancouver on June 9 on the Strathcona Elementary School Renewal Project from 3-7pm in the auditorium of Strathcona Elementary. The Open House was advertised in the Vancouver Courier ( May 27 and June 3 )and Sing Tao newspapers (May 31 and June 7), 272 postcard notices were mailed out to the local neighborhood, invitation notices were also sent out to parents, and through the SSAC representatives to their respective communities, and to local agencies that previously expressed interest through the 2009-10 NCLD process, and notification was posted on the VSB website.

Over 50 people dropped in to view the presentation boards and a slideshow on three design options and speak with the project consultants, school district and City staff. Attendees were encouraged to take a feedback form. Chinese and Vietnamese translators were also available to help with presentation and completing feedback forms.

### Profile of Signed in Attendees

| Sign In Sheet (47 signed in)             | Number attending |
|--|------------------|
| Parent/ Past Parent                      | 32 (68%)         |
| School Staff                             | 3 (6%)           |
| Neighbor                                 | 1 (2%)           |
| Childcare staff                          | 4 (8%)           |
| Association representative               | 3 (6%)           |
| Other (Retired staff, Trustee, unknown ) | 4 (8%)           |

Of the feedback forms distributed to attendees 29 feedback forms were returned; representing over 50% of the attendees. The feedback form comments are summarized below. Overall the comments received were very positive. Concerns were expressed about impact to future provision of childcare, urgency to start project, and need for re-location and more onsite parking.

### Returned Feedback Forms- Profile of Respondents

| Indicate if you are:       | Number identified |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| VSB staff member           | 1 (3%)            |
| Current Parent             | 18 (62%)          |
| Future Parent              | 2 (7%)            |
| Neighbour/ Local Resident  | 2 (7%)            |
| Local Business             | 0                 |
| Association Representative | 3 (10%)           |
| Multiple Categories        | 3 (10%)           |

### FEEDBACK SUMMARY (Number of same/similar comments noted in brackets).

1. **We invite your observations, comments and/or concerns on the design concepts that were presented at today's Open House.**
  - My main concern is: Where the present childcare/Community Centre Preschool going to be? (2)
  - When the senior Building is under renovation, where will the classes go? Will it interfere with existing classes?
  - It was great, adding sky-lights is an excellent concept as it makes the school much "brighter". We also like the elevators, which are very helpful for parents with strollers (i.e. siblings) and we don't have to leave our stroller in the rain.
  - I have concern about the movement of a classroom to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is used for the afterschool program, which is very important to parents who have 9 to 5 jobs.
  - I like it, upgrade without huge changes or disturbance to the current buildings. Wheelchair accessibility – Yeah! Heritage retention – Yeah!
  - The design does not address the safety concerns I have for the students. Too many unsupervised entrances/ exits from the street, washrooms too far away from classrooms, the courtyard not utilized as a play area which can be supervised (from the surrounding buildings). The K classes not having a safe/ supervised outdoor space of their own apart from close to Jackson St.

- The assumed enrolment projection is 57 Kindergarten? What is the likelihood that the International Village School will be started by 2020?
  - I don't understand the concept of relocating the existing childcare centre as part of this plan. This is the decision of the community centre and the - building is owned by the City.
  - The Nominal School Design capacity of 510 puts the number of classes per grade at three; one French Immersion and two English.
  - How is the French Immersion needs addressed in this plan? Separate space or integrated?
  - With the assumed two English classes per grade. What happens to all the in district kids from low income/ low resource families? What is the plan for/ what to do with time when there is no room in the school?
  - There is no capital plan let alone design for the International Village School. What is the back up plan?
- The proposal looks great. Love the new concept!
- What will happen to the childcare room located in the Building D? Will they have to relocate? (2)

**2. Are there any design elements in the renewal concept that you liked or disliked?**

- I liked all the design elements. (3)
- Bridges between buildings. (3)
- Concerned about the impact on the out of school care program. (3)
- Earthquake safety concept, wheelchair accessibility. (2)
- Good and innovative usage of space. (Playground)
- DISLIKE: The current parking area is not relocated.
- I like the isolation plate for the Junior Building.
- We also like the addition of "foam-base" ground at playgrounds, as our youngest (2 yr) fractured his leg/knee this past Fall and it could have helped.
- I dislike the movement of classrooms.
- I like the idea of re-utilizing the current buildings - sustainable! However, I am concerned that the older attitudes to child safety have been preserved also. Glad to see seismic upgrades will be happening at last!
- The existing external play space is not used because there is not enough supervision, can this be addressed? In the renewal plan it appears to have open learning spaces. How is the French Immersion classes addressed with this? Are they separated or integrated?

**3. Do you have other suggestions or comments about today's Open House?**

- Please start the project as soon as possible. (5)
- My main concern is: Where the present childcare/Community Centre Preschool going to be? (2)
- Thank you for inviting us to the Open House!!
- The existing faucets are not hygienic and effective, you have to keep holding on to the faucet in order to get water, not easy for children to operate.
- When will the Early Learning Centres be open (timeline)? Should have info in Chinese & Vietnamese; questionnaires as well to include everyone's feedback.
- The parking lot beside the playground, can it be moved because it is quite dangerous.
- Any possibility of replacing the gym floor in community centre or "brightening" up the gym to make it feel more positive. More colors would be appreciated and perhaps some natural light. Creating open space in the school is excellent for kids.
- More notice to neighbours. I live right across the street and only saw the notice as I walked by with my dogs. I would say you have not done a good job at community consultation. Talked with David Autiero, totally understand restriction of time and money. Gave a few ideas for community outreach.
- Existing parking spaces are not enough for school staff, future parking spaces cannot accommodate for both school staff and the public.
- During the transition the plan is for the community centre to be used. What is the plan for everything that is happening there now and was the Board of the Strathcona Community Centre Association consulted in the development of the plan?
- Was very informative and helpful.