

## LRFFeedback

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**From:** Callie Service  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:52 PM  
**To:** Carmen Cho; LRFFeedback  
**Subject:** David Livingstone Seismic Upgrade

Hello Ms. Cho,

I am writing to express feedback on the Long Range Facilities Plan, specifically regarding the upgrades for the David Livingstone Elementary School. As you're aware, the school is scheduled to undergo the Seismic Upgrade this summer 2021. The community had hoped for a complete replacement, as part of the school is over 100 years old, is spread over three storeys with no ramps or elevators, and requires significant improvements to be safe for our children. Unfortunately, we were informed the rebuild wasn't financially viable, so just the basic seismic mitigation was approved. After significant feedback from the Livingstone community, some basic upgrades were added to the plan, including some improvements to accessibility of the building.

This matter is very personal to our family. We have lived in this neighbourhood for over a decade. We have three children, our eldest is in grade 1, the middle starts Kindergarten this fall, and our youngest, Griffin, will start Kindergarten in 2024. Griffin was born with an exceptionally rare genetic mutation, SCN2A, which has caused him to have hundreds of seizures, global developmental delay, and a myriad of other medical challenges. We've been told that he'll likely never walk unassisted, and while I have complete confidence in the innovations for mobility equipment that will allow him to get around, my confidence in the school's ability to meet his unique accessible needs is much less robust. Before the minimal accessibility improvements were announced, I was informed that Griffin would need to attend "another accessible school in the area" if he was in a wheelchair. You can imagine the shock of hearing that my youngest son would be prevented from attending school with his big brothers and his friends in the neighbourhood; living with a disability is incredibly challenging, but compounding that would be isolating Griffin from his community.

Please revisit the option of building a replacement school at David Livingstone. I noticed on page 22 of the [2020 Long Range Facilities Plan](#), it states that Livingstone is being re-built and will open in 2024. This contradicts the information we've been provided, but if it's not erroneous, it's incredibly positive news. On page 54, Section 7.2.1 of the same report, it highlights the numerous financial benefits to the VSB for rebuilding vs retrofitting, and Livingstone is a prime example. The gravel field directly to the East of the school is available for the newly-built school, which will allow the school to continue operating in the existing facilities, eliminating the need for a temporary relocation site, buses, and the other associated costs.

While you consider this, I implore you to please work with the School Board to create a universal accessibility standard to which all schools in the district are required to adhere. **Meeting or exceeding the VSB vision statement of inclusion should not be something for which parents have to beg.** Please, build a new school that meets these standards for the basic human rights of our kids. If you can't see the numerous benefits of building a replacement school, at least implement these basic improvements into the renovation plan; don't allow this amount of money to be spent on upgrading a school, without actually upgrading the entire school for everyone who needs to use it.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this, and look forward to hearing back from you.

Warm regards,

Callie Service

## **LRFPfeedback**

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**From:** Kaori  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:00 AM  
**To:** LRFPfeedback  
**Cc:** Allan Wong; krista sigurdson; gord lau; amanda hillis  
**Subject:** Inclusion & Accessibility

Hello,

I was relieved to see in the LRFP draft that Renfrew Elementary is prioritized in year 1 of this plan. I have one child currently attending Renfrew.

I will have another child entering Renfrew next year. She has a physical disability and will have a wheelchair for school. We are in the process of working with district and school staff to determine how to handle her transition. As I understand it, the main building of Renfrew is not accessible.

One of the Guiding Principles of VSB2021 Strategic Plan is inclusion. Accessibility standards need to be included in the LRFP, including but not limited to elevators, ramps, door openers, and accessible bathrooms with change tables and lifts.

A seismic upgrade of Renfrew Elementary will be the perfect opportunity to save costs while incorporating these accessibility standards and ensure that future students with physical disabilities are able to attend Renfrew.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,  
Kaori Lau

## **LRFPfeedback**

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**From:** QEA PAC  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:43 PM  
**To:** Oliver Hanson  
**Cc:** Chair (Vancouver DPAC); LRFPfeedback  
**Subject:** LRFP issues

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the PAC at Queen Elizabeth Annex. We have had a discussion and we are in agreement that the Strategic Vision should not be an appendix and should be in the core LRFP document and drive the operational LRFP.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Ange Gourlay  
Co-chair of the QEA PAC

## **LRFPfeedback**

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**From:** Hilary Thomson  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:27 PM  
**To:** LRFPfeedback  
**Cc:** Carmen Cho  
**Subject:** LRFP Feedback

I am writing to provide feedback on the Long Range Facilities Plan. One of the values listed in the vision statements is inclusion. However, until all Vancouver schools are designed or renovated in a way that addresses long-standing accessibility concerns, that goal is impossible to meet.

My daughter lives and thrives with a disability. When she arrived at kindergarten, she could not get to her library, her music room or on the playground. She asked me why she had to be in jail over lunchtime, as she stared at her peers through a chainlink fence, unable to roll onto the playground. I began my advocacy before she started school, and many of those concerns have been addressed. However, the personal repercussions for her are long term. I also had to do a tremendous amount of advocacy and unpaid labour. Not all families can do that.

We need to make this easier and more equitable for families of children with disabilities, and for anyone who needs to access a school. The goal of ensuring that schools are "where kids live" is an important one. Children with disabilities should be able to go to school in their communities. While accessibility/universal design may not be a requirement of seismic upgrades, it should be a goal of the VSB's Long-Range Facilities plan. To realise that goal, the VSB needs to find out exactly what the deficits are and address them, with the input of people with disabilities. In some cases the deficits are obvious - like lack of elevators or ramps. In other situations they are more insidious - like having segregated special needs classrooms in inferior basement classrooms, or in parts of the school where no other students go.

I hear from many parents at Vancouver schools being told their child will need to go somewhere else, or being told that the VSB can't or won't ensure inclusion for their child. It causes a tremendous amount of stress and trauma for families. Please commit to auditing for accessibility and developing minimum standards for facilities so we are not building or renovating major infrastructure in a way that is not universally accessible. Any decision that is being made about school closures, reallocation of funds etc., should take into account a disability lens.

Thank you,  
Hilary Thomson

## LRFPfeedback

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**From:** Krista Sigurdson  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 12:33 AM  
**To:** Barbara Parrott  
**Cc:** LRFPfeedback; Shaun Kalley  
**Subject:** Strathcona PAC feedback

Dear Barb,

I hope this finds you well. I wanted to reach out as our liaison with two pieces of feedback, both related to LRFP although #2 is more broad...

- 1) Our PAC executive believes that the strategic vision for the LRFP (which includes many important aspects such as Neighbourhood Schools, Equity, Accessibility, Sustainability, Active Transportation) should not be an appendix to the LRFP and should be in the core document and drive the operational LRFP. The trustees visions are so important and need to be front and center in the LRFP.
- 2) Our PAC executive supports the motion in front of the board on Jan 25th to "not dispose of any of its land by sale or transfer in fee simple". We believe that VSB land should be held for future generations, not only because this land exists on unceded Indigenous land but also because land sold can never be reclaimed. Decisions to sell public land have led to disastrous consequences for Vancouver students (e.g., in the 1970s, the VSB sold a parcel of land downtown for \$6 million. That land was developed into the Sheraton Wall Centre and is today worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Today, families downtown are profoundly underserved for school spaces, and the VSB will never be able to purchase a new school site.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Cheers, Krista (Strathcona PAC Chair)

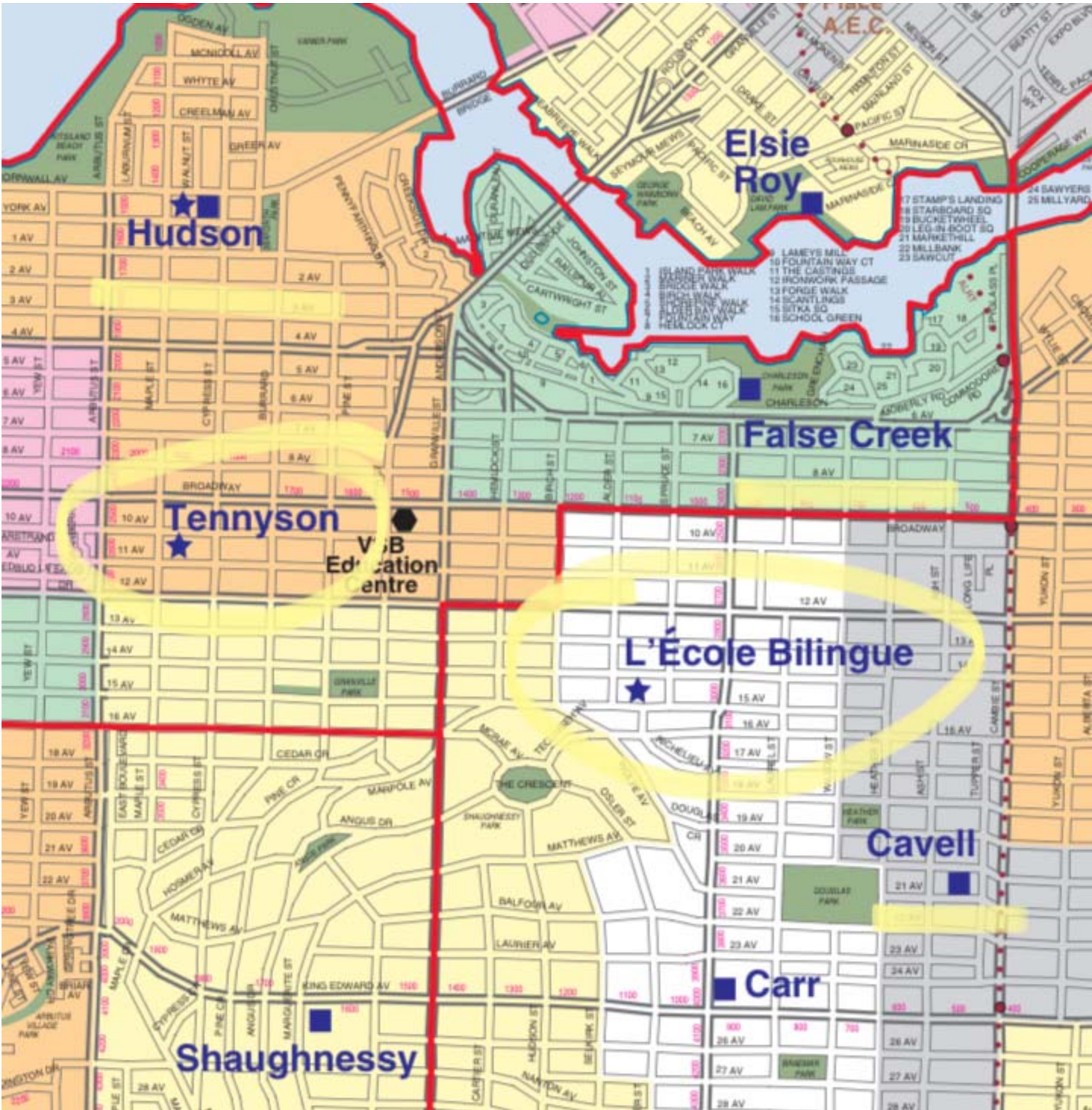
## **LRFPfeedback**

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**From:** Lisa McAllister  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 9:06 AM  
**To:** Carmen Cho; LRFPfeedback  
**Cc:** vik.khanna@vancouverdpac.org  
**Subject:** Choice Programs & Capital Expansion Requests

Dear Carmen & Board Members,

One specific, and I believe significant issue, that I have witnessed no public discourse about is the relationship between the 3 expansion requests at Hudson, False Creek and Cavell in proximity to the very large single-track FI schools that are located in or adjacent to those catchments.



### 3.4 NEW SCHOOL SPACE REQUESTED

The 2021-2022 Five-Year Capital Plan submission contained the following new school and expansion requests which, if approved, will add an additional 1,430 safe elementary seats and 625 safe secondary seats for District students:

Project	Added Nominal Capacity
<b>Olympic Village Elementary (New)</b>	510 - (60K 450E)
<b>Henry Hudson Elementary (Expansion)</b>	170 - (20K 150E)
<b>False Creek Elementary (Expansion)</b>	120 - (20K 100E)
<b>Edith Cavell Elementary (Expansion)</b>	220 - (20K 200E)
<b>King George Secondary</b>	625
<b>Elementary School at UBC</b>	410 - (60K 350E)

How can we expect the Ministry to approve capital expansion funding when they see HUNDREDS of “available seats”? This would be irresponsible use of taxpayer funds and they will not approved. This will result in continued stress and displacement of catchment students as a result of the boards inaction.

Choice programs are not neighbourhood schools and should not be given priority over catchment residents accessing English catchment schools.

Choice programs are a CHOICE. This means they are not tied to a physical location and should/must adjust as other demands change. We have seen this at Hudson and Jamieson (?) but those are a drop in the bucket compared to the hundreds of seats in a high demand area.

Is this a politically contentious discussion? Of course! We wouldn't want to force the privileged to make a Choice to take their kids to a distanced school. Unlike the hundreds of catchment students forced to do so to access English programs.

The argument that all the students fall in catchment is irrelevant. A Choice Program is not a convenience, it is a choice and should be moved to an area of the district that can accommodate it.

Please can we see acknowledgment of this issue.

Kind regards,  
Lisa



## **LRFPfeedback**

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**From:** Your Bayview PAC  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 1:41 PM  
**To:** Barbara Parrott  
**Cc:** LRFPfeedback;  
**Subject:** Inclusion of Strategic Vision in LRFP Operational Plan

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Bayview Elementary PAC Executive to urge that the Vancouver School Board's Long Range Facilities Plan include the approved Strategic Vision in the Operational Plan and that this Operational Plan be informed and in fact driven by the agreed upon principles outlined in the Vision and Strategy document. It makes no sense from a business perspective to have an Operational Plan that does not align with the stated Vision and Strategy, especially after the months of consultation that went into the vision and strategy development and finalization and approval.

Sincerely,  
Joss Taylor  
Bayview PAC Chair

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Your Bayview PAC  
<http://www.bayviewpac.ca>