

# Eric Hamber Seismic Replacement Project

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question	Answer
New school planning	
<p>What is the square footage of the replacement school and why is it smaller than the existing school?</p>	<p>The Ministry has provincial area standards for classroom sizes that allow for effective and safe teaching spaces. The overall size of the replacement school is determined using the area standards, set by the Ministry of Education. These area standards are available publicly online on the <a href="#">Ministry of Education website</a>.</p> <p>The replacement school is planned to be approximately 18,000 square metres. The actual size of the replacement school will be determined when the final design of the school is approved. The proposed childcare space will be approximately an additional 880 square metres.</p> <p>The school will be designed to make the best use of the space to support teaching and learning. The existing average classroom size in Vancouver is similar to the current standards. There will also be student huddle areas throughout the building for informal and social gatherings for students to study and collaborate together.</p>
<p>What are some of the anticipated design features of the new replacement school?</p>	<p>The function of the proposed school is the same as the current facility and will include 37 general instruction classrooms, 10 science classrooms, various other learning spaces (for students with complex needs, English Language Learners, Business Education, etc.), a library, administrative offices, a large students' common space, Technology Education shops, Home Economics labs, a drama studio and music rooms. Additionally, the new facility will result in a refreshed appearance and improved community amenities such as two connecting gymnasium, auditorium, and a childcare centre (funded and managed by the City of Vancouver).</p> <p>The new building will also feature student huddle gathering spaces throughout the facility, which will create opportunities for informal learning and social interactions.</p>



	<p>The main public benefit of this project is that the community will have a seismically safe facility that will continue to provide quality education for the students of Hamber Secondary.</p>
<p>What are the plans for the auditorium in the replacement school?</p>	<p>The replacement school will include a 350-seat auditorium.</p> <p>In addition to the auditorium, the plans for the replacement school include a drama studio that is equivalent to approximately the size of three classrooms.</p>
<p>What is being done to ensure students have enough gym space and room for athletics programming in the replacement school?</p>	<p>Early on in the process, the project team participated in visioning sessions with the Physical Education department head, the District Athletic Director and the school's Athletic Director to understand the needs of gym space and athletic programming and develop a plan.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the community's feedback and the space constraints, we allocated more space to the gymnasiums in order to meet the school's Physical and Health Education programming needs, accommodating multiple groups at a time. The Physical Education department will have a weight room and a health and fitness studio in addition to the two gymnasium spaces. The District is committed to maximizing the school design to allow for the best learning and extra-curricular environment for students and staff.</p> <p>To meet the growing need for activity space, we are in discussions with the Park Board to determine whether the Hamber Secondary community can use nearby community fields.</p> <p>Additionally, the District is considering whether the Hamber Secondary community can share other schools' outdoor facilities.</p> <p>Also, once the existing school is no longer required, the intention is to demolish the existing school and build a playing field (subject to funding approval).</p>



<p>What is being done to ensure the history, tradition and culture of the current school will be honoured in the new school?</p>	<p>Hamber Secondary’s unique history, tradition and culture is important. The project team has engaged the community of Hamber Secondary students, parents and teachers to inform the planning process and understand the school’s rich traditions. School memorabilia – such as awards and trophies – will also be relocated to the replacement school. District staff are also working with alumni to ensure their feedback is considered.</p>
<p>What details are available about the new childcare space?</p>	<p>One of the Province’s top priorities is to provide additional childcare spaces across BC. As such, the replacement school includes a new 69-space childcare facility, separately managed and funded by the City of Vancouver.</p> <p>The childcare centre is set to occupy the fourth floor with separate access from the rest of the school. The centre consists of four childcare groups (Infant, Toddler, Pre-Schooler and Pre-School) and related outdoor play spaces as required by the Provincial licensing guidelines.</p> <p>Childcare pick-up and drop-off hours are not generally anticipated to coincide with either the secondary school start time or dismissal time. The District will lease the space on a long-term basis to the City of Vancouver, and the City of Vancouver will be responsible for contracting a childcare operator and setting the eligibility criteria on who can sign up.</p>
<p>Will there be a Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)? How is the childcare space being funded?</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) is space within a school with an emphasis on providing access for community programs and childcare programming. Such space is in addition to the normal educational and administrative spaces provided for in a school capital project and is approved, on a case by case basis, by the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>A NLC has been allocated to the Hamber Secondary replacement project. This additional space will be funded jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Vancouver School District and will be used to incorporate auditorium space into the replacement school.</p> <p>The childcare space and funding is in addition to the Ministry of Education’s funding and space allocation. The City of Vancouver is funding the entire childcare portion of the project.</p>



What is the plan for community engagement? Will you be consulting with parents, students and teachers about the design of the new school?

We are committed to working with the school community to design a replacement school that meets the educational needs of the students while minimizing impact of construction on the school community.

We formed a School Advisory Group (SAG) consisting of representatives from parents, students and teachers to ensure input is considered as the project progresses. The SAG meets regularly and has participated in site tours, visioning sessions, and workshops to help the District better understand the needs and requirements of the school community. We continue to engage the SAG and school user groups (school department heads) throughout the design process to gather their input and ensure the replacement school meets the educational needs of current and future Hamber Secondary students.

Teachers have also been actively involved in the development of the project's functional program. Feedback from the surrounding community will be considered – especially with respect to impacts of the construction work.

We held an information session for the school community on January 11, 2019. Display boards from this information session and a summary of the feedback received can be found online at [govsb.ca/hamber](http://govsb.ca/hamber).

Please contact the school principal if you have any comments or suggestions.

In April 2020, the District entered into a contract with Bird Design-Build Construction Inc. for design and construction of the new facility. Bird has been working on developing design drawings. User group meetings have been organized to review the design drawings with the school administrators, department heads and District representatives.

Bird Design-Build Construction Inc. on behalf of the District has submitted a Development Permit application to the City of Vancouver to develop the project site.

As part of the City of Vancouver's development permit process, a virtual open house will be held to inform the public about the development. The District is supportive of this process and is working

	<p>together with Bird Design-Build Construction Inc. and the City of Vancouver.</p> <p>The virtual open house is scheduled from, Monday, July 13, 2020 to Sunday, July 19, 2020. This virtual open house will provide an opportunity to review development information, floor plans, building elevations, and renderings for the proposed new facility and provide feedback on the project.</p> <p>To join and submit your comments to the City of Vancouver, please visit <a href="https://development.vancouver.ca/5025willow/index.htm">https://development.vancouver.ca/5025willow/index.htm</a></p>
--	--

Capacity & cost	
<p>Given the development around the Cambie and Oakridge corridors, the new school is projected to be at 100% capacity. How are you planning to manage capacity in the replacement school?</p>	<p>The capacity of the new school is for 1,700 students and approximately 120 teachers and staff. The District has measures in place to manage enrolment at full schools. These include limiting cross-boundary enrolment, relocation of District programs, and, if needed, a review of the school catchment area.</p> <p>The District is monitoring local developments and associated student yields. Surrounding schools have surplus capacity and are not at full utilization.</p>
<p>The existing school has undergone a number of renovations, including in 2005 – why does it need to be replaced?</p>	<p>Our project consultants performed an in-depth cost study of all options and it was determined that a full school replacement was the most cost-effective option. In addition, this option would not require students to move offsite; and it provides temporary accommodation space for future secondary schools proceeding through the Seismic Mitigation Program.</p>
<p>How much will the school cost? How is it being funded?</p>	<p>The project has a total approved budget of \$109 million, funded primarily by the Ministry of Education. The District is funding a portion of the auditorium and the City of Vancouver is funding the approved childcare centre.</p> <p>The Request for Proposal concluded in spring 2020. In April 2020, the District entered into a contract with Bird Design-Build Construction Inc. for design and construction of the new facility. The design and construction contract value for the Hamber Secondary replacement school is approximately \$92 million. This includes the funds that were approved for the NLC space that is designated for a new</p>



	<p>auditorium and the 69-space childcare centre funded by the City of Vancouver. The project has budget for additional costs outside of the design and construction contract such as purchased equipment, insurance costs, applicable taxes, procurement and implementation costs, and project reserves.</p>
<p><b>Construction &amp; swing school</b></p>	
<p>When will construction begin and when will it be complete?</p>	<p>The design-build contract between the Vancouver School District and Bird Design-Build Construction Inc was signed in April 2020. Detailed design development and the City of Vancouver’s development permitting process is in progress.</p> <p>Construction on site will begin after the development permit and building permit have been issued by the City of Vancouver. Bird Design-Build Construction Inc anticipates starting construction early 2021 (subject to the City of Vancouver permit approvals). The anticipated occupancy of the new school is September 2023.</p>
<p>What accommodations will be made so that future Hamber Secondary students will be able to access the same extra-curricular opportunities during the construction and while the existing building is used as a swing space?</p>	<p>The District is looking at opportunities for Hamber Secondary students to use Park Board fields in the vicinity and athletic facilities at other secondary schools during construction of the new school.</p> <p>During the future swing space usage of the existing school, the District will be working with Hamber Secondary school administration to determine a feasible plan for extra-curricular opportunities for Hamber Secondary students.</p>
<p>Where will the students go while construction is underway?</p>	<p>Students will attend the existing school until the replacement school opens, minimizing disruption to student learning.</p>
<p>How will you secure the construction site to ensure student and public safety?</p>	<p>The safety of our students, staff and visitors is a priority. The active construction area will be isolated from the school area and fenced off. The new school will be built following strict safety protocols and best practices to ensure ongoing safety.</p>
<p>What is the plan for the existing school after the new one is open? Why was Hamber Secondary chosen as a swing site?</p>	<p>After construction is complete, the existing school will serve as a swing site for other school seismic upgrade projects. The site is centrally located to accommodate other secondary students.</p> <p>The existing school will stay open until the Seismic</p>



	<p>Mitigation Program is complete in Vancouver, which is estimated to go until 2030. Once the existing school is no longer required as a swing site, the intention is to demolish the school and build a playing field. This anticipated plan is subject to funding approval.</p>
<p>If the existing school presents a high-seismic risk in the event of an earthquake, why is it still going to be used as a swing space? Is the old school safe for existing and future students?</p>	<p>It is the District’s top priority to ensure all students attend seismically safe schools as quickly as possible.</p> <p>The Seismic Mitigation Program cannot proceed without the use of swing space(s). The use of swing space(s) in the District help to enable the program to proceed and ensure that students attend seismically safe schools as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>Where will the students go while construction is underway?</p>	<p>Students will attend the existing school until the replacement school opens, minimizing disruption to student learning.</p>
<p>Have potential traffic issues in the neighbourhood been discussed, particularly when both schools are operating at the same time?</p>	<p>The District has engaged a traffic consultant to develop a report that examined the existing and expected traffic during the construction and when the existing site is used as a swing site.</p> <p>The District is planning to stagger the start and end times for each school in order to maintain even traffic flow. This approach has been implemented during other projects that have two schools operating on a single site.</p> <p>In addition to the on-site pick-up/drop-off spaces, the south side of West 33rd Avenue will be upgraded to provide additional pull-over spaces as part of the traffic demand management plan.</p>

