

## Vik Khanna

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**From:** Vik Khanna <vik.khanna@vancouverdpac.org>  
**Sent:** January 31, 2022 12:28 AM  
**To:** Jennifer.reddy@vsb.bc.ca; Carmen.cho@vsb.bc.ca; Barbara.parrott@vsb.bc.ca; janet.fraser@vsb.bc.ca; estrellita.gonzalez@vsb.bc.ca; lois.chan-pedley@vsb.bc.ca; oliver.hanson@vsb.bc.ca; allan.wong@vsb.bc.ca; fraser.ballantyne@vsb.bc.ca; rhuang@vsb.bc.ca  
**Cc:** 'Chair (Vancouver DPAC)'; 'Helen McGregor'  
**Subject:** Specific Advice on QEA School Closure from DPAC

Dear Trustees,

As you navigate the difficult decision ahead of you on the QEA school closure, it is prudent to share with you: the speaking notes, single question, and 4 pieces of specific advice that was provided to the [VSB Facilities Planning Committee on Wednesday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>](#):

Today, I am the representing all Parents, Guardians and Caregivers and use the term Parents to cover the spectrum.

Parents wish that special board meetings would be called to address the thousands of VSB kids, that due to the pandemic, are staying home and not officially receiving any education. Parents are grateful for teachers that go out of their way to provide unofficial educational resources; Thank You.

Parents wish that Delegations were allowed at Committee Meetings where School Closure was on the decision table, to help the Committee Members make their best recommendation to the Board.

Parents wish that they could hear this meeting and then sign up to be a delegation on Monday's special Board Delegation meeting but that is not possible as the deadline to signup to be a delegation on Monday was 2 hours before this meeting started.

Parents wish that we were discussing CO2 data and being assured that our facilities are safe.

Parents wish that we were discussing BC's new Accessibility Legislation and how it would impact our school facilities in a positive way.

Parents wish that we were discussing and advocating for changes to BC's Area Standards that end up building the smallest schools and smallest circulation spaces in Canada and say that you need 2000mm – that's 6 and a half feet – of rain to have a covered outdoor area.

Parents wish that we were discussing and advocating for changes to Ministry Capital Funding rules that exclude Lifecycle Costs, Sustainability, Accessibility and Air Safety & Water Safety.

Parents wish they had Trustees that reminded our Government that a promise is a promise; that the Olympic Village School was to be fully funded via pandemic recovery funds.

Parents wish they knew how the Ministry's legal problem with the CSF became VSB's legal problem and that the VSB at least would publicly release a legal opinion on how this is the VSB's problem.

Parents wish that finding the CSF a school site was taken as a detailed study concept in the VSB Long Range Facilities Plan where many options would be considered.

Parents wish that moving from one unsafe school to another unsafe school was never an option.

Parents wish we were not in situation discussing school closure, but here we are...

Before I offer our Parent advice to the Committee Trustees, I would like to mention of a couple of official DPAC positions that are related:

1. Parents would like to see the Land & Asset Strategy that is currently \*secret\* (now, I know that using words such as \*secret\* can get peoples backs up and that is not the intent but there is no other word that best describes it) where the Land & Asset Strategy is a “foundational document” that drives many of the decisions being made and the purpose of the Land & Asset Strategy is to generate revenue through the disposition of public school lands. Parents believe that the Land & Asset Strategy ought to be public and included as an appendix of the VSB Long Range Facilities Plan.
2. Parents made some PAC/DPAC history late last year and 94% of PACs (33 PACs in attendance) adopted our first ever PAC-led motion. This motion states:

That the Vancouver Board of Education not advance any irreversible decisions that impact students, such as school closure considerations, for two years (December 2021-December 2023) until:

- Policies and plans (including the Long Range Facilities Plan) are based on enrollment projections that include the latest data on current population (Census 2021) and approved plans and policies (such as Vancouver Plan, etc.)
- All underlying enrollment assumptions are shared publicly in an accessible way
- The Trustee Vision, including definition of Neighbourhood Schools, is coded into plans and policies
- A school capacity utilization target is articulated and explained
- School facilities are scored and prioritized using clear criteria, including equity.

Parents would like to offer 4 pieces of advice to the Trustees on this Committee to help them make their recommendation and we only have one question. Let’s start with the question:

Single Question:

1. Many school communities are wondering if the QEA is solely about Olympic Village quid pro quo or if the rationale being used for QEA (that bigger is better education and that small school populations are expensive and deferred maintenance/seismic condition) will also be used in the future for closure of other small school populations such as:
  - Tecumseh Annex
  - McBride Annex
  - Xpey’ Elementary
  - Kerrisdale Annex
  - Dickens Annex
  - Selkirk Annex
  - Queen Victoria Annex
  - Tillicum Annex
  - Queen Alexandra Elementary

- Seymour Elementary

And where the consultation process would not be about the need for these future lands but more just about where to move the students, as is the currently proposed consultation on QEA.

What would the Trustees or Staff like to say about this concern that parents across the district have?

*The question was not answered and remains outstanding.*

#### **4 Pieces of Specific Advice:**

- 1. Please include the public into the Consultation process and “show the work” that QEA is not needed as a future school site in the foreseeable planning future. Now, the typical answer back will be “we don’t know the future” but professional planners are working on their 2050 plans so surely the VSB can align their planning and can include +/- sensitivity analysis to show ranges of possibilities.**
- 2. Disclose the criteria used to evaluate QEA as a school site for the CSF and either explain why QEA is the only appropriate site or explore other alternative sites during the consultation period.**
- 3. Include Trafalgar School Community specifically into the consultation process as the option to move QEA kids to the seismically safe Jules Quesnel does require a Kindergarten cohort to be enrolled at Trafalgar every other year.**
- 4. Wait for official Olympic Village funding decision. No district has ever been charged anywhere near the full 50% in the “up to 50%” model for new school funding and considering the promises made to fully fund the Olympic Village School using pandemic recovery funds, it just seems right to wait for the Olympic Village School funding decision.**

Right now, the formal and official consultation, as written, is just on where to move the QEA kids and that does not satisfy effective long term stewardship of our public lands. Should the Trustees decide to proceed with the QEA School Closure process, parents would like to see the Trustees robustly discuss and incorporate the parent advice items, that the majority agree with, into the consultation formally and officially.

Thank you for the consideration of parent advice.

Best Regards,

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