



Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council

*Open Letter Regarding the VSB's plan to subdivide and rezone the basketball court (the "Fleming Play Area") at
[Fleming Elementary School - 1455 East 49th Avenue, Vancouver, BC](#)*

November 7, 2024

To the City of Vancouver Mayor and Councillors:

We are writing to voice the serious concerns of parents and caregivers regarding the subdivision and rezoning of Fleming Elementary's basketball courts (the "**Fleming Play Area**") and the [Vancouver School Board \(VSB\)'s bylaw](#) which permits a residential and commercial development on the Fleming Play Area.

In May 2019, the VSB submitted an application to the City of Vancouver to subdivide the Fleming Play Area before engaging the public. By August 2020, [an internal VSB memorandum](#) directed staff to proceed "*in anticipation of moving ahead with a disposal or development option.*" In September 2020, the VSB privately instructed staff to rezone the Fleming Play Area—again, before any public consultation had begun. Parents and caregivers were only consulted in March 2021 under VSB Policy 20. The VSB's failure to provide ongoing consultation, as promised, has further eroded public trust and transparency.

We seek clarification on whether the City is aware that the rezoning application for 1455 East 49th Avenue involves the Fleming Play Area. This space is the only outdoor basketball court in an underserved area, as highlighted by the City's own [park equity data](#).

Additionally, there is concern that the City did not fully consider well-documented data on the growing population around Fleming Elementary, which is currently full of students and at 107% capacity. The Fleming Play Area is needed future enrollment growth, and the plan to have this rezoned by a developer for private use appears to contradict the City's goals of fostering [complete neighbourhoods](#).

Moreover, as the City of Vancouver prioritizes [the rapid deployment of child care](#), parents and caregivers are questioning why this land, if deemed surplus to the VSB's needs, isn't being repurposed for urgently needed child care spaces.

We urge you to stop the rezoning of the Fleming Play Area due to the lack of transparency and insufficient stakeholder consultation. We request that the City review its policies on the subdivision of school sites as part of the [Vancouver Official Development Plan](#). We ask the City and VSB to coordinate to ensure that school land is used for education and child care to meet the essential needs of Vancouver's growing population now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Cheng".

Melanie Cheng

Chair, Vancouver District Parents Advisory Council

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cc: VSB Trustees