



**Queen Mary Elementary School
Parents Advisory Council
Presentation to Committee II**

Concerns Regarding Seismic Upgrade

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Vancouver School Board

Original Budget vs. Current Costs

- Queen Mary PAC would like a detailed report comparing the original budget items with the current costs of construction.
- Accountability?
- Secure additional funding from the Ministry? Original budget so grossly understated the reality of the current construction costs?
- Comparing Queen Mary's budget (20.3M 50% new 50% heritage) with Gordon's (16.5M new build) and Strathcona's (29.9M 100% heritage).
- 18.4M vs 20.3M
- Retaining the old services in the gym basement.



Vancouver Seismic Mitigation Project Office

- Vancouver Seismic Mitigation Project Office was established on or about August 24, 2014.
- Impact of Ministry holding back funds?
- We would like to know if any funds from the QM project or QM contingency were used for costs associated with Seismic Mitigation and if so whether those amounts will now be replenished with the recently released funds?



Portables and Portable Gym

- How are the costs associated with the portables and temporary gym charged to the Queen Mary Seismic Project?
- Amortization over lifetime?
- Moved to other projects once Queen Mary is done.

Implication of Tax Changes

- A change in a tax system should not impact the purchasing power of the funds originally budget for.
- VBE Trustees and the Queen Mary PAC have sent letters to the Ministry of Education.
- Thank you for quantifying our amount at \$512,687.
- How soon do you anticipate a response from the Ministry on this point?
- We would like the VSB to consider using these funds towards restoring some of the items cut from our budget?



Windows in Heritage Building

- Concerns with windows in the red heritage building.
- School Boards responsibility to design and construct school buildings to specified standards, including LEED Gold.

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/capitalplanning/>

- What is the impact of not doing the windows over the next 20 -30 years on the energy costs?
- Shaughnessy's experience.
- Confirmation in writing from VSB Management and VBE Trustees that disturbed lead paint and asbestos in the putty in the window frames will cause no health ill effects to the children or staff of Queen Mary Elementary during their lifetime?





Windows in Heritage Building

- Facilities maintenance grant to upgrade these windows to LEED Gold standard?
- \$280,000 was spent on new, 25 year roofs at Queen Mary in 2010, 93.7% of which are being torn down with the seismic!
- Would the money not have been better served maintaining the red building windows or roof?
- To preserve Heritage value, proper maintenance should be done!





Windows in Heritage Building

- Glass is very thin, razor sharp when broken and numerous panes currently broken.
- Single pane glass can be replaced with thicker glass that is tempered for improved energy efficiency and safety but still may not meet LEED Gold standards? This could be further explored.
- Ability to open windows and secure them.
- Cages on windows for basement.

Planning Process vs Changes

- Planning since 2002 in collaboration with many groups including parents, teachers, community, administration, VBE Trustees and VSB staff.
- Quickly and without consultation reduced the foot print and eliminated other items.
- No appeal made to the Ministry of Education for additional funding?
- Moving of the music room and eliminating space that could be used for both school as well as neighbourhood learning community uses, to a storage room in the basement.
- Fire exits from this storage space; cages on windows; no south side basement door.

Growth in Catchment

- What happened to the Queen Mary provincial funding for the Neighbourhood Learning Community spaces?
- Proposed development of the properties east of Queen Mary and the increased demand for school space.
- Was a dense urban development in the catchment taken into consideration when the planning for the size was done?
- What is the impact now that the footprint is reduced.

Millwork in Classrooms

- Schools require storage to ensure that the teachers can organize both themselves and the classroom materials appropriately.
- Originally there was significantly more millwork.
- Organization of classroom.
- Cubbies above coat hooks and a teachers desk is not adequate storage for a classroom.
- It needs to be done before the children and teachers move into their classes.

Inadequate Guidance and Advocacy

- Announcement of significant cuts presented at PAC meeting on April 8th
- We asked the VSB team what we as a PAC could do; letters to Ministry etc.
- We were told not to do this. That they will take care of things.
- We were not told about Committee II.
- We assumed incorrectly that the budget issues with our project were common knowledge to the VBE Trustees.
- Inexperienced PAC executive.
- No prepared update was presented at our PAC meeting on September 30th.

Communication

- Inconsistent communication with all stake holders of changes being made during the project.
- No consultation was done with parents, teachers or administrators before footprint changes were made.

PAC Raised Funds & Precedence's

- We would also like some consistency with respect to what can and cannot be done with funds raised by PACs for one off projects like a Seismic upgrade.
- As parents we want to do what we can to make this newly improved and safer school the best it can be for our children and our teachers.
- We understand there are so many constraints on what can and cannot be done and we want to help.

Balcony

- Thank you for confirming that our one and only balcony will remain on our project. It is a very important piece for teachers, parents and students.

Summary

- Queen Mary PAC would like the original building we were promised and spent over ten years planning for restored to its original footprint and design, including millwork.
- We would like the red heritage building windows replaced or at the least maintained to the point that they are safe which includes painting window frames and replacing the glass and that the construction meets the LEED Gold standard required by the Ministry.
- We expect the Ministry to fund the original building footprint. Can we release enough of the remaining contingency to restore footprint.
- We would like to know where the cost overrides are specifically occurring and what the VSB and the Ministry are doing to make up for this.

Thank you for your time!

Thank you to all parents, teachers,
administrators and others who have been so
supportive during this process!

Questions?