

Here is some information if you need an avenue to express your views and/or vent your frustration with the seismic upgrade process.

There are 3 groups to contact:

- 1) The Ministry of Education - collects our tax dollars, but not re-investing in growth areas because of old city population patterns...
- 2) The School Board – needs to make the hard decisions that the MoE is asking of them; needs to address all the ‘empty seats’ in the district (?Combining/closing schools)
- 3) The City Planners - approve builds and permits in the Cambie Corridor but have not done anything to ensure there is proper infrastructure (schools) in place for the families who are moving into these new builds. What’s the “school tax” for anyway???

## Contacts

<b><i>Ministry Contacts:</i></b>
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**Minister Rob Fleming**, Minister of Education: [educ.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Laura Sampson, Senior Executive Assistant to Deputy Minister, Scott MacDonald:

Phone: 1-250 387-2026

OR

Lindsay Banh, Assistant to Hon. Rob Fleming:

Phone: 1-250-356-8247

Email: [Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca)

- Ask to speak with Hon. Rob Fleming or Scott MacDonald.

**Minister George Heyman**, MLA for Vancouver Fairview:

[George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

Nadja Komnenic, Assistant to Minister Heyman:

Phone: 604-775-2453

Email: [Nadja.Komnenic@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Nadja.Komnenic@leg.bc.ca)

- You can ask for a constituent meeting with your MLA.

**Ryan Spillett**, Director, Capital Programs: [Ryan.Y.Spillett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Y.Spillett@gov.bc.ca)

Phone: 1-250-882-3699

**Vancouver School District Staff:** Tel 604-713-5100

'Suzanne Hoffman (Superintendent)' <[shoffman@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:shoffman@vsb.bc.ca)>;  
'David Nelson (Deputy Superintendent)' <[dnelson@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:dnelson@vsb.bc.ca)>;  
'David Green (Secretary Treasurer)' <[dgreen@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:dgreen@vsb.bc.ca)>;  
'Christopher Wong (District Principal)' <[ckwong@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ckwong@vsb.bc.ca)>;  
'Jim Meschino (Director of Facilities)' <[jmeschino@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jmeschino@vsb.bc.ca)>;  
'Kerry Chuah' <[kchuah@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:kchuah@vsb.bc.ca)>;  
'Lisa Landry' <[llandry@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:llandry@vsb.bc.ca)>  
'Mike Rossi (District Principal Field Services)' <[mrossi@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:mrossi@vsb.bc.ca)>

**Trustees:**

[allan.wong@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:allan.wong@vsb.bc.ca); Alan Wong is Chair of Long Range Facilities Committee  
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[Janet.Fraser@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:Janet.Fraser@vsb.bc.ca) ; Janet Fraser is Chair of Trustees

**City of Vancouver:**

Mayor Kennedy Stewart: ([info@kennedystewart.ca](mailto:info@kennedystewart.ca))

[gil.kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:gil.kelley@vancouver.ca) - City Planner

## **Speaking Points:**

Long Range Facilities Plan: Chair Alan Wong

Below is a link to the entire document. Specifically, read the 17 recommendations and provide your feedback.

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Planning\\_and\\_Facilities/Long\\_Range\\_Facilities\\_Plan/Documents/sbfile/190225/LRFP-draft-feb25.pdf](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Planning_and_Facilities/Long_Range_Facilities_Plan/Documents/sbfile/190225/LRFP-draft-feb25.pdf)

### ***Feedback:***

Email: [lrfp@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:lrfp@vsb.bc.ca) (asap)

OR

Meetings scheduled: April 11<sup>th</sup> at Kits Secondary and April 16<sup>th</sup> at Van Tech Secondary (from 6 to 8 pm)

Some options for revenue generation:

1. Work with City to ensure monies for schools are incorporated into new developments and placed in the school board budget
2. Reduce or eliminate private school funding; public schools are not only seismically unsafe but also becoming sub-standard learning institutions due to a chronic lack of funding

Questions for Rob Fleming, David Green, Suzanne Hoffman, George Heyman, Trustees:

It is my understanding that the decision to seismically upgrade Cavell was made in secret with no involvement from our elected trustees and with no public or stakeholder involvement. This is not right and an affront to our democracy. I believe there is an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) from the past Liberal Government that allows this practice.

- 1) Do you know about the MOU and the Vancouver Project Office and VSB's interpretation of it?
- 2) Would you please explain how you can consult with a community AFTER a decision has already been made?
- 3) What has been done since to ensure the community has a chance for meaningful consultation?
- 4) What has been done with the results of the Cavell Info session feedback?

Our PAC looked at the three options in the PDR and it appears that the lowest cost option over the first 10 years is actually a new school! Many schools have forgone the bottom line lowest cost option for the 10 year lowest cost option. Eg. Tennyson,

Bayview, Maple Grove, David Lloyd George, and Begbie are all getting new builds. Cavell's original Project Identification Report published in 2012 recommended a new build and stated, "*The replacement school option would best serve the future educational needs and minimize ongoing operational costs.*" In reality, Cavell has even more deferred maintenance now and a higher Facility Condition Index score of .60 [**\*\***which means more repairs and much higher operating costs].

1. What changed between 2012 and 2018?
2. The safety of children is of concern when they are in a dilapidated building with end of life electrical, mechanical, and other beyond life systems.
3. So why are you going ahead with an upgrade only?
4. Don't you agree that a new build makes the most sense for Cavell, rather than leaving \$6 million in deferred maintenance following the project completion?

Questions for City of Vancouver, VSB, Trustees, Fleming, Heyman:
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Cavell was not approved for a much needed expansion in the Capital Planning Budget of 2019/20. This is very disappointing when I see Cambie corridor densification showing no signs of stopping. The demographics of the catchment have not been considered. This year, again, 30 Kindergarten children were turned away from their catchment school, Edith Cavell. Many Cavell catchment students currently travel several catchments to attend school because even neighbouring schools are full. I understand that there are issues with low enrollment at some schools in the Vancouver district.

1. How are empty seats in distant catchments going to resolve the issue of overflowing at Edith Cavell?
2. What plans do you have to solve the lack of spaces in the areas of our city undergoing densification?
3. The VSB's request for 7.2 million for expansion at Cavell was denied and will be denied until the VSB addresses the empty seats in the district. What plans do you have to address this issue?
4. Does the VSB have a plan to raise the capital necessary for these projects?
5. How can we get the Ministry of Education to see the desperate need for more seats in the middle of our city?

The City is approving family housing densification; VSB and Trustees should be working to ensure there are plans to accommodate the larger student population. What consultation has taken place with the City of Vancouver to ensure their massive new developments are building schools into their plans?

Eg.

1. Oakridge development includes a community centre and many amenities, but where is the school for all these new students moving in with their families? The

- developer should be required to build a new school alongside the new community centre.
2. Heather Coop redevelopment project will significantly increase the number of families. Has the City requested and received monies for the catchment school to expand to accommodate the additional students?

I have heard that BC has the lowest space allocation per pupil for both instruction space and gross floor area compared to other provinces (PAN). Public schools should not become sub-standard learning facilities after upgrades. [Cavell and all schools in VSB should be built for successful student learning into the next generation.](#)

The current practice of following a questionable MOU and relying on area standards rules that are not suitable for effective learning must be abandoned. Vancouver taxpayers will be appalled to learn that although millions of dollars are being spent to seismically upgrade schools, many schools will still be:

- sub-standard
- more expensive in long term
- unsafe for children

If there is a shortage of funding for schools, why is any money allotted for private schools? I have never heard of a private school having issues with seismic structure, deferred maintenance, or the like. Safety of all students being paramount, private school funding should not exist.