**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Vancouver School Board Seismic Plan Gets Failing Grade in Putting Students First**

Join families and friends of Edith Cavell Elementary at tonight’s VSB meeting where we will encourage trustees to Get Seismic Right

Nov 5, 2018

Although parents and staff were initially ecstatic that Edith Cavell Elementary would finally be seismically upgraded, the news came as a surprise to most families. The announcement came without consultation or communication with families or other stakeholders. Furthermore, the project design has many flaws that are unprecedented.

1. Families of Cavell were not only shocked but devastated to learn that the school would be split and students would be shuffled by buses to two other schools in the furthest possible location in Vancouver. Once they calculated the entire travel time, they realized the students’ daily commute would total 1.5 hours on unsupervised buses. Students have never been placed so far away from their home community in any other VSB seismic upgrade or school re-build.
2. Cavell is located in the Cambie Corridor which is still densifying at an alarming rate. VSB has documented the need for Cavell expansion from 290 to 485 students as early as 2019. Cavell is at 122% capacity. Students are denied the opportunity to learn at their community school: in fact, there is a lottery in Kindergarten to decide which children may attend Cavell Elementary. VSB justified moving Cavell up the Seismic list and bumping other schools down so that needed expansion could urgently be done in conjunction with the Seismic project. However this expansion has not been funded and is not happening.
3. Cavell not only requires a seismic upgrade, but there are significant deficiencies that have been deferred for years. For example: single pane windows, lead pipes, possibly asbestos. VSB documents have reported that economically, building a new school would be $4.6 million less costly than a seismic upgrade in addition to repairing the deficiencies.
4. There are approximately 50 additional school seismic upgrade projects planned for the next decade. VSB school seismic projects must be financially responsible when utilizing public funds. Taxpayers deserve fiscal accountability and students deserve safe schools.

**Details of tonight’s VSB Meeting and Edith Cavell Gathering:**

Date: Monday, November 5

Location: 1580 W. Broadway

Time: 7pm (Gather on the lawn behind the VSB at Broadway and Fir at 6:30pm)

Interviews available with Cavell PAC Seismic spokespeople

Edith Cavell Elementary School is located at the heart of the Cambie Corridor. It was built in 1920, named after Edith Cavell, the British nurse and heroine of World War One.

**Contact** For more information, please contact Rachel, Edith Cavell Elementary PAC Seismic Committee representative at 604-561-5337.