

## TENNYSON ELEMENTARY'S NEW REPLACEMENT SCHOOL INFORMATION BULLETIN #1

September 25, 2017.

This information was requested from the parents and families who attended the June and September 2017 PAC meetings at Tennyson.

1. **Tennyson Seismic Project Information Update** – September 18 2017- See Lord Tennyson website <http://www.lordtennyson.ca/news-blog/archives/09-2017>
2. **VSB Seismic Projects website** (<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/district-facilities/projects/tennyson-elementary>) was created to provide continuous project updates. Steps: Go to 1) above website; 2) click Our District (top menu) 3) Long Range Facilities Plan; 4) Current Capital Projects 5) Schools - Tennyson

### Timeline History

- **Spring - Fall 2013** – Seismic Project Identification (SPIR), Project Identification Report submitted; Initial Ministry Support
- **Fall 2015**- Project Definition Report (PDR) submitted; Ministry Support; Project Agreement
- **May 11 & 30, 2016** – Presentations made to Administration and School Staff (approx. 40 staff)
- **May 12 and 31, 2016** – Presentations made to Tennyson Parent Advisory Committee (approx. 60 parents attended)
- **June 8, 2016** – **Joint Open House** by the Vancouver School Board and City of Vancouver from 3:00 – 6:00 pm – Invitations of Open House through schools' parent call out system, post card notices delivered to residents, and school newsletters. Open House attended by 65 people and 35 commented.
- **June 2016** – **Tennyson Project Definition Report** – Public Committee 2 Meeting – VSB – Option 2 – Full Replacement was recommended.
- **December 2016** – **PA signed** and design team retained. Schematic design commences.
- **Spring of 2017** – **Ministry Announcement** – “Lord Tennyson Elementary will be replaced so students can learn in a seismically safe school. Work on the new Tennyson is expected to start in spring 2018 and be completed by summer 2020. The new school will be built beside the existing school, which will be demolished once the replacement is ready. The \$24.5 million French Immersion school will be the home of 400 students from kindergarten to grade 7. The LEED Gold project will feature state of the art 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments, child care centre with expansive outdoor play area on the third floor for children aged 0 to 4 years.”
- **January – Schematic Spring 2017** – Architectural plans developed according the Ministry Area Standards, VSB, and VPO Standards within the allocated budget. Biweekly meetings with architect, project manager and VSB planning and facilities, and administration of Tennyson.
- **April 18** – presentation of schematic design to school staff by the architect. Feedback received.
- **May 15** – Application for the Development permit.
- **May 29** – presentation of schematic design to PAC Executive by the architect. No feedback received.
- **May 30** – Heritage Committee Meeting to discuss the keeping of records, memorabilia, photos, trophies and other archival materials of the existing school and future storage space
- **June and September 2017** – Meetings with Acton Ostry Architects and staff to review plans specifically requesting feedback on the staff room, library, library meeting room and deck spaces
- **September 15, 2017** – Visit to General Gordon and Queen Mary with Tennyson Teacher Librarian, VP and District Principal for library design concepts
- **September 18, 2017** – Update from City, VPO at PAC Meeting
- **September 19, 2017 - Tennyson Seismic Committee Meeting**

## Tennyson Seismic School Advisory Meetings

Members: Claudette Alain - Principal, Vitoria Lorieau – Vice Principal, Jacinthe Charette – Primary Teacher, Lyse Cote - Teacher Librarian, Tam Cummings – PAC Chair, Kathy Quinn - TOSS, , Hillary Samson – parent, and Valentina – YMCA

- **Meeting #1 – January 6, 2017** – Discussed PDR Scope and Schedule, Replacement School Planning Diagrams and Preliminary Information, Request for heritage items
- **Meeting #2 - September 19, 2017** – Discussed Project Charter, Project Design Development, Questions, Next Steps
- **Tennyson Seismic School Advisory Committee Meeting** information will be disseminated through the principal at staff meetings, the PAC chair through the PAC Executive Meetings and PAC Meetings, school newsletter and or school website.
- Recommendation - TSSA Committee continue throughout the building phase until the new school is complete

### Questions and Answers

#### GENERAL DESIGN:

1. Will the school have lots of natural light and big windows? **Yes**
2. Will there be a basement, or will all rooms be above ground level?  
**There is not a basement in the new school. All floors and rooms are above ground level.**
3. Will consideration be given to the new curriculum, and some of the new styles of teaching (i.e. teaching in pods, or grade communities) in the layout of the new school?  
**Yes, consideration has been given to linking the Vancouver School Board Design Principles for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning with the new BC Ministry of Education Curriculum when planning the new replacement school. A focus on increased flexibility with space for teacher innovation, student inquiry, hands on and interdisciplinary approaches to learning.**
4. How will new technology considerations be applied - what are some of the new things that space considerations need to take into account? (e.g. cabling, wiring, ports, speakers).  
**New replacement schools have Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the building. Data drops are coordinated during the design phase and with the VSB. The Ministry of Education does not fund new technology on seismic projects. However, plans are in place for new interactive projectors which will be the responsibility of the school. The preparation of the teaching wall space for the use of interactive projects will be through the project manager, the architects and the construction crew.**
5. Will our school be built to the school sustainable design standards?  
(<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/sustainable-school-design>)  
**Yes**
6. Will the design be wheelchair accessible?  
**Yes**
7. Ensure there are more washrooms for both students and staff and on every floor?  
**In the startup meetings with the staff, they expressed the need to have washrooms on every floor. This has been provided for. The number of washrooms are dictated by building code and requirements for the project are met.**
8. Can there be water refilling stations in addition to water fountains?  
**Yes**
9. What safety and security measures will be put in place?  
**Safety and Security during the construction phase will be communicated to the school and parent community throughout the project. Regular site meetings are attended by the principal, the site supervisor, project manager, sub trades, and other VPO and VSB Personnel. All emergency procedures are adhered to both on the school site and**

construction site as deemed by the VPO, construction company, WCB and VSB. Future safety and security measures will continue to be address at every step of the way throughout the project and after the school is complete.

10. Can there be mud mats at each entry to the building?

**Yes. This is the responsibility of all school engineers to order the appropriate number of mats needed. VSB Maintenance and Operations will work with the engineers on the new cleaning equipment and mats needs for the new school.**

#### **SCHOOL SIZE:**

1. Will there be enough space for support staff to effectively support our children?

**Yes**

2. Will it allow for any future growth in the school population to meet the French Immersion demands of the community?

**French Immersion Program at Tennyson is a single-track District Program. The VSB has generally increased the French Immersion Program throughout the Vancouver School District. Since it is a District Program, the spaces given to Tennyson will accommodate only the capacity that the school is built for.**

3. What will be the maximum student capacity of the school be upon completion?

**New school is designed to a capacity of 60 full day kindergartens + 375 grade one to grade 7 student spaces, maintaining the current capacity 435**

4. How will the new reduced class size be incorporated into the design and construction?

**The new school will be designed for 435 students. With the Supreme Court Ruling on class size and composition, classes will be organized according to this ruling. There will be no new additional classrooms added to the current replacement school. Adjustment in enrollment may be a consideration in the future which will be a Vancouver School Board decision since this school implements a District French Immersion Program**

#### **SCHOOL SPACES:**

1. Will there still be a library?

**Yes**

2. Will there be an assembly area/gym/multi-purpose room big enough for the entire student population to gather at one time?

**Yes, the student population with fit in the gym.**

3. Will the cafeteria be big enough to accommodate all the students at once?

**New elementary schools do not have a cafeteria. These are only in secondary schools. Elementary schools will have a multipurpose room with a servery (small kitchen). The multipurpose room should facilitate all students having lunch at school.**

4. Will there be a kitchen so that food can be made on site (for all or by classes as part of their lessons)?

**Yes. The kitchen is connected to in the multipurpose room for teachers to use to support food and nutrition programs they pursue with their classes.**

5. Will the new school have a learning resources room?

**Yes. These rooms are generally located near the Learning Studio pods.**

6. Will there be some sort of dedicated music, drama, or art space in the new school?

**No. These spaces are only designed for high schools. However, music, drama and visual arts are part of the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum and is taught by all elementary teachers in their classrooms.**

7. Would it be possible to have a computer lab/technology resources room in the new school?

**No. Technology which includes hand held devices, lap tops and tablets are now in portable carts for flexibility for students and teachers to work in classrooms, Learning**

**Commons, the Library and other flexible areas. Carts are usually stored in the library or designated areas for safe keeping.**

8. What will the physical classroom environment be equipped with?

**Each classroom will have a storage closet/cupboard space, millwork provided for student storage for backpacks and coats and other small belongings. There will be one teaching wall with white boards. The school and all classroom spaces will have fresh air circulation, appropriate heating and lighting, including natural lighting. Appropriate furniture will be in each classroom. Furniture is supplied by the school district. Current furniture in good condition will be moved to the new school. School and PAC may wish to purchase other types of furniture. A two way communication system will be provided in each classroom.**

#### **STORAGE SPACE:**

1. Can there be dedicated storage space either inside or outside the classroom for each teacher so classrooms can stay tidy and clutter free?

**Storage spaces for teachers will be located within each classroom, the communal Learning Commons and communal Professional Office**

2. How much storage space will the school have (e.g., PAC – Halloween Howl supplies, gymnastics equipment and high jump mats)?

**There will be some gym storage for PE equipment. Shelving in the gym storage room is the responsibility of the school.**

3. How much storage space will be for PAC?

**A small storage space maybe dedicated for PAC (e.g., fundraising event supplies, class/grade 7 grad, student leadership supplies)**

4. Will there be space for archives of the school?

**Limited space will be allocated to house and store the school archives. (e.g., plaques, pictures, trophies). Some of the archives may be placed on the wall space provided. The Heritage Committee met on May 30 to develop a strategy for archives, documenting the existing school through photographs and confirmed the required space for archives. Preliminary sorting of the archives was completed. Recommended that there be an archive committee (member of PAC, Teacher Librarian, Teacher and admin) to further sort, organize, and store items until school is built. Further decision making is necessary once everyone has settled into the new school.**

5. With limited storage, what is suggested?

**All learning resources, materials, supplies and other items housed in the old school needs to be reviewed, sorted, downsized, and selected. Hint: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. This is an ongoing process with administration, staff, and PAC Executive before the new school opens.**

#### **CHILD CARE – AGE 0 TO 4**

1. How did Child Care - age 0 – 4 develop?

**Vancouver City Council Child Care Mandate for 2015-2018 is to create 500 spaces for children ages 0-4. The City of Vancouver expressed an interest to build a child care on the roof of Tennyson.**

2. How is the Child Care – age 0 – 4 funded?

**The City of Vancouver has provided the extra funding needed to build the not- for- profit - Child Care on the roof of the new Tennyson school similar to Fleming School in terms of services, layout and building systems**

3. How will the safety and security of both groups Child Care – 0-4 years and the Tennyson school age K-7 children be ensured?

**Each group will ensure the safety of those they supervise through protocols from the Vancouver Coastal Health Licensing, VSB and the School. Expectations of movement through building spaces will be discussed prior to moving into the new school.**

#### **OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE:**

1. Given both after school child care providers (the YMCA and Tennyson Out of School Society (TOSS) are both oversubscribed, what will the plan be for space allocation in the new school?

**The total Out of School Care spaces is 105. There will be space for the YMCA to tentatively to operate a 40-seat childcare and The Lord Tennyson Out of School Care Society (TOSS) to tentatively operate a 45-seat childcare in the Multipurpose Space. 20 seats would also be available for the Before and After School Care in the 0-4 Childcare space. The 0 – 4 Day Child Care Space will be built for 69 seats. Further negotiations with the City of Vancouver and the VSB regarding these 20 spaces would be required.**

2. Will both child care providers continue to operate? Will priority be given to one operator over the other and if so how will that be determined?

**Child Care providers submit an application to the Vancouver School Board Planning and Facilities Department for a one year contract. Each contract is for a one year term. Contracts are approved by the VSB.**

3. What is the timing of notification and decisions regarding before and after school care? (This would need to be well in advance of the school construction and completion to give families time to plan).

**Renewals of child care provider contracts are submitted before the end date of their previous contract.**

4. What other approvals are needed?

**All Child Care providers must meet standards and have approved licensing through the Vancouver Coastal Health before operating at a given site.**

#### **OUTSIDE AREAS:**

1. Will there be more undercover play areas for kids?

**Under-covered areas are not provided in the new buildings as per Ministry standards.**

2. Will there be protected areas for kids to lock up bikes?

**There will bike racks provided by the school.**

3. What are the plans to incorporate school gardens (perhaps utilizing the roof-top space)?

**Current school garden will remain. Roof top gardens for general school use are not applicable at this time. Further school gardens need to adhere to the VSB School Garden policy. Future placement of the school garden is dependent on the decisions made by the school garden committee and VSB.**

4. Can better field drainage be facilitated once it is relocated to the NE side of the lot?

**Field drainage will be provided in the new NE field as per Civil design standards for a playfield.**

5. What kind of field surface is being considered? Will there be consideration for some kind of running track? (probably not room for a full 8 lane track, but even a 2- lane track would be helpful)

**No. Not included in Ministry standards.**

6. Will there be consideration for proper areas for long jump (2 pits), high jump and shot put?

**No not at this time.**

7. What other outdoor space will be considered - Courts, playground, etc.?

**Basketball courts will be provided. Further playground equipment may be considered by the VSB, school and PAC in the future.**

### **PARKING/DROP-OFF:**

1. Is there any consideration for a drop-off car lane or 5-minute parking zone for parents?  
**Refer to Traffic plan (can attach)**
2. If the front of the school ends up on Maple, what changes will be made to facilitate easy drop off/pick up of kids?  
**Refer to Traffic plan (can attach)**

### **DURING SEISMIC PROJECT:**

1. What security will be in place for the kids while construction is underway (if we are staying onsite)? Need to ensure they are monitored and safe at all times.  
**Construction fencing will surround the construction site with clear signage. See #9 under Safety and Security.**
2. What is the level of earthquake magnitude (or seismic shaking) that the current building can withstand before suffering considerable damage? What is the current status of the structure? And how vulnerable is the structure if we have an earthquake tomorrow?  
**The existing buildings have been rated as high risk (H1 according to the seismic retrofit rating system). This is why this replacement project is considered a high priority by the Ministry and the VSB. The ground motion at a particular location is influenced by a number of factors including the distance the quake epicenter is from the site, the depth of the quake and of course the quake magnitude. More damage is to be expected if the epicenter is close to the school location.**  
**All schools are required to have Emergency Preparedness systems in place in the event of an earthquake, natural disaster, fire, threats or any other significant safety concern. Principals and Vice Principals work with the VSB District and School Health and Safety Teams, Office Administrators, PACs, students and staff to implement the required emergency procedures. Emergency procedures are practiced regularly throughout each school year that include safe gathering places outside the school, release systems, set up of command center, first aid station, volunteer stations, supervision of students etc.**
3. How will the school deal with the after and before school services? (Want to ensure that during and after the construction that these stay in place and are uninterrupted.)  
**After school programs that have been in place (e.g. clubs, after school sports,) will continue as planned. Future rental agreements in the new school are often pursued early by the greater community. Rental agreements for use of the gym, the multipurpose room, etc. (after school hours - 6:00 pm and beyond) go through rentals at the VSB and are then approved by the principal. New rentals agreements be delayed until staff and students are fully moved in and possible deficiencies have been addressed the new space before these are pursued.**