



Notre Dame Building Committee

March 28 2006

Re: Notre Dame Development

Thanks you for your letter regarding your concerns and questions regarding the redevelopment of Notre Dame Highs School.

I will do my best to answer as many of your concerns and questions. Some of them will be answered once the development permit signs go up. At that time the City of Vancouver, will send out an information package with further information. The neighbours will have an opportunity to direct inquires and comments to City of Vancouver Planning Department.

Notre Dame has been part of the neighbourhood for over 53 years. The present site has been redeveloped a number of times, adding an auditorium, extra classrooms, and a gymnasium. The school has had a field, for physical education classes, intramurals and for after school sports team's practices, since 1953. Today Notre Dame has 650 students.

The development application that we will make to the City of Vancouver will ask for permission, too eventually accommodate a maximum of 800 students, on the school site.

The development project will shift the school's main classroom wing and new entrance, to venables street. Venables being a wider street and with a pedestrian light at renfrew and venables street, makes this a safer main entrance. Also there are bus stops on both sides of renfrew street, near that pedestrian light, which will contribute to a safer place for the students to enter the school.

The school staff and student parking will move to the parker side of the school property. The size of the parking lot will be determined by City of Vancouver's requirements. The entrance to the school parking lot will be from parker street only, and will be located as close to renfrew street as possible. The present entrance to the school parking lot from parker street, will be no more.

The initial construction will build a school that holds the present population of 650 students. If approved there will be space to add the additional classrooms, on the venables side of the property, closest to the fire hall. This would take the size of the school to the maximum of 800 students.

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Most of the trees on the site will be removed. Great care will be taken to replace those removed trees, as required by the City of Vancouver. The goal will be to create a buffer from the neighbourhood at the west end of the Notre Dame property. I know that there will be landscape drawings available for the neighbourhood to review, and comment on.

The school dirt field, that is presently located on Venables street, will be moved on site. It will run east to west with the present school gymnasium, at the east side, the new school academic wing to the north, the new school parking lot to the south and Kaslo street to the west. The development permit application, will show that the project calls for the grading of the field and hydroseeding it with natural grass.

As much as Notre Dame School officials would like and Notre Dame School Alumni would dream of, the construction of an all weather playing surface with field lighting is not in our plans, nor our budget.

If at some time in the future, officials of Notre Dame believe they can afford the costs of upgrading the grass school field, then they may at that time make an application to the City of Vancouver for a development permit to do so.

The present Notre Dame School Building committee has no authority or budget to pursue that dream.

Most of us on the Notre Dame Building Committee, grew up in the immediate neighbourhood. We are greatly aware of not just your concerns, but the concerns of all the neighbours of Notre Dame. We look forward to a new improved Notre Dame School property. And we would hope that with the changes to our school site, that the residents around the school, would benefit from some of the traffic calming techniques, that other neighbourhoods enjoy in Vancouver.

If you have concerns that relate to the immediate safety of the neighbourhood, whether it is garbage, drivers, or general student behavior, please contact Ralph Gabriele, Vice Principal. You can reach him at 604 255-5454.

I trust the information that has been provided has answered most of your questions. If not please feel free to contact me directly at 604 808-4587, my email is PatWaslen@aol.com. I anticipate that the development signs should be up by April 2 2006, and the City of Vancouver should have information out to the neighbourhood, within a week of the signs.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Waslen

Vice Chair

Notre Dame Building Committee

Cc: KMBR