

## OBHS Replacement Project

### Information Night April 28, 2010 – Willows Elementary PAC Meeting

Guests: Michael, Garrett, Dave, Lorna (approx 40 attendees)

- Oak Bay High will be rebuilt, with the project starting next year
- The basic school will be rebuilt, but extras are not included in the project (specifically the 450 seat theatre)
- \$52 million project and extra funding is available through Neighbourhoods of Learning (NoL) funding (could be \$8M)
- NoL funding requires community input, through groups such as the PACs
- Some of the options for the neighbourhood space:
  - Theatre/performance space
  - Sports fields
  - Gym/fitness facilities
  - Health centre/community services
  - Child care/early learning facilities
  - Community kitchen
  - Meeting spaces
  - Garden/composting facility
  - Walking/cycling routes
  - Seniors programming space
- Revelstoke School is an example of a NoL school (they were approved for performing arts centre, early learning hub/child care, youth support, acrobat program / meeting space) Creating the application took five months.
- OB actions to date: met with part of the planning committee to discuss the NoL funding. Funds are requested for consultant for NoL grant application. Local community input into construction is complete. CAO continues to communicate and keep the consultation going.
- OBHS construction consultation with the community took five months. Childcare and theatre have emerged as priorities.
- This will be the biggest building project in OB and most influential space in OB for the next century.
- Concept of schools has been changing over the last 20 years. The school has become more of a community space, open in the evening and weekends, with arts, shop and sports facilities available to all community members. The school is now a “learning space” not classrooms, with the technology to support the 21<sup>st</sup> century secondary students. It’s very important that the community is a significant part of the voice that determines the specifics of the shared space. The neighbourhoods of learning will only happen if the community wants it to happen.

- UBCM and trustees association will hopefully come up with \$30K for the consultation process. The NoL application will be presented jointly with the municipality, district, and community members.
- Submission for consultation \$ will be done by June 4. Consultation with the public done by end of September. Report/application submitted by end of November. The municipality will be primary applicant, and the district will be the partner applicant. We'll know June 30<sup>th</sup> if the funding for the consultation is successful. If it isn't there are back up plans.
- This capital funding is very time limited, so we must act fast to take advantage of this very rare unique opportunity.
- It costs approximately \$3000/m<sup>2</sup> for finished building space
- The Ministry can add 10-15% in the NoL funding
- Bowker Creek revitalization is also a priority. OBHS has a marine biology program, environmental studies, and sustainability as a priority. It is a stewardship and training opportunity. CRD may have some funding available; they will be consulted.
- Having the Recreation Centre that close starts to open opportunity to partner and build on space
- Athletics is also a priority
- Parking – lots of options being looked at. Funding not known yet. A traffic study will be part of the process. This is an opportunity to make the parking for the school better. There's also an alternative transportation study/project underway.
- Although the site is two schools combined OB junior and senior high, the community expects the project will replace what currently exists on the site.
- Corporate sponsorship? Probably in the technology area. The board is open to the idea of funding outside the government sources of funding, but it is subject to the community deciding.
- Technology is changing so fast, and the way kids use it is always changing. Collaborating, communicating, and creating. Work in teams, connecting in the real world during their school work. Education no longer takes place just in the classroom. We've been talking to the Apple rep about moving from fixed computer lab, to a rolling stack of notepads. Distributed learning – classes on line at other schools, and using our facilities and staff for support and mentoring, but the source of the learning can even be outside the country.